

PhD Studentships

Research Grant Policy and Information

Please read this document before completing the application form and retain for future reference

Heart Research UK

The Charity's objects are restricted to the promotion and furtherance of medical research into the prevention, treatment and cure of heart disease and related conditions including practical help with the prevention and treatment and the rehabilitation of those with such diseases.

Applying for a PhD Studentships

- 1) Awards are made to projects that have clear relevance to our research strategy
- 2) The application must be made by an established researcher who will be the Primary Supervisor and applications from potential students will not be accepted.
- 3) Applications must have a Primary and Secondary Supervisor, and both supervisors must have tenured positions at the Host Institution.
- 4) The Primary Supervisor will be the academic lead and is responsible for managing the grant, both scientifically and financially.
- 5) If the Primary Supervisor has no previous supervisory experience or training, then the Secondary Supervisor should have appropriate experience and involvement in the PhD project.
- 6) A structured, supportive and mentored environment should be provided to the PhD student.
- 7) Application forms can be downloaded from the Heart Research UK website www.heartresearch.org.uk
- 8) Section H of the application form must include all authorising signatures and no person should sign in more than one capacity.
- 9) When submitting an application, please send the following using Arial 11 Font :
- 10) One original application with signatures
 - a) One copy of the Terms and Conditions initialled on each page and signed on the final page by the Primary Supervisor and, for and on behalf of, the Host Institution.
 - b) CVs of Primary Supervisor and Second Supervisor
 - c) Letters of support from Collaborators (if applicable)
 - d) Copy of the ethical approval letter (if applicable).
 - e) Copy of front page of Home Office project licence (if applicable).
 - f) Copy of Code of Good Research Practice (or web address).
- 11) Electronic copy of the entire application (including supporting documentation, except for Code of Good Research Practice and HRUK Terms and Conditions) sent as a single Word/PDF file to helenw@heartresearch.org.uk Please note that the electronic copy should not include signatures.

The documents listed above must be received by HRUK by **1pm, 1 June** (or the following working day if a weekend or bank holiday). Submission of an electronic version by the closing date does not qualify as meeting the deadline.

Funding details

- 1) The maximum grant award is £110,500 (outside London) and £122,500 (within London)
- 2) Funding is available for 3.5 years covering: -
 - Student stipend or clinical salary up the maximum amounts shown in the table below
 - Tuition fees at standard home student rate as set by the research institution (maximum £5,000 per annum)
 - Research consumables directly attributable to the project, up to £7,500 per year

		Outside London	Within London
Stipend/salary	Year 1	£20,000	£22,000
	Year 2	£21,000	£24,000
	Year 3	£22,000	£26,000
	Year 3.5	£10,000	£13,000
Tuition fees	Per annum	£5,000	£5,000
Consumables	Per annum	£7,500	£7,500
Total		£110,500	£122,500

- 3) A full breakdown and detailed justification of the funding requested must be included and costings will be scrutinised by our reviewers.
- 4) Clinical PhD studentships are offered through shared funding with the institution. Heart Research UK will cover part of the salary up to the maximum amounts shown in the table above, in addition to tuition fees and consumables costs, with the host institution paying the remaining salary costs. Please contact Heart Research UK for advice if you are considering applying for a co-funded clinical PhD studentship.
- 5) If applying for a clinical PhD studentship, Heart Research UK requires a written guarantee from the Dean of the School of Medicine or appropriate representative that the Host Institution will cover the additional salary costs for the duration of the grant.
- 6) Please ensure that the costings in Section B add up correctly both in the annual subtotals and totals.
- 7) Accurate costings must be provided at the time of application as supplementary funding is not permitted following an award.
- 8) AMRC member charities have a policy of not paying the indirect costs of medical research and only directly incurred research costs should be included in the application. Therefore any indirect costs such as contributions towards the applicants' salaries, administrative costs and/or other overheads imposed by the institution must not be included in the application.
- 9) Funding requests for attendance at conferences or scientific meetings should not be included in the application. Heart Research UK grantholders may apply for a travel grant by returning a completed HRUK Travel Grant Request Form at least six weeks before the event. A maximum of £1,000 per grant is allowed for authorised attendance at meetings or conferences relevant to the grant. Receipts or other evidence of the costs of travel must be provided and reimbursement will be made after we have received a 1-page report on the event.

- 10) If the PhD student leaves during the project, then any remaining funds must be returned to Heart Research UK.
- 11) Heart Research UK does not provide 'top-up' funding for existing PhD studentships supported by other grant giving organisations which are incompletely funded.

PhD Studentship selection process

- 1) Heart Research UK is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) which is now widely accepted as a 'mark of quality' by universities, government, other funders and research organisations. In compliance with AMRC-membership criteria, HRUK uses peer review to decide how to allocate funding for medical research.
- 2) Grant applications are assessed by carefully-selected, independent external peer reviewers. External reviewers assess the value, quality and potential impact of the science, and provide a written report of their expert opinion to the HRUK Medical Review Panel (MRP).
- 3) The HRUK MRP meets on an annual basis to consider the grant applications and make recommendations for funding to the HRUK Trustees.
- 4) Applications are judged on the following criteria:
 - Relevance of project to heart disease
 - Suitability of project for PhD training
 - Scientific quality of proposed project
 - Supervisors' training record
- 5) Heart Research UK will advertise the studentship on www.findaphd.com
- 6) Candidates will have or expect to be awarded a first class or high upper second class BSc degree, or MSc with merit or distinction.
- 7) For candidates with non-UK degrees, the Supervisor(s) will obtain evidence that the degree conforms to a first class or upper second class degree.
- 8) Candidates will be interviewed and selected by the HRUK PhD Studentship MRP together with the academic supervisors.
- 9) One PhD studentship will be awarded each year.

Disclaimer

A grant application will not be accepted unless the Principal Applicant and their Host Institution agree to and agree to abide by our Terms and Conditions.

HRUK cannot and does not give any undertaking that they will fund any research in any round of funding applications. HRUK regularly receives more entirely worthwhile and fully justified applications for funding than they can possibly support. Any failure to secure funding is in no way any criticism of any research proposal, any researcher, supervisor or department or indeed any institution. Sadly, applications are more often unsuccessful than not and research opportunities that the Trustees would like to support cannot always be supported. The deliberations of HRUK and the Medical Review Panel are confidential.

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