



Science & Innovations

Vicky Marlow & Shomari Lewis-Wilson

14 May 2019, ARMA Study Tour

Innovations Strategy

Helping researchers and organisations across the world to transform great ideas, discoveries and inventions into treatments, products and cures for disease

innovations@wellcome.ac.uk

Translational Partnerships

Collaborations to find new ways to translate scientific discoveries into real world impact

Support includes:

- developing seed funds, identifying mentors and entrepreneurs in residence
- access to Wellcome's network of advisers, experts and mentors
- introductions to potential partners to take promising advances forward

Flagships

support the development of exciting new products, technologies and other interventions to prevent or treat disease.

- Improved outcomes for people with psychosis
- Innovation in low- and middle-income countries
- Innovation to prevent enteric disease
- Hub for innovative technologies for neglected tropical diseases

Innovator Awards

- For researchers who are transforming great ideas into healthcare innovations
- Up to £750,000 for up to 3 years
- Open to individuals and teams from not for profit and commercial organisations globally
- Therapeutics, vaccines, devices, diagnostics, digital technologies, regenerative medicine etc

Our Science strategy:

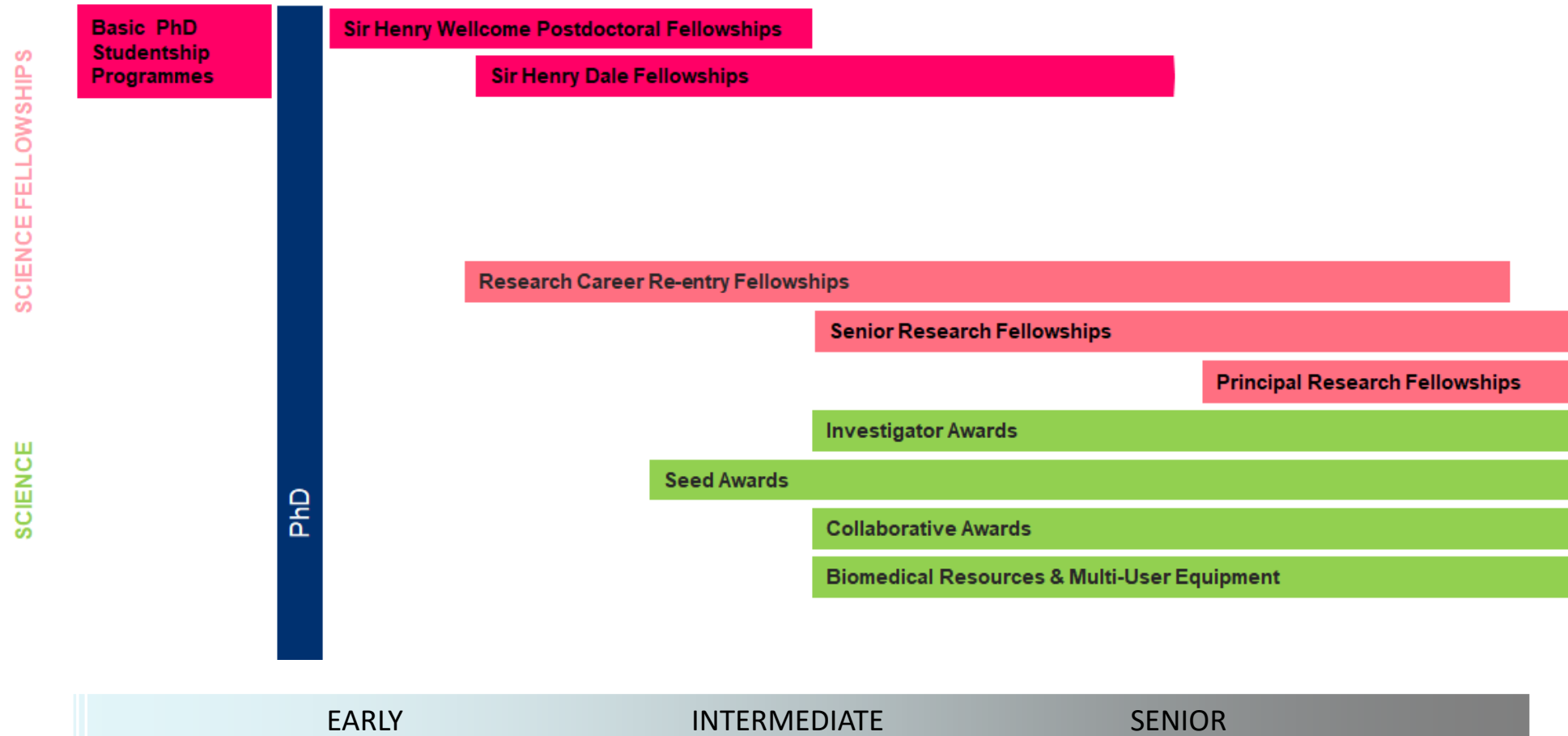
‘Improving health through the best research’

- Creating knowledge
- Strengthening research capability
- Using knowledge effectively
- Promoting an environment in which research can flourish

Science Remit

- Genetics and molecular science
- Cellular and developmental science
- Neuroscience and mental health
- Infection and immuno-biology
- Physiology
- Population health

Support for basic science researchers



Fellowships

- To **attract, train** and **retain** the best researchers
- Funding is available for **each stage** of the research career
- Salary and research expenses are covered
- Award size and duration varies, depending on the career stage and scheme
- Over **550 current Fellows**
- Generous maternity/paternity/adoption sick leave supplements and extensions
- Flexible (part-time) working

Investigator Awards

Investigator Awards enable independent researchers with a compelling research vision to tackle the most important questions in science.

- For researchers with established academic posts
- Single or joint.
- Research question drives value and duration of award.
- Up to 7 years – full research costs supported
- Applications considered 3 times a year.

69

Next deadline: 25 July, 2019; 12 November, 2019



Investigator Awards: What we look for

Earlier career researchers should:

- be leading innovative and creative programmes of research
- have a growing international reputation for excellence in their field and show considerable future promise.
- have a strong track record relative to their career stage (grant income, publications, patents and impacts on policy).

More established researchers should:

- have achieved more in terms of the originality and impact of your research,
- a track record of sustained research support, significant contributions to research publications, patents and impacts on

Collaborative Awards

Teams of researchers, consisting of independent research groups, working together on the most important scientific problems that can only be solved through collaborative efforts.

- Single or cross-discipline.
- International teams with UK/ROI/LMIC lead.
- Typically 3 -7 applicants
- Up to £4m over 5 years
- Considered 3 times per year
- Please contact Wellcome with outline, ahead of preliminary application
Next prelim deadline: 20 August 2019

Collaborative Awards: Top tips

- The application must explain why the scientific problem can only be solved through an integrated, collaborative team effort.
- Each co-applicant must bring different expertise or disciplines to the research question and each must be essential to the proposed research.
- Each should have an established international reputation, expertise and experience in their field as well as proven experience of collaborative research.
- The lead PI must have a have a record of leading and/or co-ordinating large-scale collaborative projects.

Wellcome Clinical Schemes

Our clinical schemes (including clinical PhD progs & Clinical Research Career Development Fellowships) are currently open to medics, vets, dentists and clinical psychologists

Later this year we will open these schemes to all health care professionals (e.g. nurses and midwives, pharmacists, health care scientists, allied health professionals, dietitians, paramedics, physios, etc.)

The new eligibility criteria will be in place for the next Clinical Research Career Development Fellowships deadline in August 2019



Application process

Assessment process – Key stages



Assessment process – Key stages

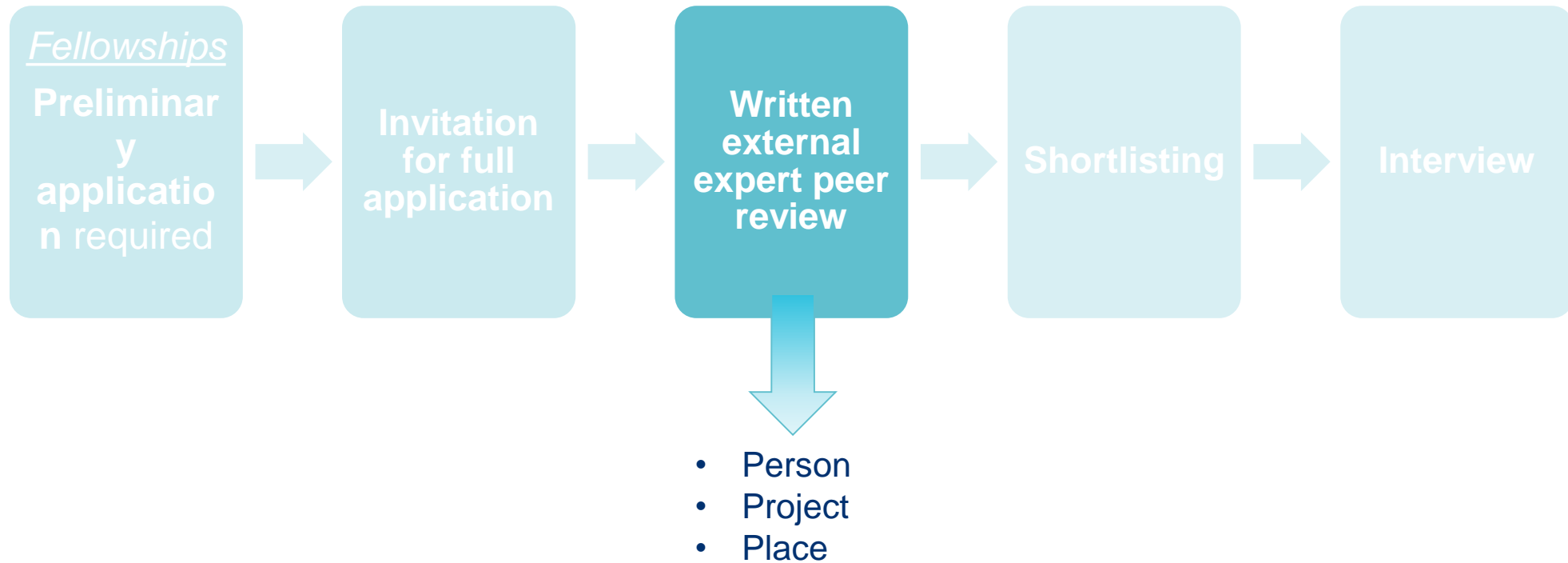


- ✓ Assess eligibility and suitability for fellowship
- ✓ CV and career contributions
- ✓ Personal statement
- ✓ Research outputs
- ✓ Current funding or awards
- ✓ Letters of support from current supervisor and sponsor
- ✓ Outline of research programme (700 words)

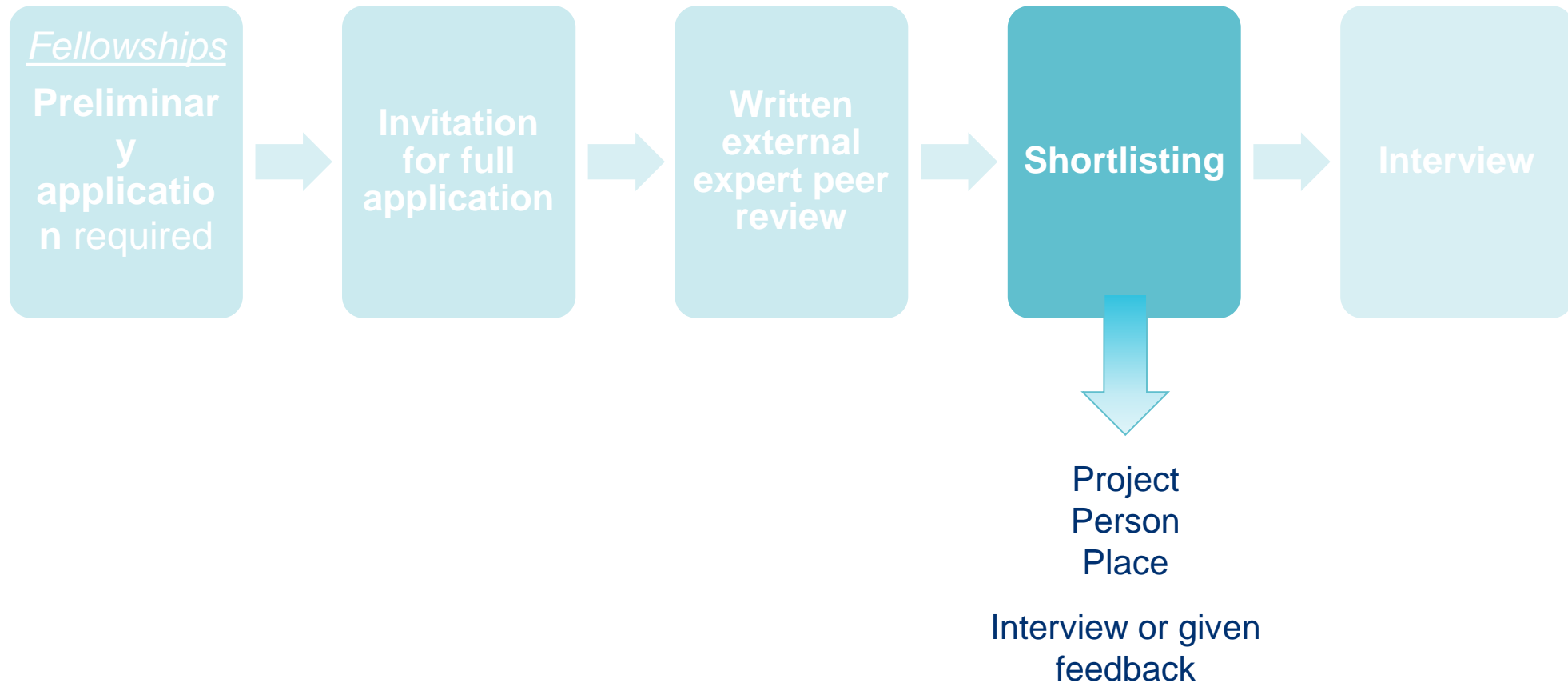
Assessment process – Key stages



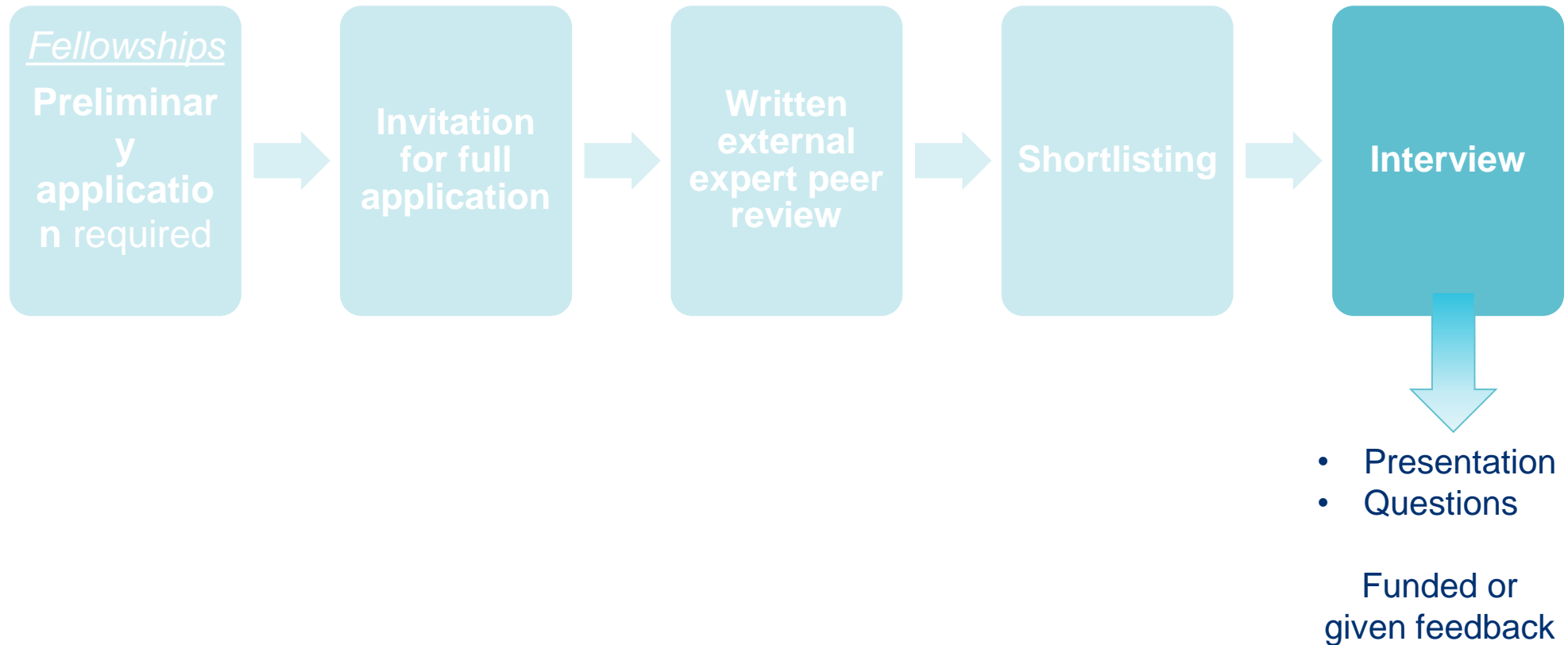
Assessment process – Key stages



Assessment process – Key stages



Assessment process – Key stages



Assessment

Assessment Criteria

Person

- Meets eligibility criteria (check scheme page on website)
- Track record – publications, talks, prizes, supervisions, grants
- Knowledge
- Career development and long term aspirations
- Independence
- Ownership of the project

Assessment Criteria

Project

- Clear research question – quality and importance
- Approach - Sufficient information provided
 - Rationale, Feasibility, Expertise
 - Contingency plans
 - Preliminary data, power calculations
- Resources appropriate
- Enables independence
- Clearly presented – relevance of background information
- Strengths and weaknesses of application

Assessment Criteria

Place

- The quality and suitability of the research environments
- Appropriate expertise/collaboration
- The candidate's choice of research sponsors
- Strong institutional support
 - Access to space and facilities
 - Contribution to equipment costs
 - Provision of students
 - Mentorship
 - Start-up costs

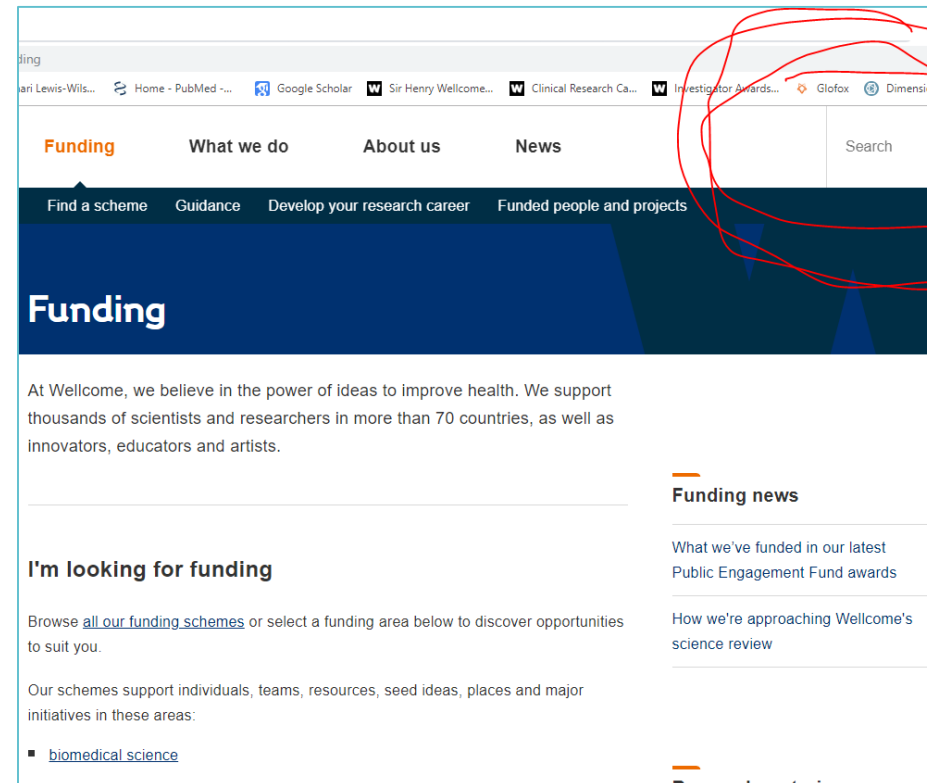
Good Grantsmanship

“Good writing will not save bad ideas, but bad writing can kill good ones” – Kracier, **J The Art of Grantsmanship** 1997

- Clear writing style
- Completeness
 - Proposal includes no more than 2 A4 pages of figures
- Employment contract (except for Fellowships)
- Grant overlap
- Sponsor or institutional support – include required guarantees
- Outputs Management and Sharing Plan
- Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Template (SoECAT)
- Costs

Before starting the application

- Read the application form and guidance notes carefully
- Think about the questions to address and who you may need to contact before you can answer some of them
- Discuss ideas with colleagues in the relevant fields
- Check deadlines to avoid rushed applications & allow time for the application to be processed by the research office
- Queries? Concerns? Contact us for advice OR check our extremely helpful website!



What makes a strong application?

- A strong track record appropriate to the amount of research experience
- Evidence that the candidate can do what is proposed and deal with any setbacks as they arise
- A clear research vision or goal
- Sufficient information for reviewers to understand:
 - What is proposed
 - What approaches will be taken
 - Whether it is likely to work
- Access to required collaborators, resources and technology
- Highlight institutional support
- Use all sections of the form

What we don't want to see...

- Letters of support from every collaborator/potential research sponsor unless requested from us
- Letters of support that do not include our required guarantees
- No contract end dates for applicant's/co-applicant's employment history
- Research proposals with too many figures and/or way over the word limit
- Costs for clearly disallowed things/disallowed costs hidden within larger costs
- Missing power calculations for animal work/not providing the number of animals to be used
- Outputs Management plan is missing or very short

Peer review comments

“...the work described in this application is **overambitious**, it could not be achieved in the lifetime of the investigator.”

“...it involves techniques with which the applicant appears to have **no prior experience** and for which **no preliminary data** are proposed...”

“The **poor writing, referencing and proof reading** of this application significantly detract from its overall quality.”

“...one weakness in this proposal is that there is **no alternate plan** should the proposed approach not yield information relevant to the hypothesis proposed...”

Application tips

- Understand the **purpose of the scheme** to which the applicant wishes to apply
- Think carefully about **application timing** – when will it be most competitive?
- Read the application form and **guidance notes** carefully
- Encourage applicants to ask for **feedback on their applications** from individuals within and outside their field
- Balance **breadth and depth for expert peer reviewers and non-specialist committee members**
- **Plan your budget** – speak with your research support office
- Preparation, preparation, preparation!

Questions?

Contact us

grantenquiries@wellcome.ac.uk

Award, Post-Award

- Funding recommendations made by relevant Panels/Committees
- Decisions released
 - May be another cost-challenge based on final committee discussions
- Award letter sent out
- Grant Start Certificate is submitted
- Grants claimed in quarterly-arrears using an Organisational Spend Report (OSR) submitted onto Wellcome Trust Grant Tracker
- Queries relating to management of a grant can be sent to the Grants Information Desk (grantenquiries@wellcome.ac.uk) or relevant Grants Advisers

Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship

Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowships

Career stage: Aimed at the best **recently qualified postdoctoral researchers**, who are starting to make important contributions to research

Where your host organisation is based: UK, Republic of Ireland

Level of funding: **£300,000**, including salary, fellowship supplement (£2,500) and research expenses

Duration of funding: 4 years. We consider applications twice a year; Spring and Autumn period

Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Host organisation must agree to provide you space and resources

Sponsor

- Based at your host organisation
- Established post
- Scientific guidance
- Support your professional development

Research Sponsor at every additional research environment

Mentor

- Be an experience researcher (group leader) –who already knows you
- Work outside of your research group(s)
- Support your career development

Sir Henry Dale Fellowship

Sir Henry Dale Fellowships

- In partnership with the Royal Society
- Aimed at experienced researchers who are ready to start building an independent research programme
- Candidates will already have made intellectual contributions to research, and should be able to demonstrate their potential to carry out high quality independent research
- 5 year award, potentially renewable for 3 further years
- ~**£500K to £1.2m** including Fellow's salary, research assistance, animals, small items of equipment and other justifiable costs
- Applications 3 times a year

Research Career Re-Entry Fellowships

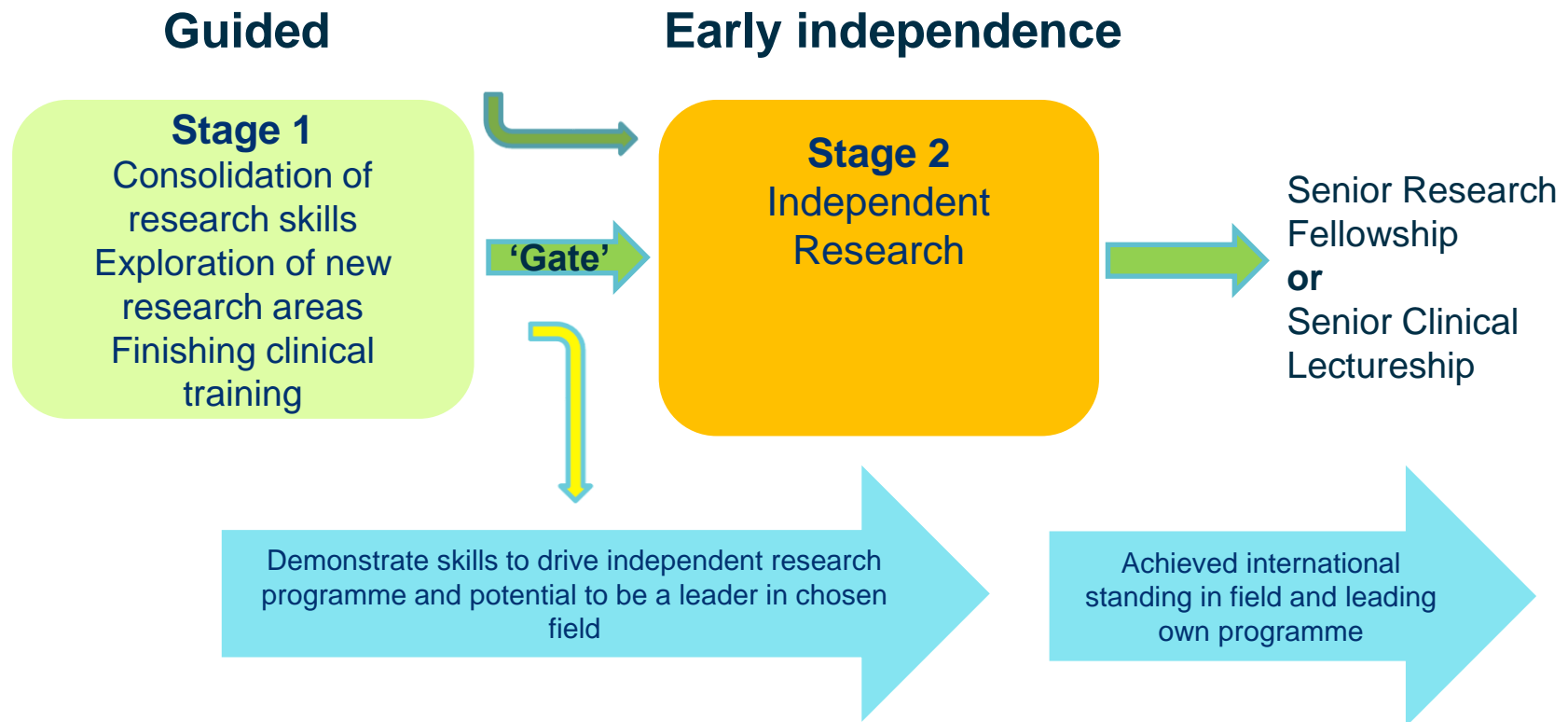
Research Career Re-Entry Fellowships

- For **post-doctoral scientists** seeking to **re-establish a research career**
- Support researchers to develop a new research vision, build collaborations and networks, and establish research independence
- Support researchers at all career stages, but typically researchers are expected to have been driving their own work before their break
- Up to **4 years funding** for the Fellow's salary, research assistance, animals, small items of equipment and other justifiable costs (e.g. training)

Clinical Research Career Development Fellowships

Clinical Research Career Development Fellowships

- For medical, dental, veterinary and clinical psychology graduates, to continue research at postdoctoral level and develop scientific independence.
- Applicants must be clinically active and have a clear plan for completing any remaining clinical training.
 - **Stage 1:** Guided: to finish clinical training, consolidate research skills and explore new research areas
 - **Stage 2:** Early Independence: Undertake independent research and develop leadership skills.



Stage 1 versus Stage 2

Stage 1 – To consolidate research skills & explore new research areas

To be competitive for a Stage 1 award, applicants must demonstrate:

- A commitment to a clinical academic career
- A clear plan for integrating their research and clinical training (if appropriate)
- A good track record for their stage in their research career

Stage 2 – Supporting fellows to establish themselves as independent investigators

To be competitive for a Stage 2 award, applicants must show they have:

- The research maturity, skills & vision to lead an independent research programme
- A plan to lead an innovative and creative research programme
- The potential to be a future international leader in their area of research

Duration of funding

- Up to 8 years, split over two stages
- Up to 5 years in any one stage

What we offer

- Salary (can be consultant level)
- Research expenses
- Equipment
- Research support (Stage 2 only)

Applications considered twice a year