

Applying for a Fellowship

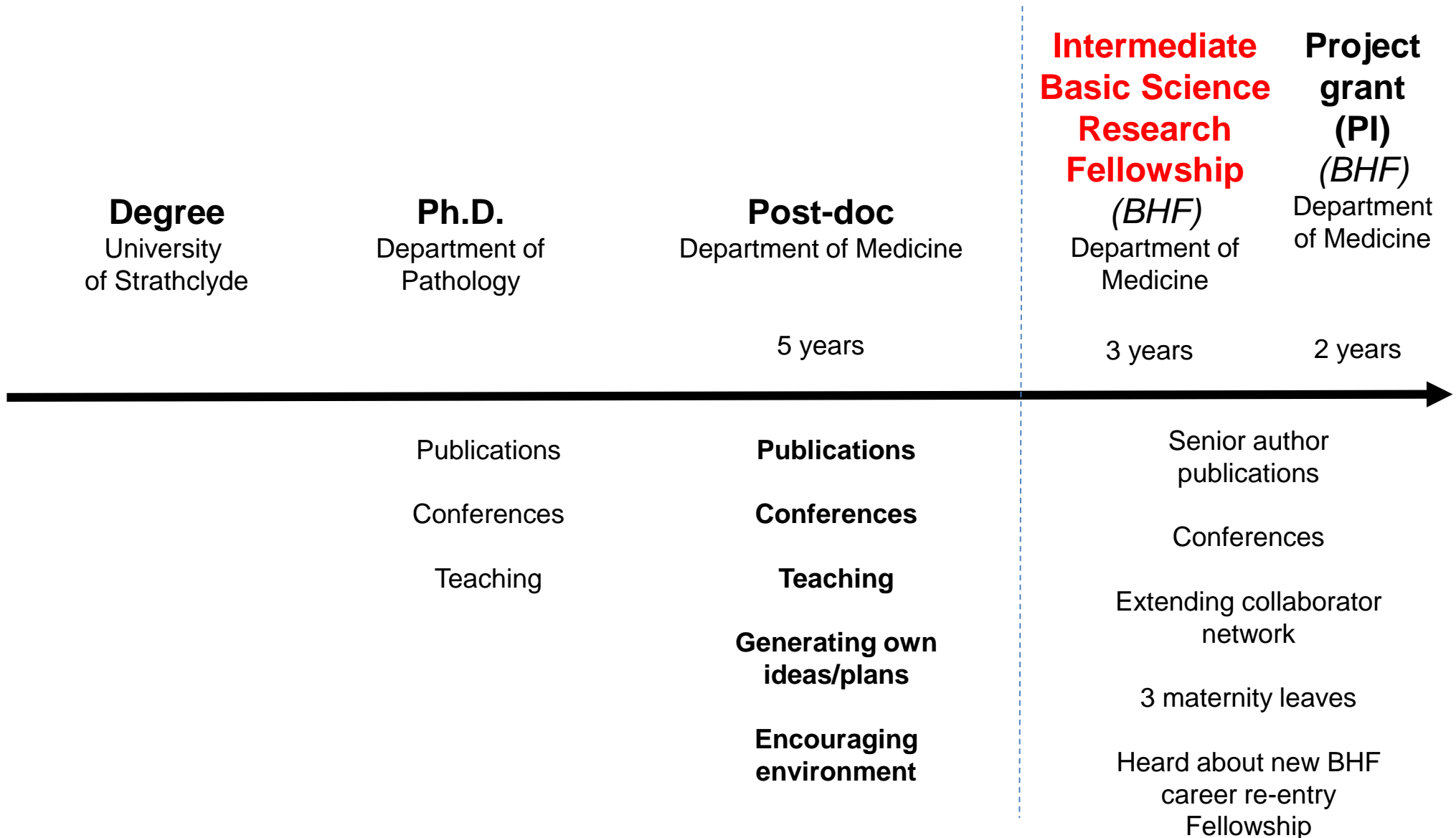


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BHF Career Re-entry Fellow

Obtaining a Fellowship

1. Career path/fellowship application
2. General tips

Career path (early)



Career path (recent)

Career-break
looking after my 3 children

4 years

**BHF Career Re-entry
Research Fellowship**

Babraham Institute

4 years +

- publications
- conference invited speaker
- book chapter
- peer-review
- kept up with literature - helped with writing proposal
- move to Babraham – justification
- wrote application for my Career Re-entry Fellowship
 - Help from supervisor and collaborators with grant editing and administration (access to manuscripts + grant costings)
 - Contact with collaborators to confirm involvement and to provide letters of support

publications

conferences

extending
collaborator network

teaching/examining

managing RA

planning future steps

Application process

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/research/information-for-researchers/how-to-apply>

- Read all information in detail and well in advance of applying!
- Keep checking – conditions can change!!

Prior to writing a Fellowship application

Do you:

- fit the criteria?
- aim to solve a problem that is important to the funders?
- have support from your supervisor
- have approval from Head of Department?

Writing your application

- Show that you have your own new ideas, separate from your supervisor
- Use persuasive language, often using first person
- Focus on one main area
- What is your hypothesis and how will you test it?
- Keep it simple and logical – make it easy for your audience, not all referees will be experts in your field
- Check length limits
- Fully justify all costs

Fellowships vs. other types of grants

- **Person**

Excellent CV + publication record for career stage

- **Project**

Feasible, high quality proposal addressing an important research question

- **Place**

Excellent host facilities with appropriate equipment and respected mentors

Person is the focus but all 3 above must make sense!

General Tips

Think ahead:

- Where do I want to be in 10 years?
 - A fellowship provides a path to independent research and leading your own group
 - is this what I want to do?

If yes, get organised!

- Don't assume your supervisor is thinking about your next steps! If not suggested already, ask your supervisor about future career plans
- If you are moving labs, look at the track record of the group/institution you are moving to:
 - Fellowships supported?
 - Alumni?

Final tips

- Duration of grant
 - Career Re-entry Fellowship
 - 3 years +1 (+1)
 - Current: 4 years +1
 - Intermediate fellowship 5 years + 2

Think about feasibility of obtaining a PhD student or post-doc funding during the fellowship to establish a group
- What you are aiming for at end of Fellowship:
 - Senior Research Fellowship, Lectureship, other?
 - May need to move (or not!)
- Funder website – great source of information