

Research Professorship nomination guidance

The BHF Research Professorship aims to support outstanding principal investigators to further expand their research and build critical mass in a specific field at their institution, while also serving as ambassadors for the BHF. This scheme offers generous and flexible funding for up to 10 years and is closely aligned with the priorities set out in the BHF Research Strategy.

Due to the strategic nature of the scheme and the need for a transparent selection process, we have redesigned the application pathway. The process will be competitive and run on an annual cycle.

The new process will comprise:

- An initial nomination by the institution, which will be reviewed and assessed by the BHF Leadership Team. Please be aware of new eligibility requirements for the [Research Professorship scheme](#).
- A full application by successful nominees, which will be subject to external peer review and evaluated by the Chairs and Programme Grant Committee, followed by a formal interview.

In exceptional circumstances, such as the international recruitment of a suitable principal investigator, the BHF is prepared to consider applications for BHF Research Professorships outside the annual cycle. In such instances, please contact the BHF directly to discuss.

The BHF also reserves the option to identify specific research fields and issue targeted calls for Research Professorship applications, where aligned with strategic priorities.

Research Professorship nomination

The first step towards an application for a BHF Research Professorship award is nomination by a senior leader of the host university's faculty (e.g. Dean or equivalent). Prospective candidates are encouraged to engage with their faculty leadership at an early stage to discuss the suitability and appropriate timing of a possible nomination.

Each nomination will be assessed by the BHF to determine whether the candidate should be invited to submit a full application for a Research Professorship award. The evaluation will consider several key factors, including the career trajectory of the candidate, the standing and future potential of their research programmes, the institution's commitment to supporting the appointment, and the added value and

potential impact the proposed Research Professorship would deliver for the BHF in line with our research strategy.

Normally, a university is expected to submit no more than one nomination per year; however, in exceptional circumstances and where fully justified, it may submit up to two candidates. It is the responsibility of each faculty to manage and prioritise its nominations, putting forward only its strongest and most competitive candidate(s). Faculties should ensure nomination decisions are made through fair and transparent processes that recognise a broad range of contributions and support inclusivity. Each nomination should address the following, in a maximum of 3 pages:

The candidate

Describe the candidate's career to date, outlining key qualifications, experiences and achievements, providing evidence of leadership at national or international level, and articulating their future career aspirations.

Assessment – Is the candidate an exceptional researcher and leader? Do they have the ambition and capacity to attain and sustain international leadership in their field? Have they been instrumental in developing research capacity, mentoring emerging researchers, or fostering the next generation of cardiovascular research leaders?

The candidate's research programmes

Describe the candidate's research interests, past achievements and current programmes, funding portfolio, and ambitions for further growing the scope and impact of their work. Articulate how a BHF Research Professorship award is expected to help realise such ambitions. Please note that details of the candidate's planned research activities will be requested and reviewed at the full application stage.

Assessment – Are the candidate's research activities internationally competitive and do they demonstrate potential to become internationally leading? Is a BHF Research Professorship award likely to catalyse accelerated progress towards achieving their research ambitions, with the potential to deliver greater impact and disrupt current paradigms in the field?

Please note that the BHF is committed to the principles of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), so journal-based metrics should not be used at any point in the application process.

The university's commitment

Describe the strength of the university's commitment to cardiovascular research, the level of support that will be provided to the candidate and how a BHF Research

Professorship award is expected to galvanise progress towards achieving institutional ambitions in relevant domains.

Assessment – Has the university demonstrated a significant commitment to cardiovascular research and does it plan to expand this? How will the proposed BHF Research Professor appointment synergise with the university’s strategic ambitions and catalyse progress? Is the proposed level of university support for the Research Professor candidate appropriate?

The added value for BHF

Describe the potential added value of the proposed Research Professorship for the BHF, outlining how such an appointment would align with our current [Research Strategy](#) and help deliver our strategic aims. Please comment on the candidate’s potential to represent BHF as an ambassador and as a spokesperson in their field/institution. If the university already has other BHF Chairs, BHF Research Professorship holders or other candidates under consideration, please include additional justification for the current nomination.

Assessment – Does the proposed Research Professor appointment align with BHF strategic priorities and aims? Would such an appointment complement BHF’s existing Research Professor cohort in terms of discipline, location and other forms of diversity? Is the candidate likely to serve the BHF well as an ambassador or spokesperson?

Submission

Nominations should be sent by email to the BHF Chief Scientific and Medical Officer (CSMO), Professor Bryan Williams (williamsb@bhf.org.uk), copying in BHF Chief of Staff to the CSMO, Dr Silvia Pedroni (pedronis@bhf.org.uk), and research@bhf.org.uk. Please use the following subject heading in your email “*University NAME senior leadership nomination for BHF Research Professorship*”.

BHF staff cannot provide direct advice to potential nominees but would be happy to address any queries from university nominating authorities on scheme criteria or process. Prospective nominees can find eligibility criteria below. In line with [BHF’s commitment to inclusion](#), we expect universities to conduct their nominations in a manner that aligns with [our approach](#) to fair, transparent and inclusive assessment. We particularly encourage nominations of women and minority ethnicity background candidates who remain under-represented at senior levels.

Assessment

At this initial stage, nominations will be evaluated by the BHF leadership team against the relevant assessment criteria and in competition. Nominations submitted before **15 September 2026** will be reviewed as a cohort, with outcomes communicated in **October 2026**. If a nomination is approved, the candidate and host university will be invited to submit a full application, which will be evaluated by the Chairs and Programme Grants Committee, informed by written peer review from experts in relevant research domains. The deadline for full applications will be **23 June 2027**. Following a successful full application review, the candidate will be invited to a final-stage interview, which we aim to hold in **October/November 2027**.