

Leukaemia UK John Goldman Fellowships 2026 Guidelines

Overview

Professor John Goldman (1938-2013) was a renowned haematologist, a pioneer in the treatment of leukaemia and the founding Chairman of the charity Leuka. John's influence was worldwide, and he mentored scores of scientists and clinicians during his distinguished career.

Leuka has become Leukaemia UK, but we have continued the Fellowship programme created in John Goldman's name, aimed at promising, early-career researchers who are seeking research independence and who have a passion for science and a desire to translate scientific advances towards patient benefit or into clinical practice.

Scope

*The proposed research must focus on leukaemia and/or precursor conditions such as myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) and Clonal Haematopoiesis of Indeterminate Potential (CHIP). Of note, applications related to precursor conditions must focus on the progression of such conditions to leukaemia in order to inform approaches or interventions to prevent leukaemia from developing from that precursor condition. Leukaemia UK will **not** fund applications on lymphoma or myeloma.*

Directly translational projects, or projects where there is a clear line of sight to (subsequent) translation are particularly encouraged. John Goldman Fellowships are designed to enable talented research scientists/clinician-scientists to test a novel hypothesis and get their research and careers off the ground in a supportive, well-funded environment, so that they can pursue their work creatively.

Successful applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- An innovative idea with a feasible delivery plan
- Scientific excellence
- The potential for success as a future independent researcher

Eligibility

High quality applications are invited from research scientists and clinician-scientists from across the UK. There is no age limit, although the awards are intended to provide an opportunity for talented early career scientists to develop as independent investigators.

Awards are open to researchers (who may or may not be clinically qualified) who can demonstrate genuine potential to become the leading scientists of the future. Applicants should have a good publication record, but it does not need to be exceptional at this stage.

The John Goldman Fellowships are aimed at two main categories of applicant:

1. Post-doctoral researchers or clinical scientists on a clear trajectory towards research independence and PI status. There is no restriction on the number of years since an applicant obtained their PhD, but an explanation of the applicant's proposed path to full PI status should be provided. It would be expected that such applicants would request their salary costs in their John Goldman Fellowship application.

2. New lecturers who are establishing their own groups within two years of their first permanent appointment. In this case the applicant's salary would not be requested if it is already provided by their institution. Instead, salary costs can be requested for a research associate, research assistant, and/or technician (but not a PhD student) to work on the Fellowship project.

Of note, priority may be given to applicants requiring personal salary support over those seeking salary support to employ others in their lab to work on the proposed research.

Application process

Applications must be submitted via the [Leukaemia UK Funding Management System](#). The application review process is summarised below; full details can be found on [the Leukaemia UK website](#).

Initial Assessment: Applications may be rejected following an initial assessment after which the applicant will be informed accordingly. To avoid rejection at initial assessment:

- Applicants must comply with the eligibility criteria;
- The proposed research project must be within the 'scope' previously described;
- Applications must be properly completed, and page and word limits must be strictly followed.

Expert review: Applications that pass the initial assessment will be sent for expert review to be:

- Assessed and scored by at least five members of Leukaemia UK's John Goldman Fellowship Expert Review Panel. The Expert Review Panel may triage out some applications before they are sent for additional, external expert review, especially if a high volume of applications is received for a given round. All applicants will be informed by **31 March 2026** whether their application has been sent for external expert review;
- Assessed and scored by at least two independent external expert reviewers;
- Assessed by lay, patient member(s) of Leukaemia UK's Patient Experience Advisory Panel who provide input and opinion but who do not score applications.

Interview: A decision meeting will be held in **early June 2026**. Applicants will be notified by **09 June 2026** whether they have been called for interview.

- Interviews will be held at the Leukaemia UK offices in London on **30 June 2026**.
- The format will be a 40-minute interview that will include a 10-minute presentation by the applicant.

Application feedback: Feedback may be available at the discretion of Leukaemia UK, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Grants

Grants are for up to £200,000, to span a minimum duration of 18 months and maximum duration of two years. Potential to utilise the grant to leverage additional or matched funding will be viewed favourably but is not essential. The grant may be used for salary and direct costs of the project, but it will not support equipment, PhD stipends or fees, or indirect costs such as institutional overheads.

The initial application should provide indicative financial information as to how the award will be utilised, corroborated by the relevant finance department. Shortlisted applicants may be asked to provide a more detailed financial breakdown, in line with the terms and conditions of the fellowship grant.

Closing date

The closing date for receipt of applications is **midday on 02 February 2026**. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by **31 July 2026**.

Olive Boles Innovation Award

This award will be conferred every year to one John Goldman Fellowship awardee in recognition of a particularly innovative project that could contribute significantly to our understanding of leukaemia. This award is selected by the Expert Review Panel but does not come with an additional monetary value.

Mentoring

Leukaemia UK provides a voluntary [mentoring scheme](#) for all current John Goldman Fellows, which offers Fellows the opportunity to engage in one-to-one mentoring with established researchers in leukaemia and other related blood cancers.

Working with the Charity

Fellows will be expected to act as ambassadors for Leukaemia UK and the John Goldman Fellowship programme.

Charity details

Leukaemia UK
26 Great Queen Street
London
WC2B 5BL

Registered charity no. 1154856