

International innovation grants – information for applicants

1. Purpose and scope

Our innovation grants explore bold new ideas that could lead to exciting breakthroughs in the causes, treatment and cure of Parkinson's.

We want to fund high-risk, high-reward research that tests new and original ideas, tackling major scientific or technical hurdles in the field of Parkinson's.

Innovation grant applications must be sufficiently innovative to be considered.

Applications are invited for grants of up to 12 months and for a maximum of £35,000. Grants are tenable at a university, research institution, or hospital trust.. The duration of an innovation grant is usually for a maximum of one year. Extension of a grant beyond one year is exceptional and requires formal re-application.

Parkinson's UK supports biomedical, health and social care and social policy research however, our 2010 -2014 research strategy particularly encourages research in the following areas:

- Understanding why nerve cells die in Parkinson's
- Developing new animal models of Parkinson's
- Faster, better drug screening
- Finding 'biomarkers' for earlier diagnosis

All principal applicants should hold employment contracts that extend beyond the period of the grant.

2. Application procedure

- All applications must be made in English.
- Grant applications to Parkinson's UK are accepted only through our online research grant application system, which can be accessed at <https://research.parkinsons.org.uk/>
- One signed hard copy must be submitted with copies of relevant approvals. All co-applicants' and collaborators' original signatures must be submitted. Details of any collaboration should be included and a letter confirming agreement from each collaborator should be submitted. If the project includes work with patients please ensure a letter of written support is supplied from a clinical collaborator. The signatures of the head of department/clinical/social care directorate in which the project will be based, and the relevant finance officer are also required.
- The signed hard copy should be sent to: Research Department, Parkinson's UK, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1EJ, UK
- Only one publication in press is permitted and this should be directly relevant to the application. Reprints should not be included.
- If information is being pasted from other documents into the online application, please convert the text to Arial 11pt.

3. Ethical approval

Where clinical trials or investigations involving human subjects are intended, local ethical committee approval must be sought and a copy of this approval submitted when awarded.

4. Use of animals

All of the research should conform to UK law in respect of ethical approval for clinical studies and UK Home Office regulations for animal studies. These will be assessed by an appropriately qualified member of the research advisory panel.

The use of animals for research must fall within the regulations laid down by the UK Home Office. Projects involving animals should include a brief statement confirming that no reliable alternative approach is possible and that the minimum number of animals will be used. If animals are being used the project and personal licence numbers must be listed.

5. Terms and conditions of grant

Applicants should read 'Terms and Conditions for International Innovation grants' before completing the application form.

6. Acknowledgement of applications

Applicants will receive confirmation from the online applications system once an application is submitted. Unless we require further information, no correspondence will be entered into until the results are notified. Parkinson's UK staff cannot discuss applications with applicants while they are under review.

7. Unsuccessful applications

Edited comments from the combined reports of members of the Research Advisory Panel and external referees will be made available to unsuccessful applicants. No further discussion with charity staff or with members of the Research Advisory Panel is allowed.

8. References

References should be cited in full in the following format:
Surname, Initials (Date), Title of article, Journal, Volume, page - page.

9. Finance

Overseas applicants must apply for funding in British pounds sterling; and the charity must be invoiced in sterling and payment will be made in sterling. This will be at a maximum of £35,000 and will be calculated on the exchange rate on the day that the contract is signed. This ensures that the Charity is not responsible for losses incurred through fluctuations in exchange rates.

In line with the UK Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) guidelines, Parkinson's UK will only reimburse direct research costs relating to the application submitted. We will not fund indirect costs nor will we pay on a percentage basis. <http://www.amrc.org.uk/home>

Directly Incurred Costs – actual costs that are explicitly identifiable as arising from the conduct of a project (e.g. staff salaries, equipment, materials, travel).

Directly Allocated Costs – costs of resources used by a project that are shared by other activities and based on estimates (e.g. principal and co-investigator costs, estates costs).

Indirect Costs – non-specific costs charged across all projects that are based on estimates (e.g. HR and finance services, library costs).

Staff costs

Basic salary should be stated for each individual. Provision for London weighting (if appropriate), superannuation and National Insurance or equivalents should be shown separately in the space provided. An appropriate grading and salary must be quoted even where a named assistant cannot be specified; both grading and salary should have the approval of the appropriate administrative officer of the institution where the assistant would be employed.

Research expenses

Details must be given. Grants do not cover administrative expenses or costs involved in attending conferences.

Animals

The species, number and unit cost of all animals must be shown.

Equipment

Please specify.

Inflationary rate

Inflation will not be paid.

10. Referees

Please use this section to nominate two referees to review the proposal. Nominated referees will not necessarily be contacted.

11. All applications will be judged by the following criteria:

- innovativeness and quality of the research programme
- quality of the researcher and team
- value for money
- appropriateness of the plain English summary
- budget and infrastructure

If you have further questions about making an application please contact the Research Department on +44 20 7932 1332 or +44 20 7963 9327 or researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk.