

# Prevention and Cure funding scheme remit & eligibility information



If you have any queries during the application process, please email us at [grants\\_admin@breastcancernow.org](mailto:grants_admin@breastcancernow.org)

## About us

We're the UK's largest breast cancer charity. And we're combining the power of science and support to change breast cancer, now.

We support around 350 of the brightest minds in breast cancer research. They're discovering how and why breast cancer develops, grows and spreads, and what we can do to save and improve lives affected by it.

To date, we've invested over £299 million in world-class breast cancer research, leading to discoveries that have already saved or improved thousands of lives across the world. And we're not stopping yet. Because for the next groundbreaking discovery, we're here.

## Purpose and scope

The Prevention and Cure scheme aims to support scientific excellence and innovative research that will lead to quicker, earlier diagnosis to save and improve lives, and new and better treatments that pave the way for cures. All proposals must align with our **strategy**. It could include, but is not limited to, research that:

- Improves the breast cancer screening programme
- Uncovers the causes and risk factors that contribute to breast cancer, so we can find better ways to prevent breast cancer
- Accelerates and enables the discovery of preventative treatments
- Improves ways of detecting and diagnosing breast cancer, including the application of new technology and AI
- Drives improvements in our understanding of the most challenging breast cancer types and find better ways to treat them
- Improves our understanding of how breast cancer spreads (metastasis), and finds new ways to treat and stop it

Furthermore:

- Grants are available to established researchers working in an institution in the UK or Ireland
- Collaborative applications from within the UK and Ireland are welcome, although the contracted grant (and associated funding arrangements) will be with the lead applicant's institution; named academic/clinical co-applicants and collaborators are permitted from outside the UK and Ireland
- The duration of grants may vary, though we expect most would last 3 to 4 years. Grants with shorter or longer durations will be considered but must be fully justified. If your grant would last more than 4 years, please contact the research team as early as possible before applying
- The value of grants may vary, and funds will cover staff salary, research expenses, and essential equipment. PhD studentship applications should not exceed £171,500. Project grant applications requesting more than £400,000 may be considered but please contact the research team as early as possible before applying

- Please bear in mind, your application's cost/value for money and the funds available for each round are factors that will be considered by the committee when making funding decisions
- We are keen to receive applications from researchers working across all fields of breast cancer

The grants could support:

- Project grants or PhD studentships within the scheme's scope of varying duration and cost
- Intervention development and pilot studies to generate preliminary data for, or test the feasibility of, a larger project or economic evaluation for clinical trials
- Non-salary costs to support researchers whose salary is supported elsewhere (such as NIHR Academic Clinical Fellows)

We will not support:

- Infrastructure, such as setting up or maintaining research units
- Service developments, unless they have wider generalisability. Note: the costs of any new service would not be funded
- Audits or surveys (although these elements may be part of an integrated research study)
- Market research
- Policy development that does not involve new data collection or analysis.
- Direct support (such as financial support) to those affected by breast cancer inequalities
- Grants to be used to part fund other projects or supplement existing grants, especially not PhD/MD training

Modifiable risk factors, such as diet, physical activity, alcohol consumption and obesity, are relevant for many diseases. We would only accept applications in these areas for breast cancer patient-specific interventions.

## Eligibility

Applicants should read our research [grant conditions and research policies](#) and [how to apply guidance](#) before completing their application and ensure the following:

- Lead applicants must be based at a recognised university, research institution, or NHS trust in the UK or Ireland which will be the nominated host institution
- Lead applicants must be independent researchers (i.e. line-managed rather than supervised, and your salary does not come from another researcher's grant)
- Lead applicants should hold employment (or honorary, if a clinical academic) contracts that extend beyond the period of the grant, which covers their salary
- Lead applicants cannot request costs for their salary
- Lead applicants with a fixed-term position may apply, but they must include a letter from their head of department to indicate that their salary will be covered by the host institution for the duration of the project
- We would generally expect a project to be led by a single lead applicant; however, you may include up to 1 joint lead applicant. You must provide an explanation in the application to justify the need for a joint lead applicant, as well as which aspects of the proposal they will be leading on and why they are appropriate to lead on that aspect of the project

- The lead applicant's organisation will be designated as the host institution for IP, contractual and financial purposes. This cannot be delegated to the joint lead applicant
- The joint lead applicant must meet all the lead applicant eligibility criteria
- If researchers require a visa to work in the UK, they may qualify for the accelerated Global Talent visa route. This is open for promising and talented individuals in specific sectors wishing to work in the UK
- We welcome applications from investigators who have conducted independent research in the field of breast cancer or are experienced researchers in a related field
- Applicants may be new to breast cancer research, but the proposed team must include people with relevant breast cancer expertise
- We are committed to supporting young investigators in breast cancer research and encourage applications from talented early career researchers
- Applicants may not apply for more than 1 grant in the same funding round as lead or joint lead applicant, but may apply as co-applicant or collaborator on more than 1 application
- Applicants may have spent time away from research (e.g. a career break, maternity leave, long-term sick leave). Our reviewers will allow for this when the application is considered
- Co-applicants and collaborators may be based at institutions outside the UK/Ireland and/or at pharmaceutical or biotech companies
- We will consider applications for research that will take place within the NHS. Should the research become part of a clinical trial, we will fund the research but will not act as a sponsor
- Group leaders based at the Breast Cancer Now Toby Robins Research Centre who are already funded by Breast Cancer Now may not apply as lead applicant, but may apply as co-applicant or collaborator
- Applications for PhD studentships are also welcome. Please see additional guidance below:
  - PhD grants are available to established researchers working in an institution in the UK or Ireland, and are designed to capture new and highly qualified science graduates into a career of breast cancer research
  - PhD studentships can last for 3- or 4-years full time, or the part time equivalent, and can cover student stipend, student fees, college fees (where applicable), research expenses and essential equipment
  - The total amount requested for PhD studentships must not exceed £171,500
  - Applicants should have a track record of identifying and maximising potential in others (e.g. through managing and mentoring their own staff and early career researchers, as primary supervisor of PhD students)
  - We will consider applications for students undertaking a part-time PhD to facilitate flexible working arrangements
  - The lead PhD supervisor will be required to provide the following information with the application:
    - Details of a second supervisor who will take the place should the lead applicant/supervisor be absent
    - List of current and past students. Including names, positions, start date and funding body. For past students, how many achieved their degree
    - Information about any planned sabbaticals and who will supervise the student in your absence

- Training environment, including details about the training offered specific to this project and general research training offered by the host institution
- Suitability of the project for the student
- Institution - including what the institution provides (in terms of supervision and assessment) and expects (such as attendance of lectures) from its PhD students

The following will not be accepted:

- Applications from commercial entities
- Research proposals into conditions other than breast cancer
- Applications for equipment only. We will accept requests for small pieces of equipment as part of your proposal, but you must include a clear justification for this request
- Applications which request funding for consumables or running costs only
- Applications from an individual who is not employed by an eligible institution
- Requests to cover salary costs of tenured lead applicants and/or co-applicants. We will allow costs to cover the salary of named post-doctorate researchers who are listed co-applicants on the application, as long as they don't have their salary covered by other sources and they are working directly on the project
- Project grant applications cannot include PhD studentship stipend costs or MD training costs; these should be PhD studentship applications
- Applications for methods or service development
- Projects part-funded with other funders<sup>i</sup>
- Applications from prospective PhD students themselves
- Applications from clinicians taking time out of programme to undertake a PhD
- Resubmissions of proposals that have been previously rejected in any of our funding schemes, without an invitation to resubmit in the outcome letter. However, applications which are significantly different in terms of objectives and scope, and that go beyond addressing the reviewers' concerns of the previous application, may be accepted at the discretion of the committee

If you are unsure about the eligibility and remit of your project, please contact the research team at [grants\\_admin@breastcancernow.org](mailto:grants_admin@breastcancernow.org) before you submit your application. Once the deadline has passed there will be no opportunity to consider individual circumstances and applications not meeting the requirements will be rejected without peer review.

Applications must be made using our online **SmartSimple system**. For guidance on how to use the system and what needs to be included in your application, please see our document '**How to apply**'.

---

<sup>i</sup> We rarely consider part-funding research projects; however, we are open to hearing about larger collaborative proposals. You are welcome to **email us** to discuss further.