



FAQs for the BOA/ORUK Research Fellowship

Who can apply?

This research funding is open to BOA members of all trainee grades with an orthopaedic NTN, all SAS grades in long term orthopaedic posts and core trainees, who have passed the MRCS part B. If you are a core trainee, you must be able to evidence a commitment to a career in T&O surgery. This fellowship is open to applicants at all stages of their higher degree – either prior to starting, or covering funding of subsequent years of a doctorate that has been started. One or more proposed supervisor of the research project must also be a BOA member.

The applicant must:

- demonstrate ownership of a research project
- demonstrate ambition to follow a clinical academic career
- be at an appropriate point in their clinical training to study for a higher degree with clear plans for completing their specialty training (for trainees) or continuing with their clinical career (for SAS applicants)
- have relevant research experience, such as an MSc or intercalated BSc or peer reviewed publications.
- have an offer of a place on a PhD or MD programme, or evidence that they expect to receive one. This must be at an eligible host organisation in the UK.

What kind of research project does the fellowship fund?

Applicants may study any aspect of orthopaedic surgery or surgical care including basic science, diagnosis, treatment, surgical technology, AI, logistics or audit. If the project is clinical, it is recommended but not required that the study design is discussed with an established clinical trials unit. The application must explain the research, with an appropriate study design, which has a clear completion timeline appropriate for the fellowship. The research can be self-contained or part of a wider research project.

What kinds of funding can I apply for?

Each application will need to provide a funding breakdown of how the grant would be spent, up to a maximum of £65,000. The cost headings can include:

- Salary or stipend for the applicant. Please note:
 - If salary is requested, we envisage this will be for 1 year of full-time research (or part-time equivalent) and will be at a maximum of £60,000 including NI and on-costs.
 - If a stipend is requested, we envisage this will be for up to 2 years full time research, and the stipend amount per year will be in line with UKRI stipend amount (which is currently £21,805 outside of London or £23,805 inside London per year – these amounts refer to full-time stipend; part-time equivalents apply).
- Tuition fees
- Research Consumables



- Travel

Tuition fees, research consumables and travel are expected to be a maximum of £10k across the duration of the Fellowship as the primary purpose of the scheme is the development of the Fellow, not a grant intended for equipment purchase. Applications for any exceptions to be at the discretion of the Chair of the review panel.

The grant cannot be used for indirect costs or FEC costs of research; we follow AMRC guidance on these issues.

Applicants should note that no additional funding will be available from the BOA/ORUK beyond what is requested on application.

What is the difference between salary and stipend?

A **salary** is compensation paid to an employee for services rendered. Your host institution will remain your employer and the BOA/ORUK will reimburse payments quarterly (up to the maximum of £60,000). We envisage the salary option will be for 1-year full time or up to 2 years part-time (up to 0.5 FTE)

A **stipend** is a fixed amount paid to a fellow to help them offset expenses during their training to allow them to gain experience and skills in their area of specialisation. A stipend is not considered wages and may be taxed differently. Your host institution will make payments to you and the BOA/ORUK will reimburse payments quarterly. We envisage the stipend option to be for up to 3 years full time or up to six years part-time.

Can I do the Fellowship part-time?

Yes, you can take either the salary or stipend option less than full time (LTFT). You must spend at least half of your time on the fellowship (minimum 0.5 FTE). You will need to specify how you intend to undertake the fellowship on your application form and how this has been considered in designing your research project.

How are Fellowships awarded?

Applications must be made via the [ORUK Research funding portal](#). All sections must be completed and submitted by **12 noon on 10 June 2026**.

Your host institution & proposed supervisor will be asked to confirm arrangements and their willingness to host via the online form.

All applications will be screened for completeness and eligibility.

All eligible applications will be reviewed by the research peer review panel including representatives from the BOA Research Committee and from ORUK. Any panel member with a [conflict of interest](#) will recuse.

Highly scoring applicants will be invited to give a short pitch presentation to the panel by videoconference in September or October, after which the final funding decision will be made. The structure of this pitch will be: a 10-minute presentation followed by 10 minutes of questions from the panel.



Two awards are due to be made. Successful fellows will be notified by October 2026. It would be expected that the successful candidate would take up the post at the earliest opportunity, typically 3-9 months after acceptance. (July 2027).

Successful fellows and their institution will need to complete a signed copy of the grant [agreement](#), and advise in writing of a grant start date.

How do I apply?

You will need to complete the [online application](#), which consists of the following:

1. a completed [application form](#).
2. the required statement from your proposed supervisor, confirming arrangements and their willingness to host.
3. the required financial statement from your proposed host institution. This can take some time to be completed, so please ensure you start the process early to ensure all parts of your application are received by the closing date.
4. a completed Equality and Diversity Monitoring form.

Short online interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held (via video conference) in September or October 2026. You will need to be available on this date and timings will be confirmed around 2 weeks beforehand.