

Contents

1. Are the Project Grants restricted to specific areas of research?	2
2. Are these grants suitable for clinical trials?	2
3. Do the collaborations need to be new or are existing partnerships eligible?	2
4. Can Pancreatic Cancer UK help find collaborating partners?	2
5. Can I apply for these grants if I am an early career researcher?	2
6. Can I apply for the Project Grants if I am a clinician?	2
7. Can I apply if I do not hold a tenured position at my institution?	2
8. Are pilot data necessary to apply for these grants?	2
9. 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?	2
10. Are costings for infrastructure support eligible?	3
11. Can I include funds for a PhD student in my costings?	3
12. What if there are delays due to staff recruitment or other issues? Can I change the start date later?	3
13. Can I apply for less funding and/or a shorter duration?	3
14. If I am successful in receiving funding, can I apply for extensions to the project? ..	3
15. How will my application be assessed?	3
16. Why does it take so long to hear the final outcome of the grant round?	3
17. I do not have ethical approval for my application. Can I still apply?	3
18. Do my collaborators need to sign off the grant before I submit it?	3
19. To whom should we address any letters of collaboration/support?	4
20. Do you need CVs for each participant?	4
21. Do I have to use a certain referencing style?	4
22. Why are we being asked to write a lay summary?	4
23. My research involves the use of animals; what information do you need?	4

1. Are the Project Grants restricted to specific areas of research?

The focus of the application 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 affected by pancreatic cancer. We would however advise applicants read the Pancreatic Cancer UK [Research Strategy](#) and [Research Ambitions](#) in order to maximise the strategic alignment of the proposals. Please ensure that your proposal meets the other eligibility criteria by reading the Guidance for Applicants document on our [website](#).

2. Are these grants suitable for clinical trials?

The scale and duration of these grants are not suitable for clinical trials or research that has progressed to a more advanced therapeutic testing.

3. Do the collaborations need to be new or are existing partnerships eligible?

These grants can support projects that kickstart or formalise new partnerships. However, applicants may have also worked together previously, but are encouraged to justify why this partnership is essential to the research question being addressed.

4. Can Pancreatic Cancer UK help find collaborating partners?

The Pancreatic Cancer UK Research Team may be able to help identify and liaise with new connections but making those collaborations will ultimately be the responsibility of applicants.

5. Can I apply for these grants if I am an early career researcher?

Applications from early/mid-career researchers as Lead applicants or Co-Applicants responsible for the delivery of the work are welcome but must be supported by another applicant or collaborator deemed an expert in their field.

6. Can I apply for the Project Grants if I am a clinician?

Yes, Project Grants are open to both clinicians and non-clinicians. 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 affected by pancreatic cancer. Please ensure that your proposal meets the other eligibility criteria by reading the [Guidance for Applicants](#) document on our [website](#).

7. Can I apply if I do not hold a tenured position at my institution?

Lead Applicants can apply if they do not hold a tenured position at a UK university. However, we do encourage early career researchers/junior group leaders to collaborate with established PI's. 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 the 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.

8. Are pilot data necessary to apply for these grants?

Preliminary data are not a prerequisite to apply for these grants. However, researchers may have significant pilot data which they can use to strengthen their application.

9. 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?

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.

10. Are costings for infrastructure support eligible?

No. These grants are not intended for infrastructure funding.

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

No. These grants are not intended to fund PhD studentships.

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

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 9 months of receiving the award letter for the project.

If you are successful but wish to change your start date, you must contact the [Research Team](#) before Terms & Conditions are sent to your Finance Office to amend. Any amendments still need to be within 9 months of receiving the award letter.

13. Can I apply for less funding and/or a shorter duration?

Yes. £330,000 for 3 years are maximum levels not a mandated size or duration. The Charity wants applicants to utilize the award in a way that most effectively enables them to achieve their research goals.

14. If I am successful in receiving funding, can I apply for extensions to the project?

Project Grants should have a duration of up to 3 years. No-cost extensions for funded awards will not be guaranteed. If they are deemed necessary, they will be strictly limited. Costed extensions due to incomplete work will not be considered in the vast majority of circumstances. Please refer to the Terms & Conditions and No-cost Extension Policy for this scheme on our [website](#) for further details.

15. How will my application be assessed?

Applications for the Project Grants will undergo Pancreatic Cancer UK's review process, which complies with the Association of Medical Research Charities' best practice guidelines. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview before final recommendations for funding are made. 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 our [website](#).

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

Pancreatic Cancer UK's Board of Trustees makes the final funding decision based on the recommendations of the Review Panel. 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](#).

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

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.

18. Do my collaborators need to sign off the grant before I submit it?

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).

19. To whom should we address any letters of collaboration/support?

Any letters of collaboration/support 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.

20. Do you need CVs for each participant?

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 (see below). In order to reduce burden on reviewers, please limit CVs to two A4 pages wherever possible.

21. Do I have to use a certain referencing style?

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.

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

Applications to any funding round at Pancreatic Cancer UK will be assessed by individuals with lived experience of pancreatic cancer whether this is expert reviewers or members of the review panel

The lived experience expert 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 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.

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 articulates a description of a pathway to impact why the research would be important to people affected by 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 interesting in getting involved in pancreatic cancer research. We encourage all applicants to involve people with lived experience in their proposals and to do so please visit our [website](#).

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

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](#).