

PhD Studentships

Research Grant Policy and Information

Please read this document before completing the application form

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) Research proposals that are relevant to our research strategy will be considered
<https://heartresearch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Research-Strategy-2022-to-2026.pdf>
- 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 must be provided to the PhD student.
- 7) Applicants must register and apply online for a grant through Flexi-Grant®.
- 8) Full applications must be submitted by **5pm, 3rd June 2025**.

Funding details

- 1) The maximum grant award is £111,500 (outside London) and £122,500 (within London)
- 2) Funding is available for 3.5 years covering: -
 - Student stipend or clinical salary up to 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 annum

		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	£11,000	£13,000
Tuition fees	Per annum	£5,000	£5,000
Consumables	Per annum	£7,500	£7,500
Total		£111,500	£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) Accurate costings must be provided at the time of application as supplementary funding is not permitted following an award.
- 7) Publication costs and staff recruitment costs are not covered by HRUK grants and should not be included in the application.
- 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. The government-funded Charity Research Support Fund (CRSF) is available to help universities cover the indirect costs of charity-funded research.
- 9) Funding requests for attendance at conferences or scientific meetings should not be included in the application. Heart Research UK grant holders 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, the grant will be terminated, and 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) Candidates will have or expect to be awarded a first class or high upper second-class BSc degree, or MSc with merit or distinction.
- 6) 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.

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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