

Gender breakdown for Sir Henry Dale Fellowships

In [Sir Paul Nurse's](#) blog post yesterday, '[Gender balance among University Research Fellows](#)', he referred to the [Sir Henry Dale Fellowships](#) (SHDs) which support post-doctoral scientists tackling important biomedical questions.

The scheme, which launched in 2012, is run in partnership with the [Wellcome Trust](#) and supports researchers who would previously have applied for a 'biomedical' Royal Society [University Research Fellowship](#) or a [Wellcome Trust Research Career Development Fellowship](#).

Traditionally, women are better represented in biomedical science than in some other areas. We believe some women who would previously have applied for URFs may now be applying for SHDs instead. At the moment, women account for 28% (17 out of 61) of awardees on the SHD scheme.

There have been requests on Twitter for more information on the SHDs that have been awarded. The full breakdown by gender of applications and awards for the SHD scheme since its launch is as follows:

Females	Awarded	Shortlisted	Applications	Percentage shortlisted	Percentage awarded at Interview	Overall Award Rate
Round 1	2	7	23	30%	29%	9%
Round 2	2	9	26	35%	22%	8%
Round 3	3	15	30	50%	20%	10%
Round 4	3	8	19	42%	38%	16%
Round 5	7	17	39	44%	41%	18%
Total	17	56	137	41%	30%	12%
Males	Awarded	Shortlisted	Applications	Percentage Shortlisted	Percentage Awarded at Interview	Overall Award Rate
Round 1	8	18	44	41%	44%	18%
Round 2	7	11	34	32%	64%	21%
Round 3	11	27	54	50%	41%	20%

Round 4	9	14	32	44%	64%	28%
Round 5	9	17	50	34%	53%	18%
Total	44	87	214	41%	51%	21%
Grand Total	61	143	351	41%	43%	17%

The numbers are of course complex and so it's important to note a few things:

- Overall (Round 1-5), the same proportion (41%) of women and men who submitted a full application were shortlisted for interview.
- Of the women interviewed, 30% were successful, whereas 51% of the men interviewed were successful.
- Per round, the number of applicants varies and at interview stage in particular, numbers are quite small, so one or two people not being awarded (e.g. out of 8) will lead to a sizeable change in the percentage award rate.

We hope that in sharing these further numbers with you is helpful in piecing together how some of the Royal Society's grants are made.