

Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extensions

Background

The Sir Henry Dale Fellowship scheme is a partnership between Wellcome and the Royal Society, providing five years of support for postdoctoral researchers who aim to become independent scientists leading their own groups. It is expected that by the end of this fellowship, you should:

- have achieved international standing in your area of research
- be leading your own research programme
- be a strong candidate for more senior fellowships or a permanent position at a leading research institution

Towards the end of your Sir Henry Dale Fellowship, if not yet ready to transition to the next career stage, you can apply for a fully funded extension for up to three years. All applications will be peer-reviewed and assessed as part of a competitive process.

What's the aim of the Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension?

The aim of the extension is to provide further support for fellows who have the potential to progress in their careers and are on track to be future leaders in their field but require more time to make this transition.

The extension provides an opportunity to build on your existing research where this is required to maximise impact and to increase your likelihood of progressing to a senior fellowship or a permanent post. You will be expected to have an innovative research proposal that builds on your existing work. While we do not expect you to develop an entirely new direction for your work, you can explore new opportunities and approaches that have arisen during your fellowship. You will need to describe your longer-term research vision and explain how the extension will enable you to transition from a Sir Henry Dale Fellowship to a Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) or equivalent, and in what time frame. You must demonstrate that during your existing fellowship you have produced important, high-quality research that will have impact in your field; you have become fully independent and have the potential to become a world leader in your field.

My University has offered me a permanent post at the end of my fellowship. Am I still eligible for the Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension?

While you are still a Sir Henry Dale Fellow you are eligible to apply for the Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension even if you have the offer of a permanent post (ie underwritten or proleptic appointment). When your Sir Henry Dale Fellowship has ended you will no longer be eligible for the Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension. Once you have started a tenured/permanent position you will no longer be eligible for a Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension or other Wellcome Fellowships; however, you may be eligible for an Investigator Award (<https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/investigator-awards-science>). We recommend that you discuss your situation with us and your host institute to determine the most appropriate funding mechanism.

I do not have the offer of a tenured post and would like to apply for another fellowship. Should I apply for a Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) or a Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension?

You will need to decide whether you are ready for an SRF or whether you require more time.

To be competitive for an SRF you will need to demonstrate that you have made significant and important research contributions during your Sir Henry Dale Fellowship (e.g. senior author publications, patents, software development or an impact on health policy or practice) and that you're developing an international reputation as a leader in your field. Your proposed research must be important and likely to have impact in your field and your programme of work should be innovative and ambitious. For more detailed information about SRFs, please see our scheme pages and guidance (<https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/senior-research-fellowships-basic-biomedical-science>). If you are not yet ready for an SRF (or equivalent) but have the potential to be competitive within three years then a Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension may be appropriate.

We recommend that you contact us to discuss your options for future funding 12-18 months before the end of your Sir Henry Dale Fellowship. You may also wish to discuss your options with your mentors and senior colleagues.

You cannot apply for an SRF and a Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension at the same time; however, if your SRF application is unsuccessful, you may still be able to apply for the Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension, but you will need to ensure that there is sufficient time for your application to be considered before the end of your existing fellowship. Contact us if you need more advice on when to apply. A Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension cannot be awarded once your existing fellowship has ended. Your fellowship's current end date cannot be extended solely to allow you to apply for the Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension in a later round and no bridging funding will be available.

How do I apply for a Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension?

There is no preliminary application stage. You must submit your full application through Wellcome Trust Grant Tracker. Please contact us for access to the online form. Applications will be considered three times a year with the same deadlines as new Sir Henry Dale Fellowship full applications (see the Sir Henry Dale Fellowships scheme page: <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/sir-henry-dale-fellowships>).

What can I apply for?

What we offer is the same as for new Sir Henry Dale Fellowship applications, but you can only apply for funding for up to three years of research. The award will include your salary, research expenses, travel costs and salary for one additional research post. If the research involves fieldwork or clinical studies in a low- or middle-income country, requests for more research staff will be considered. It will also include a contribution towards indirect and estate costs of £11,000 a year (from the Royal Society). We would not normally expect requests for new equipment, but these will be considered where they are essential for your research.

How will Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension applications be assessed?

Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extensions will be awarded through a competitive process. Applications will be sent for external written peer review and evaluated by an Expert Review Group. Shortlisted applications will then be considered by the Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Interview Committee. You should be prepared to attend an interview although this may not always be necessary. If you are unsuccessful, a resubmission will not be considered.

You will be assessed on your track record and scientific progress during your existing Sir Henry Dale Fellowship as well as your potential to become a leader in your field and to transition successfully to the next career stage. We will also assess the quality and importance of your scientific proposal and whether this work is innovative and likely to have impact in your field. As with all funding competitions, there is no guarantee that you will be successful.

Can I change my host institution?

We would not expect you to change your host institution when you take up your Sir Henry Dale Fellowship Extension; however, you may move (within the UK) if this will provide a better environment for your research and career development. If you wish to move, you will be asked to justify your choice of new research environment and sponsor as part of your application.