

Clinical Translational Research Placement Fellowship

Call for Applications

As a leading center for translational cancer research, the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) Heidelberg aims at accelerating the transfer of scientific results from bench to bedside and vice versa. Cutting-edge, translational and clinical cancer research require effective training. Therefore, the NCT Heidelberg opens a new call for fellowships in 2025.

Fellowship description

Aims

Aim 1: Strengthening the research profiles and training of clinician and medical scientists in relation to the development of clinical trials

NCT Heidelberg would like to offer the possibility to junior clinician and medical scientists who have an innovative and promising study idea to work on it in their home or another department in Heidelberg based on the expertise needed. The time dedicated to the Clinical Translational Research Placement will be used to receive guidance and feedback on the study idea while obtaining knowledge on selected topics such as protocol development from members of the NCT Heidelberg Trial Concept Board, patient involvement, ethics and more. During the placement, successful candidates will, if needed, acquire knowledge on novel technologies and methods that could be meaningfully incorporated into their study idea.

Aim 2: Generating competitive study ideas for the NCT OCT² program

In addition to Aim 1, this Clinical Translational Research Placement Fellowship aims to serve as a springboard for developing competitive and innovative study ideas, with the midterm goal to leverage proposals with NCT Heidelberg on the lead submitted to NCT's [Overarching Clinical Translational Trial \(OCT²\) program](#). OCT² aspires to advance investigator-initiated-trials (IITs) through translation of most promising preclinical research results into multi-site trials. By equipping early-career clinician and medical scientists with essential training in clinical trial development, this fellowship lays the foundation for future groundbreaking research and strengthens NCT Heidelberg's future participation in the NCT OCT² program.

Fellowship amount and duration

The fellowships are designed to provide dedicated time for fellows to further develop a study idea within their home department or at a host department at NCT Heidelberg and its supporting institutions. The fellowships cover salary costs for the duration of the fellowship but do not include additional expenses, such as equipment or consumables.

Applicants are expected to commit at least 40-50% of their time for a 6-month fellowship or 100% for a 3-month fellowship. Requests for fellowships of 3-5 months with varying time commitments will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

All fellowships must begin and end between June 1, 2025 and end of 2025.

Support, Feedback and Evaluation

Applicants are required to identify a potential mentor for the duration of their fellowship. This mentor will guide the fellow in developing their clinical trial idea. Depending on individual needs, additional support will be provided by the Clinical Trial Center at NCT Heidelberg and other local experts.

To encourage collaboration and networking, fellows will have the opportunity to participate in informal meetings throughout the fellowship, offering a platform to share experiences, discuss challenges, and exchange insights.

The NCT Heidelberg Education and Training Committee, along with the program coordinator, will be open to feedback from fellows, ensuring that their experience is productive and smooth. At the conclusion of the fellowship, fellows will be expected to present their trial concepts and submit a final report outlining their achievements.

Application procedure

Eligibility criteria

The Clinical Translational Research Placement Fellowship is open to the following individuals:

- Clinician scientists: Physicians in the second half of their residency training.
- Medical scientists: Early-career scientists (up to five years post-PhD) with a strong interest in clinical trials.

Applicants must be employed at one of the following institutions: German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg University Hospital (UKHD), Thorax Clinic Heidelberg, Medical Faculty of the University of Heidelberg.

Note: The recognition of this fellowship as accredited training time for the *Facharzt* certification is subject to approval by the *Ärzttekammer*. Unless otherwise decided by the *Ärzttekammer*, the time spent on this fellowship will be added to the standard residency training duration.

How to apply:

- Complete the official application form provided with this call. The form can be downloaded from <https://www.nct-heidelberg.de/en/the-nct/jobs-career/fellowship-program.html>
- Submit the following documents via email to koordination@nct-heidelberg.de by April 4:
 - Application form
 - CV
 - Relevant certificates (e.g. doctorate/PhD certificate, medical license, etc.)
 - Agreement from both your home department and the host department (if different)

Selection criteria

All applications that meet the eligibility criteria will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary expert board. The final decision will be made by the Managing Directorate of NCT Heidelberg.

The evaluation will consider all aspects of the application, with particular emphasis on:

- Feasibility of the study idea
- Scientific innovation and originality
- Potential value to the patient
- Motivation and potential for a career in translational cancer research and/or as clinical medical trialist

Timeline

- 1) Application Deadline: April 4, 2025
- 2) Candidate Selection: By May 2025
- 3) Start of Fellowships: June 1, 2025 (for 6-months fellowships). A later start is possible for shorter fellowships with a higher time commitment.
- 4) End of Fellowships: End of 2025

For any questions, please contact the program coordinator, Dr. Evangelia Tasouri Koutra, at: koordination@nct-heidelberg.de.