



## Child Health Outcomes Research at Leeds (CHORAL)

### Pre-doctoral Funded Fellowships Guidance Notes

**Closing date for applications: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

#### 1. Introduction

CHORAL aims to improve children's lives through the delivery of a sustainable programme of transformative research focussed on child health. We will harness and coordinate the world-leading children's research across the Leeds City Region and create the optimal research infrastructure and environment to drive ***better health and social outcomes*** for children and young people (CYP) across Yorkshire.

We will create a world-leading platform of academic excellence in children's health care through developing a co-ordinated programme to train and support child health researchers.

For more about CHORAL and our multi-disciplinary research groups: <https://choralresearch.org.uk/>

#### 2. Background to this call

Leeds has been successful in supporting registered healthcare professionals in applying for, and being successful in, NIHR personal fellowships. In 2017 Medical Research Council survey showed Leeds was hosting the third highest number of allied health professional fellowships in England. Since launching CHORAL we have increased efforts to further develop this cadre of child health researchers and enhance the support available to them. We are delighted to announce that we now have funding for CHORAL Fellowships to support the development of competitive doctoral applications.

#### 3. CHORAL will provide the following Fellowships:

##### **Pre-doctoral Research Fellowships (Healthcare Professionals, Medical)**

To facilitate the development of healthcare professionals, we will support aspiring candidates who wish to develop their clinical academic careers in child health research. We will provide pre-PhD support by signposting our successful fellows to appropriate support and resources facilitated by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT)/University of Leeds (UoL) which will help prepare them to submit competitive doctoral fellowship applications.

Fellowships will be awarded to **LTHT employees** (nurses, allied health professionals, healthcare scientists, pharmacists, dental technicians, medics, dentists) working in child health related research who have demonstrated the potential and commitment to pursue a clinical academic career within child health research. Salary backfill is available (up to £60,000 for registered healthcare professionals and £75,000 for medically qualified applicants).

The CHORAL Fellowship funding is allocated to allow the award holder to develop a competitive funding application. This follow-on funding application must be led by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Leeds.

**CHORAL pre-doctoral fellows will also receive:**

- Up to £1,000 towards personal career development.
- Support on key aspects of successful applications.
- Peer support from fellow NIHR award holders.
- Review of fellowship applications from senior researchers.
- Interview practice.

**4. Eligibility criteria**

- A staff member of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust or doctors on nationally recognised rotational training programme. The proposed research project of the fellowship must be conducted in Leeds in conjunction with Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Leeds.
- To have evidence of a future personal fellowship proposal, including project outline and supervisory team, which is in alignment with the CHORAL vision.
- Written agreement from their line manager, primary academic supervisor and member of the CSU tri-team.

**5. Selection criteria**

- Evidence that the applicant can demonstrate how this funding will have the potential to secure successful external fellowship funding.
- The proposed project demonstrates innovation and is within the CHORAL vision.
- Proven research interest in the specified area.

**6. Selection process**

The application process will be supported by a drop-in Q&A session on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 10:00 via MS Teams for interested candidates:

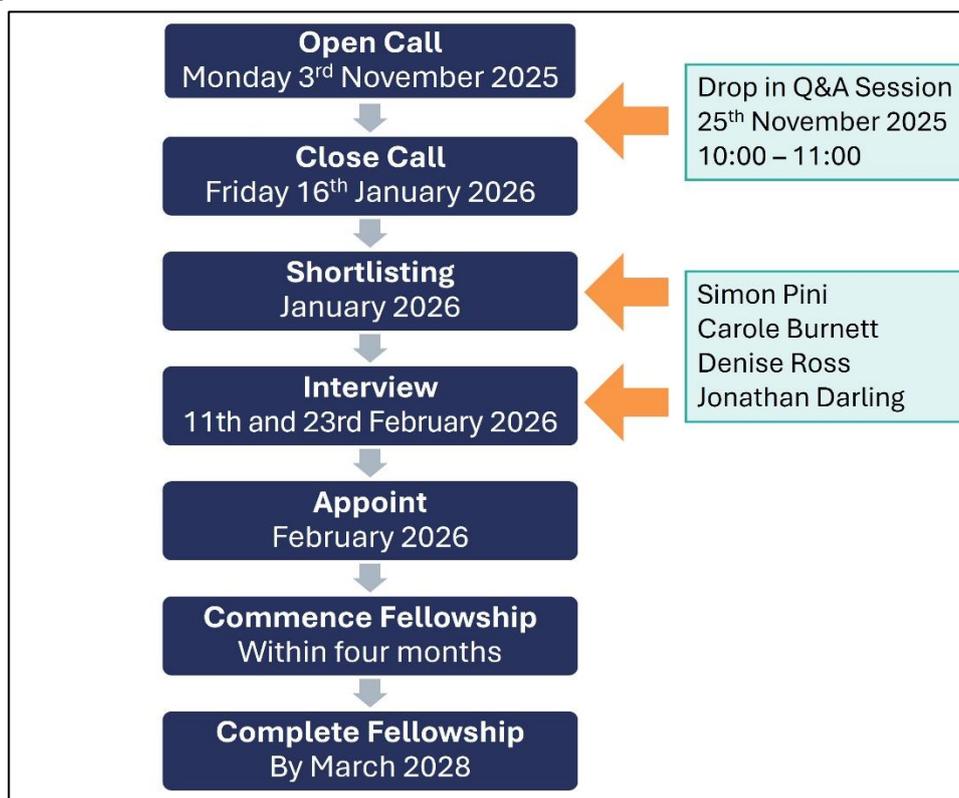
**[Join the meeting now](#)**

Meeting ID: 362 076 976 364 4

Passcode: ZQ74zL6n

Following the submission of the application form, candidates will be shortlisted and invited to interview. Successful candidates will be expected to commence the fellowships within four months of notice.

## 7. Fellowship process and timescales



### To apply, please send the following:

1. Completed application form
2. Up to date narrative CV
3. Letter of support from primary supervisor

by e-mail to [choral@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:choral@leeds.ac.uk) by 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026