

**Q1. Are applications restricted to specific areas of research?**

**A1.** The aim of the Pancreatic Cancer UK Research Innovation Fund is to encourage and support truly unique and innovative research into the causes, treatment and detection of pancreatic cancer and the support for those with it. The focus of the work can be in any field or area of research which, in short or long term, may one day improve the quality of life of people with pancreatic cancer. Please ensure that your proposal aligns with the statement of innovation included at the start of the 'Guidance for Applicants' document on our website.

**Q2. What if there are delays due to staff recruitment or other issues? Can I change the start date later?**

**A2.** Applicants are expected to estimate a *realistic* start date allowing for time for recruitment of new staff and obtaining necessary study approvals. Projects should be underway within 6 months of receiving the award letter for the project.

**Q3. If I am successful in receiving funding, can I apply for extensions to the project if unable to complete it in timeframe proposed in the original application?**

**A3:** Projects funded under the Research Innovation Fund should have a duration of 12-18 months. The feasibility of completing the project within the stated timelines in the proposal will be taken into consideration by the Scientific Advisory Board when recommending applications for funding. Please be pragmatic when planning your investigations and timelines. No-cost extensions for funded awards will not be guaranteed. If they are deemed necessary they will be strictly limited. Costed extensions will not be considered in the vast majority of circumstances. Please refer to the Terms & Conditions for this scheme on our website for further details.

**Q4. I do not have ethical approval for my application. Can I still apply?**

**A4.** Yes. You can still apply if you do not have ethical approval. However, if successful we would expect you to have ethical approval before your grant starts and provide copies of documents to evidence this.

**Q5. Do I have to use a certain referencing style?**

**A5.** We ask that references are included in full, e.g. with full authors and without 'et al'. This information is important for reviewers for both conflicts of interest and the review itself. Applicants can choose a specific system though we encourage consistency throughout.

**Q6. Why are we being asked to write a lay summary?**

**A6.** Applications to the 2023 Research Innovation Fund scheme will be reviewed and scored by Pancreatic Cancer UK's Scientific Advisory Board which includes lay representatives who have personal experience of pancreatic cancer.

The lay reviewer's role is not to comment on the science of the application, but to ensure that the research proposed is of relevance and importance to people with pancreatic cancer. The lay summary therefore needs to contain enough information for the lay reviewers to assess the relevance and importance and should also be written in such a way that a non-scientist can understand the project plans – this may be the only section of the form to which a lay reviewer will refer.

The lay summary is also used by Pancreatic Cancer UK on its website and may be used for marketing purposes. Applicants should therefore ensure that confidential information is not included in this section.

It is vitally important that your lay summary passes the 'so what?' test and demonstrates through a lay description of a pathway to impact why the research would be important to people with pancreatic cancer.

You can get help with writing your lay summary from Pancreatic Cancer UK's Research Involvement Network. This Network is a group of people affected by pancreatic cancer who are willing to help with the design and delivery of research. To access the Network, visit our website. Requests need to be sent to the Pancreatic Cancer UK Research Team in advance of the submission deadline to allow sufficient time for the Network to respond.

**Q7: Can I apply for Pancreatic Cancer UK's Research Innovation Fund if I was unsuccessful when applying to the scheme previously?**

**A7.** Pancreatic Cancer UK will not consider unrevised applications that have been rejected by the Scientific Advisory Board under a previous round. However, new or revised proposals are welcome from applicants who have applied to the scheme previously. Applicants submitting revised proposals are strongly advised to use the 'Guidance for Applicants' when completing their application.

**Q8. Can I apply for Pancreatic Cancer UK's Research Innovation Fund if I am an early career researcher?**

**A8.** Applications from early/mid-career researchers as lead applicants or co-investigators responsible for the delivery of the work are welcome but must be supported or co-led by a supervisor deemed an expert in their field.

**Q9. Do my collaborators need to sign off the grant before/after I submit it?**

**A9.** Any collaborators will need to provide a letter of support confirming their cooperation in the research. This should outline their reasons for collaborating and explain their role in the project (which should correlate with the detailed proposal).

**Q10. To whom should we address any letters of collaboration?**

**A10.** Any letters of collaboration should be addressed to the Director of Support, Research and Influencing at Pancreatic Cancer UK, (Anna Jewell). These should be included as an appendix on the application.

**Q11. Do you need CVs for each participant?**

**A11.** We expect CVs to be provided for the lead applicant and all co-applicants. CVs should be included in the appendices using the template provided. Any publications included on the CV must include the full author list as per our referencing style detailed in Q5. In order to reduce burden on reviewers, please limit CVs to one A4 page wherever possible.

**Q12. My research involves the use of animals; what information do you need?**

**A12.** Applicants using animals within their research should provide a full justification within the research proposal and state whether the model that they are using has been genetically modified. Applicants are required to provide the power calculations that were used to determine the appropriate sample size. If statistical calculations have not been used to determine the appropriate number of animals to be used, applicants should explain why not and provide the alternative basis for calculation. Additionally, applicants must demonstrate that they are implementing the replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research concordant with guidance from the NC3Rs.

**Q13. Why does it take so long to hear the final outcome of the grant round?**

**A13.** Pancreatic Cancer UK's Board of Trustees makes the final funding decision based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board. We aim to let applicants know the final outcome as soon as we can after the Board of Trustees meeting. Please find further details of the review process in the 'Guidance for Applicants' document on our website.

**Q14. How much funding will be awarded under each Research Innovation Fund award?**

**A14.** Pancreatic Cancer UK will fund a maximum of £100,000 for projects lasting between 12 and 18 months.

**Q15. I do not hold a tenured position at my institution; can I still apply for a 2023 Research Innovation Fund award?**

**A15.** Lead applicants can apply if they do not hold a tenured position at a UK university. At least one of the participants on the project, however, should hold tenure at a UK university. By approving the grant application, the Host Institution also must show support for the applicant through commitment to facilitate the research proposed. Applicants are advised that the proposal will be assessed against a number of criteria including the track record of the lead applicant and expertise of the wider team. Please contact [Pancreatic Cancer UK's Research Team](#) with any queries before applying, so that we can discuss your circumstances and advise accordingly.

**Q16. Can I include funds for a PhD student in my costings?**

**A.16.** No. The level of funding available and time frame of the projects are not sufficient to fund a PhD student. The charity's Future Leaders Funding scheme does support PhD studentships.

**Q17. My project might include costs that are considered patient care, NHS Treatment or NHS Support costs. Can I clarify this after my application has been submitted?**

**A17** No. You must liaise with the relevant departments at your institution and/or NHS Trust to confirm whether they will fund the relevant NHS costs before the application deadline. All applicants should contact their NHS Trust and NIHR CLRN before applying to ensure that these costs will be met. A letter of support indicating as such should be uploaded with your application as an appendix. If you have any questions about the eligibility of costs, please contact Pancreatic Cancer UK's [Research Team](#) before applying, so that we can discuss your circumstances and advise accordingly.

**Q18. How will my application be assessed?**

**A18.** Applications for the 2023 Research Innovation Fund scheme will undergo Pancreatic Cancer UK's review process, which complies with the Association of Medical Research Charities' best practice guidelines. Details of the review process and funding criteria are outlined in the 'Guidance for Applicants' that accompanies this funding round, which can be found on Pancreatic Cancer UK's website.