

BORS–BJR Travelling Fellowship 2027 Call

1. Aims

The British Orthopaedic Research Society (BORS), in partnership with Bone & Joint Research (BJR), is pleased to invite applications for the **2027 BORS–BJR Travelling Fellowship**.

The 2027 Fellowship will support a multidisciplinary cohort of **3–4 early- and mid-career orthopaedic and musculoskeletal researchers** to undertake a programme of visits to leading research centres across Europe, culminating at the **European Orthopaedic Research Society (EORS) 2027 Annual Meeting**.

The aims of the Fellowship are to:

- disseminate high-quality orthopaedic and musculoskeletal research undertaken by BORS members internationally;
- promote British orthopaedic and musculoskeletal research and strengthen links between the UK and European research communities;
- enable Fellows to visit leading international research centres, exchange knowledge and expertise, and gain insight into different research environments and approaches;
- establish and strengthen lasting international collaborations and networks that lead to future research opportunities;
- support the development of future leaders in orthopaedic and musculoskeletal research; and
- strengthen engagement with BORS committee, BJR and the wider orthopaedic research community, developing Fellows who will contribute actively throughout their careers.

2. What the Fellowship Offers

The Fellowship will comprise a programme of visits to leading orthopaedic and musculoskeletal research centres across Europe in **September 2027**, culminating at the EORS 2027 Annual Meeting.

During the Fellowship, Fellows will have the opportunity to:

- present and discuss their research with internationally recognised researchers;
- learn about research, methodologies and facilities at host institutions;
- exchange expertise and develop new research perspectives;
- establish professional relationships with potential international collaborators;
- identify opportunities for future collaborative research, funding and exchange; and
- develop professional relationships with the other members of a multidisciplinary Travelling Fellowship cohort.

BORS and BJR will provide financial support towards reasonable travel, accommodation and subsistence costs associated with the Fellowship up to £5,000 per fellow.

EORS has agreed to waive registration fees for the selected Travelling Fellows to attend the EORS 2027 Annual Meeting.

The selected Fellows will play an active role in shaping the Fellowship programme. Working collaboratively as a cohort, and with support from BORS, BJR and EORS, Fellows will identify and engage with European research centres that align with their research interests and Fellowship objectives. Applicants are therefore encouraged to identify centres, research groups or areas of expertise that they would particularly value visiting. The final itinerary will be developed collaboratively by the Fellows and BORS, in consultation with participating host institutions.

3. Eligibility

The Fellowship is open to **early- and mid-career researchers working in orthopaedic and musculoskeletal research**, including clinicians, engineers, biologists and allied researchers.

Applicants must:

- be a BORS member in good standing since at least 1st of August 2026.
- have completed a PhD or equivalent research training, or be able to demonstrate an equivalent level of research experience;
- demonstrate a strong track record of high-quality orthopaedic or musculoskeletal research appropriate to their career stage and discipline;
- have a body of research suitable for presentation and discussion at the centres visited during the Fellowship;
- be currently undertaking or significantly contributing to orthopaedic or musculoskeletal research at a UK-based academic / clinical institution;
- demonstrate previous engagement with BORS and the wider orthopaedic research community;
- be able to participate in the full Travelling Fellowship programme, including attendance at EORS 2027; and
- have the support of their employing institution, line manager or equivalent to participate in the Fellowship.

Applicants from all relevant professional and research backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Research achievements and professional engagement will be considered relative to **career stage, discipline and opportunity**.

4. Application Process

The selection process will comprise two stages:

1. a written application; and
2. a structured interview for shortlisted candidates.

4.1 Written Application

Applications should be submitted to contact@borsoc.org.uk with the subject line “**BORS–BJR Travelling Fellowship 2027 Application**” by **17:00 (GMT) on 13 November 2026**.

Applicants should provide the following:

i. Application statement

Applicants should submit a statement of no more than **1,000 words**, structured using the four headings below.

A. Research excellence and trajectory – maximum 300 words

Describe your research programme, its importance to orthopaedic or musculoskeletal research, and your individual contribution to this work.

You may wish to consider:

- the main focus and significance of your research;
- your particular intellectual, scientific, clinical or technical contributions;
- how your research has developed to date;
- your current research trajectory and future direction; and
- the research topics/outputs that you would be able to present and discuss during the Fellowship.

B. Engagement with BORS and BJR – maximum 200 words

Describe your previous engagement with BORS and, where relevant, BJR, together with your contribution to the wider orthopaedic research community.

This might include participation or presentation at BORS meetings, involvement in BORS activities, committees or events, peer review, publication or other involvement with BJR, or other contributions to the orthopaedic research community.

The examples above are illustrative rather than a checklist. Engagement will be considered relative to career stage and opportunity, and previous publication in or contribution to BJR is not a requirement.

C. Case for the Travelling Fellowship – maximum 300 words

Explain why you are applying for the BORS–BJR Travelling Fellowship and why this is the appropriate stage of your career to participate.

You should describe:

- what you hope to achieve through the Fellowship;

- the expertise, research environments, methodologies or facilities from which you would particularly benefit;
- how the Fellowship would complement your current research;
- how it could influence your future research and career development; and
- where relevant, European research centres or groups that would be particularly valuable for you to visit and why.

Suggested host centres are not binding and will be considered alongside the interests of the other Fellows when developing the final programme.

D. Potential impact and contribution – maximum 200 words

Describe what you expect the longer-term impact of the Fellowship to be.

You may wish to consider:

- opportunities to establish or strengthen international collaborations;
- potential future research projects, funding applications, methodological exchange or other tangible outcomes;
- how knowledge and experience gained during the Fellowship would be shared with your own research community; and
- how you would contribute to BORS, BJR and the Travelling Fellowship programme following completion of the Fellowship.

ii. Curriculum vitae

A concise CV of no more than **two pages** outlining relevant research, professional and academic experience.

iii. Key research outputs

Applicants should identify up to **five key research outputs** that best demonstrate the quality and development of their research.

For each output, applicants should provide a brief statement describing:

- their individual contribution; and
- the significance of the output to their research area.

Research outputs are not restricted to peer-reviewed publications and may include appropriate datasets, software, methodologies, technologies or other significant research contributions.

iv. Statement of support

A brief statement from the applicant's line manager, research supervisor or other appropriate senior colleague confirming support for their application and their availability to participate in the full Fellowship programme if selected.

v. Applicant declaration

Applicants must confirm that:

- they meet the eligibility criteria;
- the information provided in their application is accurate;
- they are available to participate in the full Fellowship programme; and
- if selected, they agree to meet the expectations of a BORS–BJR Travelling Fellow described below.

4.2 Assessment Criteria

Written applications will be assessed independently by a **multidisciplinary selection panel comprising representatives of BORS and BJR**.

Applications will be considered relative to the applicant's **career stage, discipline and opportunity**.

The written application will be assessed against the following criteria:

Assessment criterion	Weighting
Research excellence and trajectory	35%
Engagement with BORS and BJR	25%
Case for the Travelling Fellowship	25%
Potential impact and contribution	15%

4.3 Interviews

The highest-ranked written applications will be shortlisted for interview.

Interviews will be conducted by a multidisciplinary panel including representatives of BORS and BJR. Interviews will be held remotely with details to be confirmed.

The interview is intended to complement the written assessment and will consider:

- the candidate's ability to communicate and discuss their research with a multidisciplinary audience;
- their understanding of the aims and opportunities of the Travelling Fellowship;
- their approach to collaboration and working within a multidisciplinary group;
- their collegiality, adaptability and ability to work constructively with others in navigating challenges that may arise during an international travelling fellowship; and
- their ability to professionally represent BORS and BJR as a Travelling Fellow.

All shortlisted candidates will be asked a consistent set of core questions and assessed against predefined criteria.

Applications will be assessed on individual merit. In making final appointments from candidates meeting the required standard, the selection panel may also consider the **overall multidisciplinary composition of the Travelling Fellowship cohort**.

5. Expectations of Travelling Fellows

Candidates awarded a BORS–BJR Travelling Fellowship will be expected to:

- remain a BORS member in good standing throughout the Fellowship;
- participate fully in the complete Fellowship programme;
- act as an ambassador for BORS and BJR and demonstrate the values of a professional, diverse and inclusive research community;
- present and discuss their research at host institutions;
- engage actively with researchers and research groups at the centres visited;
- contribute positively and professionally to a multidisciplinary cohort of Travelling Fellows;
- work collaboratively with the other Fellows and organisers in developing and delivering the Fellowship programme;
- take appropriate responsibility for travel arrangements and other Fellowship logistics within the agreed budget and guidance provided by BORS;
- attend the EORS 2027 Annual Meeting and participate in relevant Fellowship activities;
- promote BORS, BJR and the Travelling Fellowship appropriately during the programme;
- present their experience of the Fellowship at a subsequent BORS Annual Meeting;
- contribute to BJR following the Fellowship through appropriate reviewing, editorial, publication or other activities;
- contribute to dissemination of the Fellowship experience; and
- continue to engage with BORS and, where appropriate, support future Travelling Fellowship activities.

Further guidance on travel, expenses, conduct and the responsibilities of Travelling Fellows will be provided to successful candidates.

6. Equality, Diversity and Accessibility

BORS and BJR are committed to supporting a diverse and inclusive orthopaedic and musculoskeletal research community.

Applications are welcomed from researchers across the full range of disciplines and professional backgrounds represented within orthopaedic and musculoskeletal research.

Applications will be considered relative to career stage and opportunity. Applicants may provide relevant contextual information concerning career breaks, part-time working, caring responsibilities or other circumstances that have materially affected opportunities for research or professional engagement.

BORS will work with selected Fellows to identify and, where reasonably possible, address accessibility or other requirements relating to participation in the Fellowship.

7. Indicative Timeline

Stage	Date
Applications open	9 th October 2026
Applications close	13 th November 2026
Shortlisting	December 2026/January 2027
Interviews	End of January 2027 TBC

8. Informal Enquiries

Information about previous BORS–BJR Travelling Fellows is available through the BORS website. Prospective applicants are encouraged to learn about the experiences of previous Fellows and the impact of the Fellowship on their research and careers.

For informal enquiries about the 2027 BORS–BJR Travelling Fellowship or the application process, please contact:

contact@borsoc.org.uk