

PhD studentships – Information for applicants

1. Purpose and scope

As part of our continuing commitment to build research capacity related to Parkinson's, Parkinson's UK is offering fully funded PhD studentships for outstanding students. Studentships are awarded on the recommendation of a sub-committee of the charity's Research Advisory Panel using the system of expert peer review. Final confirmation of an award under this scheme is dependent on the charity's approval of the student who will undertake the project. Feedback will be given to applicants.

Applications are invited annually with a closing date each August. Studentships are awarded in December following approval from the Board of Trustees.

Applications for this scheme must be made by the potential candidate's supervisor. The supervisor must hold a tenured position at a UK university, NHS trust or research institute. Supervisors are responsible for the subsequent recruitment of a graduate with a first or upper second class honours degree in a relevant discipline

Please note it will be the supervisor's responsibility to recruit the student and handle the whole of the application process. Once the student is chosen, the supervisor is required to send us a form which will be signed by the named student along with two letters of recommendation from academic referees for the proposed student (eg supervisor of final undergraduate project) and the student's CV for our records. Parkinson's UK will not pay for expenses for interviewing home or overseas candidates.

2. Application procedure

- 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
- 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

The use of animals for research must fall within the regulations laid down by the 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 'Grant Terms and Conditions' 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. Applicants are especially requested not to initiate contact with the Research Department during the review process.

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

In line with 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.

Stipend and tuition

Funding will be provided over a three year period to students based at a UK higher education institution. Students will receive a stipend of £15,000 per year (with London weighting of £16,000 per year); full PhD tuition fees (at the UK/EU rate); and a contribution of up to £10,000 per year towards research costs. Overseas students are eligible but will only be funded at the home rate. Supervisors should contact their institution for further information. Further information is available at ukcisa.org.uk. The PhD studentship scheme is not intended to cover funding gaps for PhD students whose studies have already started.

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

Estimated annual inflationary rate in percentage terms must be indicated. A maximum of 3% per annum is allowed in the second and third years.

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:

- quality of the research programme
- quality of the researcher and team
- relevance of the project to health and social gain in Parkinson's
- contribution to training and capacity building for research into Parkinson's in the UK
- 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 020 7932 1332 or 020 7963 9327 or researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk.