

Pharmacy Research UK

Pharmacy Research UK is an independent research charity which provides funding to support the progression and advancement of research within the field of pharmacy.

PRUK Funding Opportunities

Pharmacy Research UK has a number of funding schemes available.

We provide bursaries across three levels on an annual basis for pharmacists to acquire new skills related to research.

Level 1 Training Bursaries are intended for individuals who wish to study a research module, training course or undertake a small-scale research project that will help to develop their research skills in their area. Bursaries of up to £5,000 are available.

Level 2 Training Bursaries are designed for those who wish to develop their research skills further by upgrading their diploma in clinical or community pharmacy to an MSc. This may involve undertaking further research modules and a project. Level 2 bursaries are intended for those who wish to pursue their research further and collaborate with other researchers. Bursaries of up to £10,000 are available.

Level 3 Training Bursaries are intended for pharmacists who wish to undertake an MSc to further develop their research knowledge and skills, which must include a period of supervised research and preparation of a thesis/dissertation. Bursaries of up to £30,000 are available.

Personal Awards are designed to develop capacity to undertake research related to the practice of pharmacy. This is a natural progression from training bursaries, which provide pharmacists with the foundation skills required to undertake the research.

PRUK currently provides two types of Personal Awards: **Galen and Leverhulme**. Both awards are intended to fund research that, at a minimum, aims to develop theoretical areas and underpin conceptual thinking in the field to provide further recommendations and direction of future research.

The Galen Award is an annual award of **up to £30,000** for PhD students requiring research costs to enhance their PhD in addition to funding required for practitioners who are new to research.

The Leverhulme Award is worth up to **£45,000** and must be used for research in **community pharmacy**.

Pharmacy Research UK's new partnership with the British Oncology Pharmacy Association offers **two grants of up to £5,000** each to allow UK-based pharmacists in oncology or haematology to undertake a research project. Further information on these awards are available on our [website](#).

The deadline for all of our personal awards falls in May.

Project Grants is a new funding scheme for 2016. Grants of up to £100,000 are available for research projects of no longer than 24 months in duration.

In this round we are looking to fund three Project Grants.

Pharmacy Research UK: Priority Areas

Preference will be given to research that falls into one of the five PRUK strategic priorities:

- **Medicines Optimisation / Pharmaceutical Care**
- **Accessing Medicines in a Modern Era**
- **The Roles and Competencies of Pharmacy Technicians**
- **Patient and Professional Experience and Understanding of Pharmacy**
- **The Contribution of Pharmacy to Public Health**

The relevance of proposals to the above research areas will be determined during administrative review of Stage 1 applications, and, where necessary, verified by the Scientific Advisory Panel.

Purpose

Project Grants are for projects which look to advance pharmacy research for the benefit of patients and the public. Recommendations for policy, practice or future research need to be established as a baseline.

Project Grant applications should outline clearly the trajectory to patient benefit which will arise as a result of the research (either directly or in the future).

Where appropriate, the research should continue to develop beyond the capacity of this funding via funding from other funding bodies. This will ensure its recommendations are put into practice for the future benefit of patients.

Outputs should be submitted for publication, ideally open-access publication, so that the information is freely available to researchers in the field and serves to further the impact of findings.

Proposals should outline clearly the patient benefit arising as a result of the research, either in the short or long term and an outline a pathway for how this will be achieved.

Eligibility

Project Grants are open to researchers within the field of Pharmacy. The principal investigator need not necessarily be a pharmacist but must have a strong research background and track record in their research area.

The host organisation (the organisation which will be contracting with PRUK and therefore accountable for the research management) and the PI must be based within the UK. Co-applicants are welcome to collaborate on the research from outside of the UK.

The research team should be multi-disciplinary, with sufficient expertise represented to account for the work being conducted. For instance, if the research involves an evaluative component, we would expect a health economist to be a part of the research team. If the research involves a sample size calculation, we would expect a statistician to be involved in this aspect.

Application Stage 1

There are a number points that are considered when assessing your application and it is worth bearing them in mind when writing each stage of the application.

- **The science of your proposal:** You will need to give rational for why your research question is the right one to be asking and why now is the time to pursue it.

- **Whether the work can be done, both scientifically and practically:** Reviewers will take note of where you and your team will be conducting the research.

- **Whether your proposal outlines inclusion and exclusion criteria, details on your methodology and study design (including sample size and how you will select and access participants):**

You will need to describe in detail your intervention, or give details on how you will explore your objective in the case of a qualitative study. You should of course qualify what you will measure and how you will assess these outcomes in terms of statistics and power (if applicable). Consistency in your approach is key and what you measure must link to and be appropriate to your original aims and the need you have outlined. The management aspects of a project are also assessed, so ensure you have clear roles and responsibilities in place in addition to clearly a defined and deliverable timescale.

Finance

Pharmacy Research UK will only provide funding for research-related work. Further information on what constitutes research funding and research costs is outlined the Department of Health's guidance on attributing the costs of health and social care research. In general, any activity that will end once the research has concluded and that is necessary for the research to take place, would be considered a research cost.

PRUK will provide funding for salaries related to research work being conducted. As a small charity and AMRC member, we cannot fund costs for estates or other indirect overheads. As an NIHR portfolio partner however, we can ensure that the work of successful applicants will be eligible for the NIHR portfolio and associated support (which includes potential support costs from your local clinical research network).

We are happy to consider co-funding in the case of any support costs or costs being obtained elsewhere, but will these will need to be clearly outlined in the proposal.

Finances will be subject to scrutiny prior to contracting.

Application Stage 2

The involvement of patients, carers and the public is an essential component of modern research both in terms of ensuring that you ask the right questions and that the research is designed and undertaken in an appropriate manner. Project Grants are intended for impactful research that has a clear trajectory to future patient benefit and as a minimum, makes recommendations for future policy, practice or research.

Involvement in research differs from engagement and awareness (whereby the public and patients may be informed about a project and how it is progressing). PRUK expects applicants to have undertaken some PPI activity to develop their application before submission. During Stage 2 of the application, you will be given the chance to share your preparatory work and plans. Patients and the public can be engaged in various aspects of the research proposal by providing feedback on the research set-up and methods or planned dissemination activities. They may also be actively involved in the research itself, by providing recommendations to ensure that patient benefit is maximised and that the relevant group is consulted throughout.

Patient and public involvement can involve

Discussing and refining ideas

Reviewing draft applications and lay summaries

Reviewing and co-developing paperwork for ethical approval and documents that inform patients about taking part in the study.

Assessing ongoing study issues e.g difficulties with recruitment.

Defining plans for dissemination and engagement.

INVOLVE, whose guidance we've referenced at the end of the webinar, is funded by the National Institute for Health Research to support active patient involvement, engagement and participation in research. The INVOLVE [website](#) contains useful information on what patient and public involvement means and the various ways that patients can get involved in research.

Review Process

The PRUK Project Grants application process encompasses two stages.

Stage 1 is open until Monday 26th September 2016. The form captures an overview of the planned research, including the research question, aims, methods and dissemination plan. The Stage 1 form also allows applicants to indicate whether patient and public involvement has been considered. It is expected that PPI would be implemented within the proposal, whether they are participating, engaged or involved. If PPI is not consulted, strong justification must be provided.

Stage 1 applications are reviewed internally by the PRUK team to ensure that the basic administration is met (form is complete) and that the application falls within the remit of the charity and the award.

Once the applications have passed this preliminary checkpoint, they are subject to review by the PRUK Scientific Advisory Panel. Up to fifteen applications will be shortlisted for Stage 2. Feedback will be provided to those applications unsuccessful at Stage 1.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of applications on 19th October. The Stage 2 form will then be issued to those shortlisted for completion.

The Stage 2 form allows applicants to expand on the detail of their proposal, including a breakdown of each applicant's role, their contribution to the proposal, the relevance and importance of the research area, the aims and objectives of the research, the research methodology, details on the PPI, the dissemination plan and a full breakdown of required costs and support in place. Governance

arrangements also need to be outlined yet and details of all collaborators and the host organisation must be provided.

Upon submission of the Stage 2 form, a basic administrative check will be undertaken to ensure all information has been completed. Applicants must complete a declarations page, after which the application will be sent for external peer review.

As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, PRUK adheres to strict guidelines on peer reviewing grants for quality. Further information on peer review is available on our website.

The full application form is reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Panel, taking into account the feedback provided at Stage 1, along with comments from peer reviewers, before making a final recommendation for ratification by the PRUK Board of Trustees.

Conditional feedback is provided, which applicants must address prior to the commencement of a financial review, intellectual property negotiation and contracting arrangements.

Suggested project start dates are between July and September 2017.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can you cover a salary for PhD students?

Project Grants can cover salary for a PhD student to undertake research work. Tuition fees will not be paid as part of the grant scheme and any involvement of students in the work needs to be justified. PhD students who are looking for funding for their research should apply for our Personal Awards as these are designed to cover PhD research and tuition costs.

Who can lead the research?

We would recommend that the research is led by an experienced researcher. We welcome junior researchers to apply for PI, however, they must be supported by a strong, multi-disciplinary team and have access to regular supervision throughout the course of the research. This needs to be clearly justified in the proposal.

Can I submit more than one application?

Yes, but PRUK will only award 1 successful application per PI. You can however be a co-applicant on any number of other applications.

Can an institution be involved in more than one application?

Yes - there is no cap on the number of applications from any organisation.

Are systematic reviews eligible?

Yes, well designed reviews will be considered. Systematic reviews can form useful pilot work to scale up in the future and leverage for further funds.