

Addressing age-related issues of hearing and/or vision through healthcare technologies

Guidelines for applicants 2023



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If you require this document in any alternative accessible formats, please contact us at grants@dunhillmedical.org.uk. We will do our very best to assist you.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

In 2020, we published our priorities for the next five years in [our strategic framework](#). This now sees us take a thematic approach to funding, making clear our priorities and our principles and ensuring that we are targeting those important but under-funded areas of ageing-related research.

Hearing and vision conditions affect a growing number of older people in the UK, with associated impacts on quality of life and long-term health outcomes. Despite this, there remains a lack of funding into hearing and vision research within the UK¹, meaning that there's a real need for research into the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of these conditions, as well as improved care and support for older people living with them. With this call for proposals, we want to support applications which go beyond uncovering the biological mechanisms of age-related hearing and/or vision conditions, and instead seek to address these issues through the testing and/or scaling-up of healthcare technologies². This could include the development and testing of new technologies, or the scaling-up of piloted technologies.

1.2 THE OPPORTUNITY

We plan to allocate £2M to the call, although more may be available if we receive enough applications of a suitably high quality. We will also offer flexibility in the type and duration of awards that can be applied for. The types of funding we will consider are detailed in [Section 2.3: Eligible award types](#).

¹ <https://hrcsonline.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/UK-Health-Research-Analysis-2018-for-web-v1-28Jan2020.pdf>

² Examples of healthcare technologies include, but are not limited to, therapeutics, medical technologies, devices and digital tools, as well as products for consumer health.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2.1 WHO CAN APPLY?

Principal Investigators (lead applicants) must be based at a UK university or other [eligible research organisation](#). The Trust has no specific geographical link and will consider applications from anywhere within the UK. While we aim to ensure equitable access to grants across the UK, applications will be considered on merit alone. Please note that you cannot be the lead applicant on more than one application to the scheme.

If you are the Principal Investigator on a current/active grant from the Trust, then you may not be eligible to apply as Principal Investigator to this funding call – please contact us directly if you are unsure or would like to discuss this further.

First-time Principal Investigators are encouraged to apply, but we would expect to see clearly planned and appropriate mentoring and support from experienced co-applicants.

We welcome proposals with co-applicants and collaborators from within and beyond academia, including people with lived experience of issues relevant to the proposal, as well as community organisations³ and industry/commercial partners. Please note that lone applicants are ineligible to apply.

In addition, where appropriate, we actively encourage multidisciplinary teams and, whilst studies should primarily focus on issues which have benefits to UK organisations and/or citizens, contributions from international collaborators are permitted where clearly justified.

2.2 RESEARCH THEMES

As with our previous themed research calls, we are looking for proposals that, in the short-to-medium term, have the potential for direct and measurable impact on the health and social care of older people in the UK and/or associated policy and practice.

The call is designed to support research proposals which aim to test and/or scale-up healthcare technologies specifically to address age-related issues of hearing and/or vision in the following areas:

- Improving prediction and/or diagnosis.
- Improving prevention and/or treatment.
- Improving psychological wellbeing and/or the ability to carry out activities of daily living.
- Reducing inequities in diagnosis, treatment and/or access to care and support.

Proposals must address at least one of these priority topics to be eligible.

³ By community organisation we mean any third sector and/or government organisation with a local and/or community focus providing services and support to older people in the United Kingdom.

The call is open to both new and/or existing technologies. Examples of healthcare technologies include, but are not limited to, therapeutics, medical technologies, devices and digital tools, as well as products for consumer health.

All proposals, regardless of topic, should be aligned with the Trust's key principles for research as detailed on page 9 of our [2020 – 2025 Strategic Framework](#). In particular:

- Patient, carer and/or public involvement should be considered in all aspects of the proposed study and its development.
- Equity, diversity and inclusion should be considered in all aspects of the proposed study and its development.
- A commitment to capacity-building and researcher career-development in ageing-related research during and beyond the lifetime of the proposed study – in line with [our action plan to meet our commitments as a signatory of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#) – should be demonstrated, with practical examples.
- Where appropriate, proposals should demonstrate a multidisciplinary approach to the research.

2.3 ELIGIBLE AWARD TYPES, WITH INDICATIVE DURATION AND COSTS

Eligible award types include:

- Proof of concept / Seed funding grant

Indicative duration: Up to two years

Indicative budget: up to £100k

- Project grant

Indicative duration: Up to three years

Indicative budget: up to £400k depending on project length and scope

- Single clinical/non-clinical PhD studentship (with named or non-named prospective student)
These must be applied for by the prospective principal supervisor (with at least another co-supervisor as co-applicant). However, in cases where the student is known, they can also be included on the application as a co-applicant. More details on co-applicants are provided in [Section 4.1: Expression of interest overview](#).

Indicative duration: three years full-time and up to six years part-time

Indicative budget: up to £100-£300k depending on project length, the student and scope

- Clinical/non-clinical post-doctoral fellowship

Prospective fellows should apply with a sponsor as co-applicant. Prospective fellows can also get in touch during the expression of interest stage to discuss with us if they, with the support of their university, are interested in applying for a proleptic appointment and we will consider this on a case-by-case basis.

Indicative duration: up to three years, or five years in the case of a proleptic application

Indicative budget: up to £200-£500k depending on project length, the fellow and scope

As part of their application, applicants will be asked to confirm what type of award they are applying for. **Please note that the indicative durations and budgets are provided here as a guide – we are open to requests that exceed these, though they will need to be fully justified.**

If the proposed research does not fit any of the types listed above, there will be the opportunity to explain what type of funding is being sought. Please note, however, that the following award types will not be eligible for funding:

- Large programme-style grants.
- Multiple PhD studentships (please note that the Trust has a separate Multiple PhD Studentship scheme – current round open with a deadline for applications of 21st July 2023 – details of which are available on our [“Apply for funding”](#) page).
- Project grants which include a PhD embedded within them.

2.4 ELIGIBLE COSTS

At the expression of interest stage, you will be asked to provide a summary of the funding being requested. We strongly encourage you to involve your finance office, as your financial summary needs to be as accurate as possible at this stage of the application process – we typically only allow costs to increase by 10% between the expression of interest and full stage.

If you are invited to submit a full application, you will be expected to provide detailed budgetary information on the costs you are requesting, itemised and phased annually. Please note that if your application is successful, you will need to provide a quarterly breakdown of your budget, as a condition of your award, before we can issue you with a Grant Offer Letter.

At the full stage, the involvement of an Administrative / Finance Manager to contribute to your application is mandatory. More details on who should be involved in completing the full application are provided in [Section 5.1: Full application stage overview](#).

At both the expression of interest and full application stages, please do not include any part or in-kind contributions from other sources in the budget tables (you will be given the opportunity to detail these, if applicable, in a separate question).

All costs must be fully justified in the appropriate section(s) of the application form. The following list provides information on what you can and cannot apply for:

STAFFING COSTS

- Basic salary:
 - We will meet directly incurred salary costs (e.g. the salary costs of research assistants and other staff employed on the grant)⁴.
 - All amounts should include provision for annual increases linked to the prevailing forecast rate of inflation.
 - Broadly, we will not cover the salary costs of staff members who are already tenured.

⁴ The Trust is a Living Wage Funder and we require all posts which are wholly or partially funded by us to be paid at least the real Living Wage, unless there are particular reasons for this not to happen. Please cost up any application for salaries at at least the real Living Wage. More information can be found on the [Living Wage website](#). Please note that organisations do not need to be accredited Living Wage Employers to apply to us, but we do encourage organisations to consider whether this is a possibility for them.

- If you are a first-time and/or early career Principal Investigator applying without tenure at your host institution, then you may be eligible to claim your salary:
 - If this is the case, a letter of support from your university/research organisation will be required at the full application stage to confirm that they agree to extend your contract to cover the duration of the grant if you are successful.
- All staff employed on the grant must have (or plan to obtain) permission to live and work in the UK, and the host institution is responsible for securing all necessary work permits and related costs:
 - If applicable, the Dunhill Medical Trust is an endorsed funder approved by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) for the Global Talent visa programme. For more information about the programme, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>.
- When completing the budget table and other relevant sections of the application form, please provide as much detail as possible and ensure you provide the following:
 - A breakdown of salary costs per staff post, where appropriate (please do not provide a single figure for 'Basic salary' for all posts combined).
 - Details and justification for the salary grade/spine point being requested for each member of staff employed on the grant.
- Promotion-related salary costs:
 - These can be included where it is anticipated that staff employed on the grant will be due for promotion during the lifetime of the award (i.e. they have reached the upper spine point of their grade).
 - These promotion-related salary costs should be included under this heading in your budget table, separate to the 'Basic salary' budget heading.
 - Please note that any promotion-related salary costs will be ring-fenced and will not be able to be vired to other budget headings if subsequently found not to be needed. In addition, evidence of the promotion will need to be provided prior to any use of these funds being approved.
 - Once again, when completing the budget table, please provide a breakdown per staff post, as well as information on the exact salary grade/spine point being requested.
- National insurance and pension:
 - Please provide a breakdown per staff post and not aggregated.
- Local allowance:
 - This includes London weighting, or other location allowances. Please also provide a breakdown per staff post and not aggregated.
- Staff recruitment:
 - We will pay a maximum of £500 towards the recruitment of staff being supported by the award.
 - Successful lead applicants will be expected to become members of the [DMT Academy](#) and can then post any vacancies on the Academy's [Jobs and studentships board](#).
- Career development / support costs:
 - These will be met when there is a clearly defined explanation of how they will contribute to capacity building/career-development in age-related fields during and beyond the lifetime of the proposed research.
 - Examples of career development costs include relevant training courses. We would also expect these costs to relate to the answers provided in the relevant sections of the application form.

- Team building and/or staff wellbeing costs:
 - We are supportive of you including relevant/justified team building and/or staff wellbeing costs in your budget. This is particularly the case where the proposed research involves new partnerships between people/teams/organisations etc.
 - Examples of team building and/or staff wellbeing costs include the costs of organising team building or networking events. Again, we would also expect these costs to relate to the answers provided in the relevant sections of the application form.

RUNNING EXPENSES

- The cost of materials and consumables required to carry out the proposed work will be met but should be fully justified, with special regard to those categories of overhead costs which the Trust will not meet. Estimated figures for consumables/materials are not acceptable and, at the full stage, all costs must be itemised.
- Non-UK costs (e.g. specialist tests or assays) may be met, on condition that full justification is provided. It will, however, be the responsibility of the host institution to reimburse the non-UK institution for carrying out such tests.
- Travel and subsistence costs, where required by the nature of the work, will normally be met and should be based on the most suitable and economical form of travel.
- For clinical trials, a detailed justification for each cost will need to be provided:
 - We may provide a reasonable contribution towards Clinical Trials Unit staff participating in the research, providing appropriate justification is given when requested.
 - Please read our [Funding FAQs](#) on our website for more information on research involving a Clinical Trials Unit.
- Other eligible costs include:
 - Participant costs / expenses / incentives.
 - Steering group / meeting costs.
 - Transcription costs.
 - Animal costs (if any) and this can include the costs of attaining appropriate licences.
- Data storage, archiving and management costs may be met, on condition that they are reasonable and proportionate in the context of the work proposed.

PATIENT, CARER AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- We will meet justified payments for patient, carer and public involvement (PPI). Please ensure that you have read the NIHR guidance resources on the “[Payment guidance for researchers and professionals](#)” page.
- In addition, ensure that you have taken in to account the “[UK Standards for Public Involvement in Research](#)”. We would also expect these costs to relate to the answers provided in the relevant sections of the application form.

EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING COMPUTER COSTS)

- Requests for study-specific items of equipment costing up to £10k may be met but should be fully justified. For requests over £10k, we will expect a detailed case to be provided and at least a 50% contribution towards the total cost of the equipment from the host institution and/or other funders. Suppliers’ quotations will also be required.

- We would normally expect the involved organisations to provide access to major equipment, but where specific circumstances require substantial usage or a contribution to the use of major equipment is requested, a detailed case should be provided.
- Computers and other IT equipment dedicated to the research may be met, on condition that full justification is provided.

OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- We will meet costs for members of the team to attend conferences as a speaker and/or to present posters etc. to disseminate the findings of their work.
- We will not meet costs for attending an academic conference as a delegate only.
- Costs for other dissemination and impact-related activities related to the proposed work may be applied for, provided that full justification is given. We would also expect these costs to relate to the answers provided in the relevant sections of the application form.
- Open access / open data costs may be included in applications but should be fully justified and comply with the Trust's [Open Access Policy](#).

OTHER COSTS

- If applying for PhD studentship funding, you should include the costs of the PhD stipend and tuition fees under this budget heading:
 - Please note that the Trust will only pay tuition fees at the same rate as home students, meaning the organisation hosting the PhD student will be required to waive the higher international fee rate, if applicable.
 - Any PhD stipends must:
 - Be set at at least the minimum UKRI stipend level.
 - Include London weighting or other location allowances, if applicable.
 - Be pro-rated if part-time.
 - Include provision for annual increases linked to the prevailing forecast rate of inflation.

GUIDANCE ON OVERHEAD COSTS

- Apart from any specific cases listed above, we will not meet overhead costs (typically those identified by UKRI as Directly Allocated Costs, Indirect Costs and Estates Costs) for research institutions. In particular, we will not contribute towards the Apprenticeship levy as this forms part of central overhead.
- Please note that this is because host universities receive a contribution to overheads via the [Charities Research Support Fund](#). More information regarding the charities element of the Quality-Related (“QR”) funding can be found in the “What costs will you cover?” question in our [Funding FAQs](#).
- However, if applicable, **we do expect** funding to be allocated within the proposed budget to compensate any involved community partner organisation(s) for their contribution to the work at their full economic cost. Some useful advice on full economic cost recovery for community organisations is provided in the [“Support and resources for community organisations” drop-down on the “How we support you” page on our website](#).

3. APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The application process will consist of two stages:

1. Expression of interest stage
2. Full application stage

The application process for this call will follow the timetable below:

Activity	Date
Expression of interest stage open	12 th June 2023
Expression of interest stage deadline	21 st July 2023 (5pm)
Notification of outcome of the expression of interest stage and invitation to submit a full application (if successful)	4 th September 2023
Deadline for the full application stage	20 th October 2023 (5pm)
Peer review of full applications (However, please note we will begin approaching peer reviewers following the closure of the expression of interest stage)	October to December 2023
Rebuttal period (To enable you to respond to specific peer reviewer feedback – please do ensure that you are available during this period, as unfortunately we cannot accommodate any flexibility with these dates)	11 th – 15 th December 2023
Full applications considered by the Research Grants Committee and expert panellists	6 th February 2024
Interviews for prospective post-doctoral fellows if deemed necessary by the Committee/Panel (If you are applying for a post-doctoral fellowship, we will confirm interview dates as soon as possible)	Mid-late February 2024
Applicants notified of the outcome of the full application stage	Mid-March 2024

Based on this timetable, any awarded grants would not be able to start until late March 2024 at the very earliest. However, please note that any successful awards will not be able to commence until any conditions stated in the Grant Offer Letter have been met.

Every effort has been made to provide enough time for the various stages of the process while avoiding public/school holidays, but some clashes will unfortunately be unavoidable.

4. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

4.1 OVERVIEW

The expression of interest stage will open on Monday 12th June 2023 and close at 5pm on Friday 21st July 2023. To complete an expression of interest, you are required to:

1. Complete an online application form
2. Submit a short video

BEFORE STARTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST APPLICATION

Please ensure that you have read our [Funding FAQs](#) and completed our eligibility questionnaire, which can be found on the “[Apply for funding](#)” page of our website. You should also read our [Terms and Conditions for Research Grants](#).

You should also be aware that we require all lead applicants to provide an ORCID iD when completing an application form. Any prospective lead applicants without an ORCID iD can [register for one](#). We use the information included in the ORCID profile to help auto-populate the “About you” section in the application form. Please follow [this link for help with your ORCID profile and guidance on how to register for one](#).

THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST APPLICATION FORM

The expression of interest application form needs to be submitted via our [online Grants Management Portal](#). You can [download a PDF version of the application form](#) from our website. Please note, however, that this is only provided to help you plan your application – only submissions made before the deadline via the online Grants Management Portal will be accepted.

Whilst the Principal Investigator (lead applicant) is responsible for submitting the application form, some external participants must be invited to contribute to the application form on the Grants Management Portal. Please see the following table for more information on who can/needs to be involved with the application process.

Required	Optional
<p>Co-applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one co-applicant must be invited to review and contribute to the form. • If you are working with community and/or industry/commercial partner(s), then we would expect at least one representative from the partner organisation(s) to be invited to contribute. • It will not be possible to submit the form until all invited co-applicants have completed their contribution. 	<p>Finance Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lead applicant may, if they wish, invite a member of their finance department to contribute to the “Financial support requested” section of the form. <p>Additional co-applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lead applicant may, if they wish, invite additional co-applicants to review and contribute to the form. <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once any of these optional participants have been invited, it will not be possible to submit the form until they have

	completed their contribution or if you have indicated on the portal that they are no longer required to contribute.
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Detailed information on inviting external participants is provided in our [“how to” guide for using the Grants Management Portal](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION ON CO-APPLICANTS

- In the case of PhD studentship funding, prospective principal supervisors should apply as the lead applicant, but are expected to have at least one named co-supervisor as a co-applicant. If the prospective student who will undertake the PhD is known at the time of application, they can also be included as a co-applicant.
- Those applying for post-doctoral fellowship funding will need at least one sponsor as a co-applicant.
- As part of the application, lead applicants will be asked to provide the details of the proposed research team (including members from both within and beyond academia). Whilst we expect the details of all co-applicants to be provided, at this stage we do not require every co-applicant to be invited to contribute to the application via the Grants Management Portal (though lead applicants may invite all co-applicants to do so, if they wish).

THE VIDEO

Videos should be no more than three minutes long and should provide the following information in an accessible way (i.e. understandable for a non-expert audience):

- An outline of the methods you propose to use to answer your research question(s).
- A robust rationale for your choice of these methods (i.e. why have you chosen them, and why are they best suited to answer your research question(s)?).
- A summary of any guidance, expertise etc. that you have already accessed and/or will have access to, to ensure methodological/statistical rigour.

We appreciate that three minutes is a limited amount of time and so we do not expect the video to encompass all aspects of your methodological and/or statistical plans. Instead, we want you to provide a clear and credible sense that you have thought about the methods you are planning to use and have the appropriate support/expertise to carry out the proposed work.

Videos will need to be submitted by 5pm on 21st July 2023 by emailing them to grants@dunhillmedical.org.uk. Please include the reference number for your application in the email subject heading. Videos will need to be under ~25MB to be sent via email. For this reason, you could make the video by recording it over Zoom or Microsoft Teams, but feel free to produce it however suits you best. We are also open to receiving the videos by other pre-agreed and feasible means by the stipulated deadline – please contact us as early as possible if you are considering sending your video by a different means.

4.2 ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Once submitted, the Trust will conduct an initial review of the application to confirm that it meets the following criteria:

- Eligibility for the scheme.
- The research proposed being within remit.
- Satisfactory completion of the application form.

Expression of interest application forms and videos will then be assessed internally by the Trust's experienced grants team on the following criteria:

- The proposal clearly describes the background and provides a compelling justification of its importance/need, as well as making a credible case for being related to one or more of the priority research topics listed in [Section 2.2: Research themes](#).
- The video provides a clear and credible overview of:
 - The proposed methods to be used during the research.
 - The rationale for the choice of methods.
 - The guidance, expertise etc. that the proposed team have accessed and/or will have access to, to ensure methodological/statistical rigour.
- The proposal has credible, clear and specific plans for outputs/outcomes and ways in which they will be shared and impact the lives of older people and/or policy and practice in the short-to-medium term.
- The proposal provides a clear and compelling case for the suitability of the proposed team to carry out the research.
- The proposal provides specific details about the support to be offered to the team, as well as how the applicants will commit to capacity-building/researcher career-development during and beyond the lifetime of the proposed research.
- The proposal clearly describes how patient, carer and/or public involvement (PPI) has been considered in the development of the proposal, and there are specific plans to embed PPI into the proposed research.
- The proposal clearly describes how equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) has been considered in all aspects of the proposal, and there are specific plans to embed EDI into the proposed research.

- The proposal includes a good level of detail and consideration of costs. There is evidence that the proposed activities and, if applicable, any partner organisation(s) involvement are appropriately resourced.
- Does an overlap analysis suggest that the work may be duplicative? We will check to see whether proposals are similar to grants we have funded in the past and are currently funding. You can find details of research grants we have previously funded on [Europe PubMed Central](#).

FEEDBACK ON YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST APPLICATION

We are anticipating a large number of expression of interest applications; therefore, we will only be providing general feedback at this stage. We will also be providing information on the eventual success rate for the call at a later date.

4.3 CHECKLIST

Make sure you have completed all the relevant tasks on this list before submitting your application:

- Have you completed the eligibility quiz, read these guidelines, our general funding FAQs and Terms and Conditions for Research Grants?
- Have you provided detailed and relevant answers to all mandatory questions in the application form?
- Have you checked that all of your proposed costs are eligible?
- Have you invited at least one co-applicant to contribute to your application form through the online Grants Management Portal?
- Have all invited participants read and understood the various guidelines to ensure that the application can be submitted by the deadline on the Grants Management Portal?
- Have you submitted your video to grants@dunhillmedical.org.uk?
- Have you spoken with, and do you have support from, your host institution to submit this application?

5. FULL APPLICATION STAGE

5.1 OVERVIEW

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their expression of interest on Monday 4th September 2023, with successful applicants being invited to submit a full application form by the deadline of 5pm on Friday 20th October 2023.

THE FULL APPLICATION FORM

As with the expression of interest stage, the full application form needs to be submitted via our [online Grants Management Portal](#). To reduce duplication of effort, relevant sections from your completed expression of interest form will be pulled through and auto-populate parts of your full application form. Some of the questions will have a slight change of focus and may have an increased word count, so you must review and, where appropriate, update the information pulled through. You can [download a draft PDF version of the full form](#) from our website. Note that this application form may be subject to some minor changes prior to the opening of the full application stage.

At this stage, applicants will be assigned a member from the Grants Team at the Trust, who will be able to offer continuity of support with questions around developing their application.

As with the expression of interest stage, certain external participants must be invited to contribute to the full application form on the Grants Management Portal. Please see the following table for more information on who needs to be involved with this stage of the application process.

Required

Co-applicants:

- At this stage, all co-applicants must be invited to review and contribute to the form.

Administrative / Finance Manager:

- An appropriate Administrative / Finance Manager must be invited to complete a declaration on behalf of the lead applicant's institution (the lead institution).
- This individual may also contribute to the "Financial support requested" section of the form, if required.

Head of Department:

- The lead applicant must invite their Head of Department to complete a declaration on behalf of their department.

Please note:

- The application cannot be submitted until all required external participants have completed their contributions.

Detailed information on inviting external participants is provided in our ["how to" guide for using the Grants Management Portal](#).

5.2 ASSESMENT PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Once submitted, full application forms will go through external peer review and will then be assessed by a panel comprising independent experts alongside suitably qualified members of our [Research Grants Committee](#).

Recognising the impacts of COVID-19 on research activity: We are aware that COVID-19 has resulted in disruptions to research activities for the majority of researchers. As a result, the impacts of COVID-19 will be taken into account when assessing applicants' record of outputs and career progression and we will be providing guidance on this matter to peer reviewers, Committee members and panellists.

EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW

Full applications will be assessed by peer reviewers on the following criteria:

- Quality of the proposed work, for example:
 - Has the applicant provided clear, detailed and well-referenced background information?
 - Have they provided a clear and compelling justification of its need and/or novelty?
 - Is the research question(s) and/or proposal clear, credible and detailed?
 - Will the work make a substantial contribution to knowledge and understanding in the field?
 - Is the work ageing-related?
- Methodology and feasibility, for example:
 - What are the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed methodological approach(es)?
 - Is the proposed methodology robust/appropriate and will it answer the research question(s)?
 - Is the overall approach convincing, coherent and effective?
 - Is the project achievable in the timeline proposed?
 - Do the applicants acknowledge potential problem areas and consider mitigations and/or alternative tactics?
- Research team and environment, for example:
 - Are the applicant(s)/research group well suited to carry out this work?

- Do the applicant(s)/research group have a track record in the work that is proposed, commensurate with experience and taking into account the impacts of COVID-19 on research activity?
- Is there appropriate expertise available within the team and/or the collaborative arrangements?
- Does the applicant(s)/research group have appropriate access to facilities, equipment, samples and/or resources?

THE REBUTTAL STAGE

At this stage of the call, applicants will be given a chance to respond to specific feedback provided by the peer reviewers. This will take place between 11th – 15th December 2023, and so it is important that you will be available during this time.

COMMITTEE/PANEL REVIEW

Ahead of the Committee/Panel meeting, Committee members and panellists will have access to the external peer reviewers' assessments, as well as any rebuttal from the applicants. They will then assess full applications on the same criteria as the external peer reviewers, as well as the additional criteria outlined below:

- Dissemination and impact, for example:
 - Are there detailed plans for dissemination beyond the academic community with a clear demonstration of the knowledge and connections that will enable the work to change practice and/or policy?
 - Is there a credible, feasible and specific plan to achieve benefit beyond the academic community and improve the health and social care of older people in the short-to-medium term, where appropriate?
- Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), for example:
 - In relation to i) the people involved, ii) the proposed research and its development and iii) the protected characteristics that the [Equality Act 2010](#) protects, as well other characteristics, is there a well-considered and compelling approach to EDI (e.g. in recruiting staff and/or participants, the expertise within the proposed team etc.)?
- Patient, carer and public involvement (PPI), for example:

- If appropriate, have the applicant(s) considered PPI principles and processes in all stages of the research and its development, which takes into account the “[UK Standards for Public Involvement in Research](#)”?
- Capacity building, career development and support, for example:
 - Does the proposal demonstrate a clear and genuine focus on capacity building/career development and provide evidence of the quality and suitability of institutional support?
- Funds requested, for example:
 - Is the financial support requested necessary and sufficient?
 - Do the funds requested take into account all aims and activities (e.g. resourcing any training, PPI, dissemination activities etc.)?
 - Are the funds requested well-justified? If relevant, is there any appropriate external financial and/or in-kind support offered?

The Committee/Panel will meet to consider applications on 6th February 2024. Interviews for prospective post-doctoral fellows will be held in mid-late February 2024 if deemed necessary by the Committee/Panel (with interview dates confirmed as soon as possible), following which all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications in mid-March 2024.

FEEDBACK ON YOUR FULL APPLICATION

Both successful and unsuccessful applicants at the full application stage will receive specific feedback. We will also be providing information on the eventual success rate for the call at a later date.

5.3 CHECKLIST

Make sure you have completed all the relevant tasks on this list before submitting your application:

- Have you re-read these guidelines, our general funding FAQs and Terms and Conditions for Research Grants?
- Have you provided detailed and relevant answers to all mandatory questions in the application form?
- Have you uploaded all requested documents in the appropriate file formats?
- Have you invited all co-applicants to contribute to your application on the Grants Management Portal?
- Have all invited participants read and understood the various guidelines to ensure that the application can be submitted by the deadline on the Grants Management Portal?
- Has an Administrative / Finance Manager from the lead organisation read the application and completed their declaration to ensure that the application can be submitted before the deadline on the Grants Management Portal?
- Has the lead applicant's Head of Department read the application and completed their declaration to ensure that the application can be submitted by the deadline on the Grants Management Portal?

6. SUPPORT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

6.1 SUPPORT FROM THE TRUST

- You can [download the template expression of interest application form](#) from our website.
- You can also [download the template full application form](#) from our website. Please note that this may be subject to some minor changes before the full application stage opens.
- For guidance on what made a good expression of interest application for our previous themed research call on interventions targeting the social determinants of healthy older age, some of which will be relevant to this call, [read this blog post](#).
- Read our general [Funding FAQs](#), including what our Research Grants Committee would say a good application looks like.
- Read our [Terms and Conditions for Research Grants](#).
- Read our [Open Access Policy](#).
- If relevant, read our sample [Intellectual Property Agreement](#).
- Read our [Funder Action Plan](#) for the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.
- For guidance on navigating and using the Grants Management Portal, please see our [“how to” guide](#).
- Join the [DMT Academy](#), which aims to:
 - Facilitate better understanding and foster relationships between academic and clinical researchers, as well as community organisations, working with older people.
 - Create a supportive place to find new collaborators, mentors and advisors and to sustain nascent networks for the longer term.

6.2 EXTERNAL GUIDANCE

- Applications that include NHS resources will need to adhere to the [Department of Health and Social Care AcoRD guidance](#). You can also [read the AcoRD FAQs](#) online.
- For applications that consist of clinical research, you might consider visiting the [Clinical Research Network portfolio](#) for help and support.
- For information regarding Patient, Carer and Public Involvement (PPI) in research, please do visit the [National Institute for Health and Care Research website for various PPI resources](#).
- For more information on including underserved groups in research, you might be interested in a website hosted by the [INCLUDE initiative from the National Institute for Health and Care](#)

[Research](#), which provides guidance for ensuring health research is inclusive, as well as instructions on how to [register for a free online course](#) run by INCLUDE.

- NHS England has also created [a document that provides practical insights for researchers on how to engage more diverse participants in health research](#).
- If applicable, the Dunhill Medical Trust is an endorsed funder approved by UKRI for the Global Talent visa programme. For more information about applying to work in the UK as a researcher or academic leader under the Global Talent visa programme, please visit the [UK government website](#).
- Feel free to read about “[Secrets on writing a winning grant](#)” in the academic journal Nature.

6.3 CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any queries regarding the call, including if you need any alternative accessible formats at any stage of the application process, please contact grants@dunhillmedical.org.uk. We will do our very best to assist you.