

Novel and Emerging Technologies (NET) Grant

Research Grant Policy and Information

Please read this document before completing the outline and full application forms

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 diseases including practical help with the prevention and treatment and the rehabilitation of those with such diseases.

Applying for a grant

- 1) Research proposals that are relevant to our [research strategy](#) will be considered.
- 2) The lead applicant and point of contact must be based in a UK research institution. The lead applicant is expected to have a contract (fixed term or tenure) which covers the proposed duration of the grant. If the Lead Applicant does not hold a tenure appointment, the application must include a co-applicant that does.
- 3) The lead Applicant is responsible for managing the grant, both scientifically and financially.
- 4) Applicants must register and apply online for a grant through Flexi-Grant®.
- 5) Applicants for a NET Grant should complete the short Outline Application Form summarising the research proposal, justifying its eligibility for the NET Grant scheme and giving an estimate of costs.
- 6) The deadline for submitting outline application forms is **5pm, 3rd October 2025**.
- 7) Applicants will be notified by early November 2025 whether the outline proposal has been selected and applicants of those outlines that are acceptable will be invited to submit a full application.
- 8) Full applications must be submitted by **5pm, 16th January 2026**.
- 9) Full applications will be shortlisted, and these applicants invited to give a presentation at the Medical Review Panel meeting in June 2026 (date to be confirmed).

Funding details

- 1) The maximum funding available is **£300,000**.
- 2) A full breakdown and detailed justification of the funding requested must be included and costings will be scrutinised by our reviewers.
- 3) Accurate costings must be provided at the time of application as supplementary funding is not permitted following an award.

- 4) Funding for salaries of lead applicant, co-applicants or collaborators who are currently funded by the university, NHS or equivalent, should not be included.
- 5) When calculating salaries for research staff, annual increments and cost of living increases should be factored into the calculations where applicable.
- 6) Grants do not cover the Apprenticeship Levy, which was introduced in 2017, as this is not a direct cost of research.
- 7) Items of equipment may be included if specifically required for the project. Costs should exclude VAT (unless the item is non-exempt), Suppliers' quotes for equipment or other evidence of cost must be included with the application.
- 8) Costs of non-recoverable VAT should be included. Certain goods and services purchased by an eligible body, when they are paid for using charitable or donated funds have a zero rate of VAT. See [HM Revenue & Customs website](#) for more information
- 9) Publication costs and staff recruitment costs are not covered by HRUK grants and should not be included in the application.
- 10) 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 or other overheads/infrastructure costs 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.
- 11) Funding requests for attendance at conferences or scientific meetings should not be included in the application. HRUK 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.

Grant 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 expert review to decide how to allocate funding for medical research.
- 2) Grant applications are assessed by carefully selected, independent external 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 Research Advisory Group (RAG), which is comprised of members of our Patient and Public Network, assess and rank the applications, and provide a written report to the HRUK Medical Review Panel. At least one representative of the RAG sits on the Medical Review Panel.
- 4) The HRUK MRP meets on an annual basis to consider the grant applications and makes recommendations for funding to the HRUK Trustees.
- 5) Applicants for HRUK NET Grants will be informed about the outcome as soon as possible following the meeting of the HRUK MRP.

Determining whether an application is suitable for a NET Grant

Research projects with the emphasis on (1) novel and emerging technologies and (2) their application into the prevention and/or treatment of heart diseases will be considered. Direct patient-benefit is not an anticipated outcome from this funding, however the translational pathway to deliver patient benefit within an appropriate timeframe must be demonstrated.

Appropriate approaches include tissue and bioengineering, the development and evaluation of new diagnostic and therapeutic devices, bioimaging, nanotechnology, biomaterials, genomic and proteomic approaches, computational biology and bioinformatics.

Funding clinical trials through the NET Grant scheme is not appropriate. However, research projects incorporating a small-scale clinical study to demonstrate the feasibility of the technology will be considered, providing that the clinical study is not the main focus of the research programme. Projects that are more specifically clinically focussed should be directed to the Translational Research Project Grants scheme.

Although the funding available is not conducive to the support of clinical programmes, the grant may support, for example, emerging strategies/technologies in the management of risk factors, the evaluation of invasive cardiology procedures (e.g. angioplasty and stent placement), the evaluation of new surgical approaches to cardiovascular disease, strategies aimed at improving the efficacy of ventricular assist and other devices, and the outcomes of resuscitation after cardiac arrest.

A multi-disciplinary approach is encouraged. Proposals should be based on excellent science and clearly describe the future clinical implications and the translational strategy.

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 NET Medical Review Panel are confidential.

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