



# SMMSN

## Funding Update

(items in yellow are new compared to the previous update)

### SPOTLIGHT

#### **Pre-announcement: ERC Plus Grants**

**Expected to open June 2026**

**Scope:** to support exceptionally bold, long-term, and transformative research projects that go beyond the scope of existing ERC programs.

**Budget:** 4-7 yrs, beyond existing ERC programmes

**More info:** <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/events/webinar-new-erc-plus-grants>

#### **Royal Society Energy Transition Workshops**

**12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January**

The Centre for Energy Transition and University Entrepreneur in Residence, Ian Phillips, will host a series of three Energy Transition Research Workshops in January 2026. The sessions seek to identify new areas of research in three key areas of the Energy Transition: (1) research opportunities that assume the continued global use of hydrocarbons for energy supply; (2) research opportunities that assume a complete transition away from hydrocarbons; and (3) research opportunities focused on enabling society to use less energy overall. The workshops will consider technical, societal, legal, and financial aspects of the Energy Transition – so will be of interest to all. [Learn more here](#).

#### **Research/ Teaching on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

**New King's 1, Tuesday 20th January 9am – 11am**

Is your research or teaching related to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion? Join us for an interactive session bringing together colleagues from across the university who are exploring EDI themes in their research or teaching. The key aim is to create a space for people to make connections with others working in EDI-related areas, learn about each other's work, and seed collaborations. [Learn more here](#).

#### **CRUK Spotlight call: reducing inequalities in cancer early detection and diagnosis**

The CRUK Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee is seeking to foster a targeted research effort to bring together epidemiological, behavioural, biological and mechanistic insights to develop novel approaches for tackling inequalities in cancer early detection and diagnosis (ED&D) across society. Funding for the spotlight call will span multiple funding rounds across the ED&D Research Committee's funding programmes.

**More info and registration for the webinar:** <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/for-researchers/apply-for-and-manage-your-funding/how-we-make-funding-decisions/early-detection-diagnosis-research-committee>

### Programme/Centre/Strategic Grants

## **NIHR Work and Health Research Awards Round 2**

**Deadline: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** to fund research into reconstructive surgery for survivors of FGM/C

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/nihr-work-and-health-research-awards-round-2/97026?>

## **NIHR HTA Reconstruction surgery for FGM/C survivors**

**Deadline: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** to enable research teams to receive funding for larger programmes of research or large scale and ambitious projects to tackle priorities in work and health research.

**Budget:** Up to £2M, over 3 yrs

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/reconstruction-surgery-fgmc-survivors/2025446?>

## **NIHR Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme**

**Deadline: 1st April 2026**

- [EME Programme Researcher-led](#)
- [NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling funding opportunity \(EME Programme\)](#)
- [NIHR NICE rolling funding opportunity \(EME Programme\)](#)

**Budget:**

**More Info:** see individual links above

## **NIHR Public Health Research (PHR) Programme**

**Deadline: 21st April 2026**

- [Continuing areas of research interest to the PHR Programme](#)
- [NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling funding opportunity \(PHR Programme\)](#)
- [NIHR NICE rolling funding opportunity \(PHR Programme\)](#)
- [PHR Researcher-led](#)

**Budget:**

**More Info:** see individual links above

## **Research Grants**

### **NIHR Production of Technology Assessment Reviews (TARs)**

**Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Scope:** to produce high-impact Technology Assessment Reviews (TARs). Research teams must be suitably qualified with a proven track record in health technology assessment, health economics and evidence synthesis, and of attracting research funding from recognised sources.

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/production-technology-assessment-reviews-tars/2025455?>

### **BIRAX Healthy Ageing | Call for Research Proposals**

**Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** For joint projects by British and Israeli scientists on the topic of ageing

**Budget:** 2yrs, £100K

**More Info:** <https://www.britishcouncil.org.il/en/birax/call-for-proposals>

### **EIT Higher Education Initiative Call for Proposals 2025**

**Deadline: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** Funding for projects (consortia of at least 5 organisations from Horizon Europe-eligible countries) to build innovation & entrepreneurship capacity in HEIs

**Budget:** 2yrs, up to €2M

**More Info:** <https://eit-hei.eu/funding-support/funding-opportunities/open-calls/call-for-proposals-2025/>

### **Rising Tide Foundation Clinical Cancer Research**

**Deadline:** 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Scope:** Funding clinical trials worldwide across all cancer types, designed together with patient partners

**Budget:** \$100K/y, up to 5 yrs

**More Info:** <https://www.risingtide-foundation.org/clinical-cancer-research-how-to-apply/>

### **NIHR Decarbonising the health and social care system**

**Deadline:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Scope:** to fund research into decarbonising the health and social care system. As part of our climate, health and sustainability commitments to help reduce carbon emissions and achieve net zero

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/decarbonising-health-and-social-care-system/2025389>

### **NIHR Research for Patient Benefit**

**Deadline:** 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Scope:** for research proposals that are concerned with the day-to-day practice of health and care service staff, and that have the potential to have an impact on the health or wellbeing of patients and users of health and care services.

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/research-patient-benefit-november-2025/2025425-2025426-2025437?>

### **NIHR Climate Change and Health Research Collaboration Awards**

**Deadline:** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Scope:** For research that addresses the challenges of climate change by building resilience into the delivery of health and social care services during severe weather events. Smaller development awards will be offered initially. After the development phase, holders of development awards will be invited to submit large scale and ambitious collaborative projects.

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/nihr-climate-change-and-health-research-collaboration-awards/2025411>

### **MRC Gap Fund: single-step support for medical product development**

**Deadline:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Scope:** For developing a new or repurposed medicine, medical device, diagnostic, or other medical product.

**Budget:** £50K-£300K

**More Info:** <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/gap-fund-single-step-support-for-medical-product-development/>

### **NIHR Health Technology Assessment: Reconstruction surgery for FGM/C survivors**

**Deadline (outline):** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Scope:** to fund research into reconstructive surgery for survivors of FGM/C

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/studies-evaluating-clinical-and-cost-effectiveness-ambulance-service-led-interventions/2025375>

#### **NIHR Step-up treatment for people with uncontrolled asthma (HTA programme)**

**Deadline (outline): 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** What is the best step-up treatment for people aged 12 years and older diagnosed with asthma, whose asthma is uncontrolled on a low-dose inhaled corticosteroid/formoterol combination inhaler used as needed?

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/step-treatment-people-uncontrolled-asthma/2025453?>

#### **NIHR Using light therapy in care/nursing homes (HTA programme)**

**Deadline (outline): 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** Can the use of light therapy boxes in residential care and/or nursing homes improve the mood, sleep and mental health of residents?

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/using-light-therapy-care-nursing-homes/2025452?>

#### **NIHR ROK-UK Smart Clinical Trials Application Development Award**

**Deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** Bilateral funding programme to support collaborative projects between researchers in the UK and the Republic of Korea to develop new tools, technologies and procedures for smart clinical trials.

**Budget:** 24 months, 500K

**More Info:**

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/rok-uk-smart-clinical-trials-application-development-award/2026342>

#### **MRF Launchpad Grants in Children & Young People's Movement and Balance Disorders**

**Deadline: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** to undertake pilot studies and preliminary research on movement and balance disorders in children and young people.

**Budget:** £100K

**More Info:**

<https://www.medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk/grants/launchpad-grants-in-children-young-peoples-movement-and-balance-disorders>

#### **NIHR Public Health Research: Domestic violence against women and girls**

**Deadline (outline): 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026**

**Scope:** to fund research that will evaluate the effectiveness of community interventions that support female survivors and victims of domestic abuse in mitigating physical and mental health impacts.

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/domestic-violence-against-women-and-girls/2025450>

#### **NIHR Improving mobility and quality of life after stroke (HTA Programme)**

**Deadline (outline): 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** What is the clinical and cost-effectiveness of interventions to improve mobility on the quality of life of people who have had a stroke?

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/improving-mobility-and-quality-life-after-stroke/2025454?>

### **NIHR Public HSDR Programme: Improving access to, experience of, and outcomes from physical health services in prisons**

**Deadline: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** funding high-quality research studies that address key evidence gaps to improve access to, experience of, and outcomes from physical health services across the UK secure estate.

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/improving-access-experience-and-outcomes-physical-health-services-prisons/2025461?>

### **NIHR Public Health Research: Loneliness in the community**

**Deadline (outline): 18<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

**Scope:** to fund research that evaluates the health and health inequality impacts of community initiatives that aim to address loneliness at a population level.

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/loneliness-community/2025451>

## **Charity Research Grants**

### **Breast Cancer UK Career Development Awards**

**Deadline: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Scope:** Aimed at Early Career Researchers who wish to focus on their research on breast cancer prevention.

**Budget:** £200K

**More Info:** <https://www.breastcanceruk.org.uk/science/apply-for-a-grant/>

### **Solving Kids Cancer UK (SKC) BEACON2 2025**

**Deadline: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Scope:** Funding for pre-clinical/late-stage translational research of new drug combinations to treat relapsed neuroblastoma in children that will inform and underpin the development of future trial arms for BEACON2.

**Budget:** £250K

**More Info:** <https://www.solvingkidscancer.org.uk/our-research/research-funding/our-grant-calls/ beacon2-2025-rfa/>

### **Action Medical Research for Children Project Grant 2026**

**Deadline: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Scope:** child health to include problems affecting pregnancy, childbirth, babies, children and young people.

This call includes the opportunity to apply for co-funded awards for translational research.

**Budget:** £200-£250K

**More Info:** <https://action.org.uk/research/apply-research-grant/project-grant/project-grants-child-health-2026>

### **Wellcome Trust Genomics in Context Awards**

**Deadline: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** To support transdisciplinary teams at the intersection of genomics, humanities, social sciences and bioethics.

**Budget:** £500k, 12-24 months

**More Info:** <https://wellcome.org/research-funding/schemes/genomics-in-context-awards>

### **GOSH Charity National Research Programme Grants**

**Deadline:** 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Scope:** to create a step change in an area of rare or complex paediatric disease by providing long-term, high-value funding.

**Budget:** £500k-£2.5M, 5 yrs

**More Info:** <https://www.gosh.org/apply-for-funding/research/research-funding-schemes/gosh-charity-programme-grants/>

### **Diabetes UK Addressing Pre-Pregnancy Gestational Diabetes**

**Deadline:** 1st June 2026

**Scope:** Diabetes UK welcomes applications investigating feasibility of a randomised study of significant weight loss prior to pregnancy among women who experienced GDM in a previous pregnancy. The study will acquire pilot data on effectiveness to inform a subsequent large, randomised study.

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://www.diabetes.org.uk/our-research/for-researchers/applying-for-funding/funding-schemes/highlight-notice>

### **Diabetes UK Applying diabetes technology during the hospital pathway to improve care for people living with diabetes**

**Deadline:** 1st June 2026

**Scope:** Diabetes UK welcomes applications investigating how glucose sensor data and safety alerts/alarms can be made accessible to healthcare providers, investigating how people with diabetes and healthcare providers can benefit from using glucose sensors throughout the hospital journey, focussing on empowerment and greater preparedness for hospital admission, investigating the role of decision support tools using glucose and insulin data from within the electronic healthcare records, and also investigating how to apply diabetes related technologies to improve outcomes in preparation for, during and after surgery and within acute maternity care.

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://www.diabetes.org.uk/our-research/for-researchers/applying-for-funding/funding-schemes/highlight-notice>

### **Bowel Cancer UK Pilot Grants**

**Deadline:** Call opens 2026

**Scope:** Funding for research into removing barriers to early and timely diagnosis of bowel cancer.

**Budget:** £50k

**More Info:** [https://www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/research/information-for-researchers/apply-for-a-grant/?utm\\_source=research-university-offices&utm\\_medium=outlook-emails&utm\\_campaign=pilot-grants-call-2026-teaser](https://www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk/research/information-for-researchers/apply-for-a-grant/?utm_source=research-university-offices&utm_medium=outlook-emails&utm_campaign=pilot-grants-call-2026-teaser)

### **BHF Infrastructure Grants**

**Deadline:** preliminary applications accepted at any time

**Scope:** For the acquisitions of essential infrastructure to support cardiovascular research.

**Budget:** £1 million

**More Info:** <https://www.bhf.org.uk/for-professionals/information-for-researchers/what-we-fund/infrastructure-grants>

## **Fellowships/Lectureships**

### **Asthma+Lung UK Junior Fellowships**

**Deadline: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Scope:** Funding is available to support post-doctoral researchers to continue research after their PhD or equivalent (e.g. Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree) and allow them to, for example, generate further preliminary data, continue data analysis and/or finalise/secure publications (e.g. from PhD data).

**Budget:** 18 months, £100K

**More Info:** <https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/information-researchers/current-funding-opportunities/application-guidance-2026-grant-round>

**IBioIC Industrial PhD Programme****Deadline: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Scope:** Funding (50%) for innovative biotechnology PhD studentships, including a minimum three-month industrial placement.

**Budget:** 4 yrs, fees + stipend (50%)

**More Info:** <https://www.ibioic.com/funding-calls-database/ibioic-open-call-for-2022-funding-a58mx>

**DAERA Postgraduate Studentships****Deadline: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Scope:** PhD studentship, for residents of Northern Ireland (any nationality and any UK institution) on Climate change, Sustainable agri-food systems, One Health, Natural environment, Rural affairs.

**Budget:** 3 yrs, stipend

**More Info:** <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/daera-postgraduate-studentships>

**Autism Science Foundation Profound Autism Pilot Grant or Pre-doctoral Fellowship****Deadline: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** Funding over one year to support postdoctoral or pre-doctoral researchers conducting pilot studies to identify or characterise the underlying biological mechanisms of profound autism.

**Budget:** 1 yr, \$35K

**More Info:** <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/apply-for-a-profound-autism-pilot-grant/>

**MS Society Early Career Fellowship****Deadline: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** Early Career Fellowships are one of our Career Development Awards, aiming to attract and retain talented postdoctoral researchers who want to build a successful career in MS research. These grants provide a staged career structure and the opportunity for you to progress towards higher level appointments.

**Budget:** 4 yrs, £375k

**More Info:** <https://www.mssociety.org.uk/research/researchers/funding>

**Cancer Research UK Clinical Future Leaders Fellowship****Deadline (outline): 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** For a clinician who has already undertaken a period of postdoctoral research. All areas of the CRUK funding remit, including basic biological research, pre-clinical studies, imaging research, radiotherapy research, engineering and physical sciences applied to cancer, population research and early detection research

**Budget:** 7 yrs, £2.5M

**More Info:** <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/for-researchers/apply-for-and-manage-your-funding/our-funding-schemes/clinical-future-leaders-fellowship>

**Alzheimer's Research UK Research Fellowship****Deadline: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026**



**Scope:** The scheme is intended for PhD-qualified non-clinical researchers who have delivered previous research project(s) with impactful outputs, such as publications and conference presentations, and demonstrate an upward trajectory.

**Budget:** 3 yrs, salary + £20K/y

**More Info:** <https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/grants/research-fellowship/>

### **Alzheimer's Research UK Senior Research Fellowship**

**Deadline:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Scope:** Senior Research Fellowship is designed for PhD-qualified clinical or non-clinical researchers with a demonstrated track record of original and productive research (having had typically at least one previous post-doctoral appointment). It is meant to support researchers towards their transition to lead independent groups. Research question should be framed to understand/diagnose/treat/ reduce risk of Alzheimer's disease.

**Budget:** Up to 4yrs, up to £420K

**More Info:** <https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/grants/senior-research-fellowship/>

### **CSO Early Postdoctoral Fellowship**

**Deadline:** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Scope:** Funding for clinical and non – clinical health researchers to develop their research following successful completion of a PhD. Candidates should have less than 2 years research experience post PhD.

**Budget:** Salary + £30k research consumables, 3 years

**More Info:** <https://www.cso.scot.nhs.uk/fellowship-funding/early-postdoctoral-fellowship/>

### **Joint British Geriatrics Society / Vivensa Foundation Doctoral Training Fellowship**

**Deadline:** 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Scope:** Doctoral Training Fellowship to support front-line health professionals with an interest in developing a career in ageing-related research.

**Budget:** Up to £350K for salary, fees and consumables

**More Info:** <https://vivensafoundation.org.uk/apply-for-funding/>

### **Pre-announcement: Autism Science Foundation Pre/Postdoctoral Training Fellowships**

**Deadline:** November 2026 (call opens July 2026)

**Scope:** Training fellowships to support pre- and postdoctoral researchers undertaking scientific research training to develop basic and clinical research relevant to autism spectrum disorders.

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/apply-for-a-predoc-post-doc-fellowship/>

## **Other**

### **Engineering Biology Showcase**

**March/April 2026**

An event organised by the Centre of Engineering Biology at the University of Edinburgh to bring together researchers who may rarely interact, while showcasing engineering biology research from different Scottish institutions. This would showcase the breadth of expertise, facilities and training opportunities available in this critical emerging technology, within Scottish HEIs as well as within the wider biotechnology sector.

More information: get in touch with your [RDE](#)

### **BBSRC and MRC Survey on UK animal research facilities and resources**

**The survey closes 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026**



The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC) have launched a UK-wide survey to gather insights from the animal research community. This forms part of a major fact-finding initiative focused on the nation's animal research facilities and resources.

More information [here](#).

### **ResearchBites series: Introduction to Research Ethics**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 12-1pm, online**

This session will provide researchers with a general introduction to the topic of research ethics, including a discussion of the types of research activity that require ethical approval. The rationale behind research ethics and its implementation in the context of research integrity will also be discussed, and researchers will also be provided with a general overview of the research ethics approval processes within the University. There will be a Q&A session at the end of the presentation.

Book your place [here](#).

### **ResearchBites series: Introduction to Worktribe Ethics**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 12-1pm, online**

This session will provide researchers with an overview of the Worktribe Ethics application process, including the responsibilities of the student applicant's Supervisor. The session will also provide an opportunity to discuss the associated question sets within the application process so that applicants will have a clearer understanding of the expectations of the Ethics Boards/Committees. There will be opportunities for Q&A throughout the session.

Book your place [here](#).

### **Horizon Europe Reapply Masterclass 2026**

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 9.30-16.30, Edinburgh**

**Scope:** Join this workshop aimed at supporting those who have unsuccessfully applied for Horizon funding.

More info and registration [here](#).

### **Higher Education for Sustainable Societies Community**

The Higher Education for Sustainable Societies Community is an online forum for all staff at ACU member universities who are directly working on sustainable development issues and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within their universities, local community and globally. This community provides a dedicated online space where insights, knowledge and resources can be shared directly between university staff to support personal and professional development and inform institutional practice.

For more information and how to join click [here](#).

### **Leverhulme Trust Outline Project Grant Applications: February 2026 deadline, ahead of system change**

The Leverhulme Research Project Grants scheme normally does not have a set outline application deadline. However, the Trust will move to a new Grants Management System as the current system will no longer be supported after December 2026. Applications in progress cannot be transferred to the new system.

Therefore, **outline applications must be submitted by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**. There will then be a pause until September 2026, when new outline applications will be accepted in the new system.

For applicants who have been or will be invited to submit a Detailed Application, the deadlines will be closer and you will have less time to develop and submit your detailed application.

More information can be found here: <https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/news/RPG2026>

### **MRC fellowships to attract global research talent**

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is funding up to an additional £8.5 million to expand our 'early independence' Career Development Award (CDA) and Clinical Scientist Fellowship (CSF) schemes. As part of this investment, from January 2026 CDA and CSF awardees relocating to the UK can request support for visa costs for themselves and now their dependent family members. This additional investment will also enable four or five additional talented early career researchers to start their independent research careers in the UK.

More info [here](#).

### **IBiolC26 - BioSolutions for Tomorrow's World**

**10th and 11th March 2026, Glasgow**

The Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBiolC) holds its 12th Annual Conference in Glasgow on 10 and 11 March 2026 in partnership with the BioBased and Biodegradable Industries Association (BBIA).

More information [here](#).