

Do I need to have a PhD to be eligible for this funding? / I am about to submit my PhD. Am I eligible to apply for this grant?

To be eligible to be a lead applicant on this grant you must: hold a PhD or equivalent qualification, or have sufficient and proven research experience.

Unless you can demonstrate you have sufficient research experience e.g. have managed successful research projects previously, we would strongly recommend waiting until you're in receipt of your PhD (or equivalent qualification) before applying for this funding round. We run the Expanding Theories grant call twice a year. Please see our website for more details on when the next round will be opening. You can also join our mailing list (see [here](#)) to receive notifications about the upcoming opportunities.

I am a non-tenured research academic. Am I be eligible to apply?

Yes, however if you do not hold an employment contract beyond the period of the grant, you will need to provide a letter of support from the Host Institution committing to support the project for its duration.

Can AHPs and clinicians apply for this funding?

Yes, as long as you hold a PhD (or equivalent qualification) or have sufficient and proven research experience.

As the lead applicant, can I use the funding to pay for all/part of my salary?

Only if you are an early career researcher and your salary is not otherwise paid for, either by your institution or through a separate grant. Early career researchers are defined as having completed their PhD within the last 8 years, and this excludes any career breaks such as those taken for family, health or due to caring responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Can this funding be used to pay for a PhD-student?

No. As per our **Finance Guidelines**, student stipend and university tuition fees are not eligible costs for the Expanding Theories awards.

Currently the only grant that can be used to support PhD students is our Quest for Cures award. Please see our website for more details on when the next round will be opening. You can also join our mailing list (see [here](#)) to receive notifications about the upcoming opportunities.

Can this funding be used to cover all/part of the salary for co-applicants?

Salary costs for staff working specifically on the project are allowed. Senior posts must be fully justified. Please see our **Finance Guidelines** for more details on what salary costs are eligible.

I am not based in the UK, am I/my institution eligible to apply?

Yes. We welcome applications from all academic/research institutions, UK and international.

Is it a requirement that the lead applicant must have completed their PhD within the last 8 years in order to be eligible for this scheme?

No. While we welcome applications from early career researchers (those who have completed their PhD within the last 8 years), this does not exclude more senior researchers from applying for this award.

Is this award limited to patient studies only or is it also open to preclinical/animal model studies?

This scheme supports pilot studies of all kinds, including pre-clinical/animal model studies.

Do I need to have a UK collaborator to be eligible to apply for this grant?

No. Solely international research teams are eligible to apply, but applications that do include a UK collaborator will be looked on favourably.

Are companies eligible to apply for this funding?

We are happy to support projects that have company involvement as a co-applicant or collaborator but the lead applicant must be an academic or clinical researcher based at a hospital or university.

Is it possible to apply for the full funding amount (£150k) for a shorter period than the full 2 years (e.g. 20 months)?

Yes, 2 years is the maximum duration, but we accept applications for projects with a shorter duration. In the application you will be required to outline the work involved and justify all requested costs; our reviewers and SAB will then make a judgement on value for money based on this information.

Can the grant funds be used towards indirect costs?

No. Our research grants cover the directly incurred costs only. We ask you to include an estimate of the indirect costs of research in the application so we can demonstrate the true cost of research, and as an AMRC member charity this evidence is used to justify support such as the Charity Research Support Fund.

Can we include patient and public involvement from patients outside of the UK?

Yes. You are welcome to include patient and public involvement from outside of the UK, but please be aware that the section on patient and public involvement in the application, including any outcomes from the patient and public involvement, should be written in/translated into English.

My Head of Department is also a co-applicant, is this ok?

The Head of Department cannot be somebody who has any ownership of the research project or access to grant funds i.e. they cannot also be the lead applicant or a co-applicant, but they can be a collaborator. You would need to identify someone else to act as the authority signatory on your application – this would usually be the next senior person or the Head of another department.

Regarding the approval of the application by the Administrative Authority and the Head of the Department, is this process entirely online through their accounts on the grant tracker portal?

Yes, the application and all approvals are entirely online through the grant tracker portal.

If the collaborator works in the same institution of the PI, is the letter of collaboration still required?

Yes, the letter of collaboration should be signed by the collaborator and include a brief summary of what they will contribute toward the project.