



# Transdisciplinary Research Grants

## Frequently Asked Questions

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## **Eligibility: Disciplinary Focus**

### **Q: Can team applicants (co-applicants) be from a mental health discipline?**

A: Co-applicants may have a mental health science background where their role is contributing to ensuring the project is relevant, feasible, and meaningful to the mental health science community. Since this programme is about supporting the development of new connections and thinking, we would expect that the lead applicant does not already have a history of publishing the majority of their research relevant to mental health science.

### **Q: Are lead applicants from fields that overlap with mental health science for example social sciences, computer science, public health, or epidemiology eligible to apply?**

A: Lead applicants should be new to mental health science. They should not have significant experience, an educational background, or the majority of their research publications specific to mental health science. Applicants from fields with overlap with mental health science are eligible to apply if they meet these criteria and if they propose new applications of methods and concepts from their base discipline to mental health science beyond state of the art.

### **Q: Are artists eligible to apply?**

A: Applicants should be researchers from any academic discipline and background other than mental health science (psychology, psychiatry, neuroscience). Researchers from disciplines including arts and humanities are eligible to apply. Applicants are required to have a strong research track record in their base discipline.

### **Q: Can the person be trained outside the mental health science but have publications on mental health?**

A: Yes- having publications on mental health does not disqualify you from applying to the Transdisciplinary Grant. However, we are looking for new ideas and new thinking. Individuals with a **majority** of their research publications in mental health are not eligible to apply as lead applicants.

### **Q: I have new ideas and I am a chronobiologist by training. I have some papers tangential to mental health but not directly working with patients. I am eligible to be lead applicant?**

A: Yes- you would be eligible. You can have published work in mental health, as long as the **majority** of your publications are not in mental health.

### **Q: I am also unsure of my eligibility, as I have been working for the last 15 years on epidemiology and public health... However, I changed my career and 25 years ago I did a Psychology Degree. Does that rule me out re: eligibility?**

A: As you have an educational background in psychology, you would not be eligible to apply for the transdisciplinary grant as a lead applicant.

## **Eligibility: Research Experience**

**Q: Assume by publications that you mean peer-reviewed papers? If so, does that mean that early career researchers and current PhD students would have little chance of success in the applications as they have less experience and may have no peer reviewed publications?**

A: Applicants are expected to demonstrate a strong track record in their 'core' discipline, as well as the necessary skills to complete their proposed project as described. This can be shown in a number of ways and is only one of multiple criteria that will be used to judge an application. Publications could be peer-reviewed papers, conference papers, or pre-prints. We will consider the value of research outputs and the assessment will be mindful of the different career levels of applicants. The personal statement also allows applicants to contextualise their achievements. Other assessment criteria focus on the potential of the project, novelty and originality of the project, feasibility, and use of funds.

**Q: Are PhD students eligible?**

A: Applicants from all career levels are eligible to apply. Applicants are expected to have a strong research experience in their base discipline and should demonstrate this, as well as the skills necessary to complete their proposal, in the application.

**Q: Is a PhD essential for lead applicant?**

A: Applicants from all career levels are eligible to apply including early career researchers who do not have a PhD. All applicants will be expected to demonstrate strong research experience in their core discipline and will be assessed on their qualifications and experience as well as other criteria related to the potential, feasibility, and originality of the project.

**Q: I am a postdoctoral fellow. Can I be the main applicant or my supervisor?**

A: Applicants from all career levels are eligible to apply including postdoctoral fellows. As such, you can be the lead applicant. As a lead applicant, you will be accountable for completion of grant activities and financial management of the grant and should be able to demonstrate their ability to successfully carry out the grant activities including the review of literature and production of the viewpoint paper.

**Q: What if the lead applicant doesn't have a research background but the collaborators do have that background?**

A: The lead applicant will be accountable for completion of grant activities and financial management of the grant and should be able to demonstrate their ability to successfully carry out the grant activities including the review of literature and production of the viewpoint paper.

## **Eligibility: General**

**Q: Can multiple expression of interests be submitted? Would an application be disadvantaged if a lead applicant on one application is involved as a co-applicant (e.g., as a co-PI, co-I, or consultant) in another application?**

A: Applicants can only act as lead applicant or co-applicants on one application.

**Q: Comparing a single PI and a team of PI and Co-Is, what is preferable? I am thinking about applying and conducting the study by myself. Will that set me at a disadvantage?**

A: Applicants can be either individual lead applicant or a team of applicants. We do not have any preference. Individual applicants will not be at a disadvantage and will be assessed in relation to the main assessment criteria similar to a team applicants. MQ will provide networking and training opportunities to all grant holders including and not limited to training on patient and public involvement, communication, stakeholder engagement. In addition, grant holders will receive guidance from the Funding Committee to develop their ideas.

**Q: If I am supporting someone applying for the post-doc application recently published, is it also possible for me to then lead on this application?**

A: Yes, you can lead on this application and also be involved in the post-doctoral scholarship application.

## **Grant activities and scope**

**Q: Is the current call limited to systematic review? Can we do a trial-based study in our local community setting?**

A: Conducting primary research, including trial-based studies, is outside the scope of the call. Grant holders will have 6 months to review literature to assess the potential, and feasibility of, a transdisciplinary idea which will feed into a viewpoint paper of publishable standard. The literature review strategy will need to be detailed and justified as part of the full application, if invited, but may be adapted as appropriate to the question being asked, as well as the likely nature and volume of relevant literature.

**Q: Are multi-sited pilot studies within the remit of the call?**

A: Primary research including pilot studies are outside the scope of the call.

**Q: Is the grant looking for interventional research or exploratory research?**

A: Primary intervention research is outside the scope of the call. However, the review of the relevant literature to assess the potential, and feasibility of, an intervention or explore transdisciplinary ideas is within the remit of this call.

**Q: Are narrative reviews appropriate or is concentration on systematic reviews?**

A: Reviews do not have to be systematic. Narrative reviews are suitable for this grant. The literature review strategy will need to be detailed and justified as part of the full application, if invited, but may be adapted as appropriate to the question being asked, as well as the likely nature and volume of relevant literature.

**Q: Please can you give a greater explanation of research as this can be conducted in a variety of ways such as interviews, surveys etc.**

A: The project should be a review of the literature and should not involve fieldwork, pilot studies, interviews, surveys, or any other form of primary research. The purpose of this call is to review the feasibility of a transdisciplinary idea, producing a viewpoint paper of publishable standard (for example, as a review, personal view, position paper, or comment) of up to 3,500 words, as well as a single-page summary of their work.

There is not sufficient time or resource in the scale of this grant for primary research to be possible, but a review could evaluate the feasibility of, or make recommendations for, primary research in the future.

**Q: Can you confirm if the maximum fund (£ 50 K) and the expected duration (6 months) are for conducting actual studies/human studies or are they just for carrying out a review and generating a view point paper?**

A: Grant holders (individuals or small teams) will have 6 months to review the relevant literature to assess the potential, and feasibility of, a transdisciplinary idea, producing a viewpoint paper of publishable standard. Conducting studies or primary research is outside the scope of the project. A review could evaluate the feasibility of, or make recommendations for, primary research in the future.

**Q: Is there any copyright issues for the applicant being linked to this funding opportunity? Does the applicant have a say in what happens with the data? Are there any commercialization problems?**

A: Your host institution must have in place reasonable procedures for the identification, protection, management and exploitation of any Intellectual Property generated as part of the Grant Activities (particularly where any Grant Activities are delegated to, or involve collaboration with, third parties). You are expected to make any Background IP available for use as part of the Grant Activities, but title to all Background IP will remain with you. You must seek our written consent to any commercial use of, or granting to any third party any exploitation rights over, the Grant-Funded IP.

Please refer to the grants terms and conditions provided at the end of the application form for information about intellectual property.

**Q: I have a question about the restriction to depression, anxiety, psychosis: I work on chronic pain. Clinical studies show that chronic pain (as a stress state), often induces depression. Would this connection be sufficient to make an application looking at chronic pain eligible for this scheme?**

A: Yes, projects focusing on chronic pain would be eligible for this scheme as long as you can make the connection within the proposed research of how your project may yield insight into early intervention for depression in your application

**Q: Anxiety, depression and psychosis are in many cases a result of trauma. does the grant funding include trauma research?**

A: Yes, projects focusing on trauma are eligible for this scheme. Please make sure you clarify and explain how your proposed research may yield insight into early intervention for anxiety, depression, or psychosis in your application.

**Q: Does the project development need to have any connection with the United Kingdom?**

A: No, projects do not need to have any connection with the United Kingdom. The context of the project can be set anywhere in the world.

**Q: Does the publication outcome have to be submitted or accepted before June 2024?**

A: No, the viewpoint paper should be completed by June 2024. There are no requirements in relation to publication or submission timeline.

**Q: Am I right that you are making a distinction between mental health research and mental health practice? A mad studies critique might address both, should it be restricted to the research process only?**

A: Proposals that focus on improving mental health service delivery or user experience of services are outside the scope of this call. If you can justify how your proposal will yield greater understanding of anxiety, depression and psychosis or find new ways to intervene early then it may be eligible. Proposals may focus on the research process itself (for example, applying new ways to involve people with lived experience in mental health research), as well as focus on direct research insight.

**Q: I want to apply linguistics theory to the cross-cultural validity of psychometric tests, is this within the scope of this call?**

A: Yes, applying concepts or theories including linguistic theory to the cross-cultural validity of psychometric tests is within the remit of the call.

**Q: Can the study be about assessment and diagnosis or does it have to be interventional?**

A: Primary studies are outside the scope of this call. Grant holders are expected to conduct a review of the literature to assess the potential, and feasibility of, a transdisciplinary idea. This idea/review can be in relation to understanding, assessment, prevention, diagnosis, or intervention to accelerate progress in early intervention for depression, anxiety, or psychosis.

## **Host institution**

### **Q: What are the types of eligible host institutions?**

A: Eligible host institutions include higher education institutions, third sector organisations, and research organisations.

### **Q: Does the money go to the institution or to the main applicant?**

A: Payments will be made directly to the host institution. We expect financial justification as per the terms and conditions of the award.

### **Q: Can United Kingdom charities and non- governmental organisations apply?**

A: Projects should have one lead applicant responsible for creating and submitting the application. The lead applicant can be based in a third sector organisation including UK charity or NGO.

### **Q: What if you do not work in an institution but have access to support via your alumni status?**

A: Researchers that are not employed in a host institution for the duration of the award are not eligible to apply. Lead applicants should identify a host institution which will act as the lead applicant's employer for the duration of the award. Host institutions will be required to approve the full application through the Flexi-Grant application portal. Payments will also be made directly to the host institution.

### **Q: If you don't have a long-term contract with a university (or it comes to a close during the time of the award) can you still apply?**

A: Researchers that do not have a contract of employment with a host institution for the duration of the award are not eligible to apply.

### **Q: How open are you to applicants who are pre-doctoral researchers? 2) I am affiliated with an academic institution but don't plan to renew my contract with them in 2024. From what I understand, that would make me ineligible to apply. Is there a way for independent researchers to be considered if they have publications? If no, why not?**

A: Applicants from all career levels are eligible to apply. However, awardees need to have a contract of employment with a host institution for the duration of the award. The proposed host Institution should ensure an adequate and supportive environment for applicant(s) and the project and will support the delivery of the project during the grant period. It is MQ policy that we only fund through institutions to ensure shared responsibility and liability over the grant.

## **Funding:**

### **Q: What is included in the funding?**

A: Funds may be used for salary to cover grant holder(s)' time for the duration of the award, direct research expenses, travel and subsistence costs, patient and public involvement and dissemination.

### **Q: Is international travel (project related/ capacity building/ dissemination) can be budgeted?**

A: Funds can be used for international travel directly linked to the work plan and project deliverables including meeting collaborators. We expect financial justification for budget allocations.

### **Q: Can the funding be used solely for fieldwork expenses?**

A: The funding should be used to conduct the relevant review of literature, including patient and public involvement and dissemination. Fieldwork is outside the scope of this grant.

### **Q: Would the grant only pay the lead applicants salary? Or would there be the possibility that it would fund a salary for the co-applicant?**

A: The funding can be used to cover the time spent by lead applicants and/or co-applicants for the duration of the award.

### **Q: Can this funding be combined with other funding sources?**

A: The work plan should be specific to this grant and the funding should be directly linked to the work plan. Funding from other sources can be used to cover salary of the grant holder, patient and public involvement, or travel costs.

### **Q: Would you be able to specify how much the salary will be?**

A: The salary will be determined by the host institution and should include the base salary as well as additional salary costs including national insurance and pension contribution.



## **Patient and public involvement:**

### **Q: Do you have a guide of recommendations for patient and public involvement?**

A: There are multiple resources on patient and public involvement for researchers. Below are a few useful links:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/ppi-patient-and-public-involvement-resources-for-applicants-to-nihr-research-programmes/23437>

<https://www.amrc.org.uk/guidance-and-tools-for-public-involvement>

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/9789240073074>

[https://www.gmhpn.org/uploads/1/2/0/2/120276896/considerations\\_when\\_working\\_and\\_engaging\\_with\\_le.pdf](https://www.gmhpn.org/uploads/1/2/0/2/120276896/considerations_when_working_and_engaging_with_le.pdf)

### **Q: Will there be support/guidance to find and reach out to individuals for patient and public involvement?**

A: MQ will support awardees in embedding patient and public involvement in their research through genuine and meaningful partnership with patients and the public in design, delivery, and dissemination of research. Grant holders will be able to receive guidance from lived experience experts on the Funding Committee and training on patient and public involvement.

## **Application process**

### **Q: What exactly does the expression of interest application include?**

A: You can access the application form through <https://mq.flexigrant.com/>.

The application has five main sections: applicant details, co-applicant details, project overview, project summary (800 words), and patient and public involvement (300 words).

### **Q: if the PhD student is the lead applicant, do they need the supervisor agreement or signature?**

A: Lead applicants will need a letter of support and institutional approval for the full application stage.

### **Q: Is the expression of interest process on the same grants management platform as the application?**

A: Yes, the expression of interest and full application will both be submitted through our Grants Management System, Flexi-Grant®.