

2025 Research Involvement Award

Guidance for Applicants

Please note this Award is currently only available to applicants to Parkinson's UK's Senior Research Fellowship Grants

Introduction

Parkinson's UK is committed to involving people affected by Parkinson's in research to ensure that the work we support is relevant, impactful, and meets the needs of those living with the condition.

Budget for Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) activities is an allowable cost within Parkinson's UK grants. However, we recognise that researchers often do not have access to budgets to support PPI in the development of applications, prior to an award being made.

The Research Involvement Award (RIA) is a pilot programme and is intended to provide financial support to researchers looking to facilitate meaningful involvement of patients and the public at the application stage for a [Parkinson's UK Senior Research Fellowship](#) (SRF) grant. This document provides guidance for researchers seeking to apply for a RIA.

If successful, you will be asked to agree to the conditions of our PPI support, which are outlined in our PPI Support Agreement. For more information about the types of research we support, see the [Research Support Policy](#).

Activities that the RIA could support include, but is not limited to:

- Discussion groups with members of the Parkinson's community to understand unmet needs and priorities.

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- Honorarium support for PPI contributors when developing the application. For example, time spent developing project aims, lay summaries or PPI strategies.
- Budget to work with community organisations or leaders to ensure the application is shaped by a diverse range of perspectives, or to develop inclusive PPI and recruitment strategies.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for a PPI grant, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. The lead applicant **MUST** be applying for a Parkinson's UK SRF grant. This grant type has its own set of guidelines that detail eligibility criteria, application process, funding available, and other key information. These [guidelines can be found on Parkinson's UK's website](#) or by contacting the Research Grants team (researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk)
2. **Applicant Status:** The lead applicant must be based at a UK research institution (university, hospital, or research institute). The supervisor must hold an employment contract (or for clinician academics an honorary contract) with the host institute that extends beyond the length of the proposed SRF grant. Collaborations with international researchers are permitted, provided the lead applicant is based in the UK. Researchers who hold tenure are not eligible to apply as a principal applicant.
3. **Involvement Plan:** Applicants must submit an application detailing a clear plan for how patients and the public will be involved. This should include details on the purpose of the involvement, how PPI contributors will be recruited, what their involvement will entail, and a clear itemised budget. How people affected by Parkinson's have been involved and their impact should be detailed in the full grant application to Parkinson's UK.

Funding Details

- **Amount:** The maximum grant available is up to £500.
- **Duration:** The grant is intended to support involvement activities for the development of applications prior to submission to the SRF grant award. The duration of the grant will depend on the proposed involvement activity, which will differ for each project.

- **Budget:** Eligible costs may include, but are not limited to: expenses for meetings, travel, and compensation for the time of the PPI contributors involved. It is a mandatory requirement that in all PPI activities supported by a RIA, PPI contributors should be compensated for their time. This acknowledges the value of their contributions and ensures equitable involvement. Please refer to our [Guidance on expenses and payment for PPI contributors](#) and the [NIHR rates for involvement](#).
- Costs for PPI activities intended for the duration of the actual research project (ie in successful research grants) should be included in the budget for the full research grant application, and would not be supported by the RIA .

How long does the award run for?

The RIA is intended to provide financial support towards PPI for the development of an application for a Parkinson's UK SRF. If successful for a RIA, the PPI activities **MUST** be completed by the SRF Award deadline date of **8 October**.

How do I apply?

- Applicants must complete and submit the application form to researchinvolvement@parkinsons.org.uk by the deadline of 12 pm on **Thursday 15 May 2025**.
- All applications will be acknowledged within 5 days and applicants will be notified of a decision within 3 weeks from the submission deadline.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts, including people affected by Parkinson's, and Parkinson's UK's Research Involvement Team.

- An assessment will be made based upon the applicant's:
 - Eligibility to apply for the Parkinson's senior research fellowship scheme
 - Motivations for involving people affected by Parkinson's in their project
 - Demonstrated understanding of the potential benefits of PPI on the applicant's project
 - PPI proposal – focusing on evidence supporting meaningful and well-planned patient & public involvement.

The number of awards made in each round is at the discretion of Parkinson's UK.

Unsuccessful applicants may still seek support to connect with people affected by Parkinson's through Parkinson's UK's PPI programme, and will also have access to advice and resources to help them plan and carry out PPI activities. For any support or advice on how to connect with people affected by Parkinson's, please go to our [Patient & Public Involvement programme](#).

Reporting and Accountability

All successful grantees will be required to complete a short questionnaire after completion of the planned PPI. The questionnaire aims to capture the impact and shareable learnings of the PPI activities and to help us to evaluate and improve the PPI grant awards scheme.