



2026 UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) Dermatology Trainee Fellowship Award

Two awards per year of up to £1,750 each will be awarded to UK based Dermatology Trainees (resident doctors with an NTN in dermatology) to work with the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) as part of a two-year educational research fellowship. To complete the fellowship within their training period, candidates should ideally be within their initial two years of training upon commencing the award. Funds are to cover relevant expenses incurred for the duration of the Fellowship Award.

The aim of the award is to develop skills in clinical trials and critical appraisal in year one and then apply these skills in year two as the successful applicants become increasingly involved in the Network. The applicant with the highest overall score will be awarded the UK DCTN Neil Cox SpR Fellowship in memory of the late Dr Neil Cox who was lead clinician for the first fully funded UK DCTN studies, the PATCH trials.

The Fellowship will comprise:

Year One

1. Attendance at the 'BEES – Better Evaluation of Evidence and Statistics' course (dates TBC but usually in January) covering the fundamentals of clinical trial interpretation and critical appraisal. The course is for 3 days, and the Fellowship funds will cover course fees and travel/accommodation costs. Successful applicants who have already been on this course may attend another relevant course (subject to approval).
2. The further development of critical appraisal skills by working on a targeted reading curriculum with the UK DCTN Chair and other UK DCTN fellows. This will be facilitated via a series of online meetings along with time spent at the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre. Fellows will be encouraged to discuss articles that are selected for discussion at their local journal club and submit a commentary on an important critically appraised trial for publication. Please be aware this may be held outside what you may consider to be normal working hours.
3. A three-day visit to the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network Co-ordinating Centre (located at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology, Nottingham) to learn more about the structure and processes of the network and studies in the UK DCTN portfolio. This visit will also involve sessions on other aspects of dermatology research.
4. Fellows will join the UKDCTN Steering Committee and attend all relevant meetings (three per year) as a participant with travel expenses covered.

Year Two

1. The opportunity to undertake some form of research and related publication activity. For example, they may join a trial development team, get involved in a feasibility project or

become involved in a Priority Setting Partnership Steering Committee. Other opportunities for research development such as joining a systematic review team can also be pursued.

2. All expenses paid to attend the Annual Evidence Based Update Meeting.
3. UK DCTN Dermatology Trainee Fellows will lead the delivery of the online UK DCTN Journal Club to help embed evidence-based practice and critical appraisal of research within the dermatology clinical community.
4. Continue with membership of the UK DCTN Steering Committee, attending all meetings.

It is estimated that the time commitment for this fellowship will be twelve days per annum (approximating to one day per month) for two years.

Applications should consist of:

1. A completed UK DCTN Fellowship application form which is available from the UK DCTN website <https://www.ukdctn.org/fellowships/index.aspx>.
2. References in support of the application from both the Educational Supervisor and Local Programme Director (if both roles are covered by the same individual, a second reference should be sought from a senior clinical colleague) indicating that you are a suitable candidate and have local support to participate. In addition to outlining your suitability for the award, these letters should include confirmation of protected time to undertake all UK DCTN Fellowship activities including a UK DCTN related research project in the final year. Such letters need to be signed and on headed paper and should be submitted with this application form if possible or sent directly to the e-mail address below.

The marking system used for applications is a global scoring system which takes the following criteria into account: overall clarity and coherence, commitment of the candidate to the award, awareness of the UK DCTN and what the fellowship can offer, clinical academic track record to date, degree to which the fellowship is at an appropriate time ie “fit” with training and development needs, how well supported they are locally, likelihood that the candidate will deliver a sustained contribution to the UK DCTN given future aspirations for career development and any other special factors not covered above such as additional skills or interests that could be useful to the UK DCTN.

All applications and informal enquiries should be made via e-mail to: Dr Carron Layfield, UK DCTN Network Manager ukdctn@nottingham.ac.uk. Further information can be found at <http://www.ukdctn.org/fellowships/index.aspx>.

Please note the following before applying:

- Fellowships are awarded based on applications only (no interviews are conducted).
- Additional references and supporting materials such as CVs will **not** be taken into consideration and feedback on unsuccessful applications will **not** be provided.
- Applications are warmly welcomed for all Fellowships from those without research experience, particularly if there are extenuating circumstances for this.
- Please only apply if you can fully commit to all UK DCTN Fellowship activities. If you are awarded the Fellowship and are unable to undertake all activities the award will be withdrawn.
- LAT and Clinical Fellows are not eligible to apply – a National Training Number in dermatology is required at the time of application.
- You need to be a member of the UK DCTN to be eligible to apply.

The closing date for application is Monday 5th October (5pm), with Fellowships to commence December 2026