



SMMSN

Funding Update

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

SPOTLIGHT

Academy of Medical Sciences Springboard Grants Round 12

Internal Selection Deadline: 6th April 2026

Deadline: 3rd June 2026

Scope: Support for biomedical researchers at the start of their first independent post to help launch their research careers. 4 applications may be submitted per institution.

Budget: £125k, 2 years

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be in their first independent salaried position and within 5 years (FTE) of this appointment
- Applicants must have sufficient time remaining in their current post to complete the Springboard project
- Applicants must not hold a clinical contract or be in receipt of research funding as PI or Co-I exceeding £150,000 for the two year Springboard award
- Applicants are ineligible if they hold the following fellowships/awards: CRUK Career Development Fellowship, CRUK Career Establishment Award, MRC Career Development Award, MRC New Investigator Award, The Royal Society University Research Fellowship, UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship, Wellcome Trust Royal Society Sir Henry Dale Fellowship, Wellcome Trust Seed Award

Internal Selection Process: please complete and submit the proforma attached to grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk by **6th April 2026**. Applicants will be notified of the result of the Internal selection process by **24th April 2026**.

Further Information: <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/grants-and-schemes/grant-schemes/springboard>

Horizon Europe Pillar II funding opportunities

We would like to encourage all researchers to explore the 2026/27 Horizon Europe Pillar II calls and consider applying. Pillar II funds collaborative research projects that address major societal and scientific challenges, bringing together academic teams with partners across Europe (and often beyond).

Look out for calls in the following Clusters:

- Cluster 1: Health
- Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society
- Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space
- Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

If you consider applying or have any questions, please email grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk

If you want to know more, join the [ResearchBites session “EU Pathway – Pillar II and Consortium Grants Explained”](#) on Thursday 19 March, 12.00-13.00, online.

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 programs.

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

Wellcome Trust Climate Impacts Awards: Unlocking urgent climate action by making the health effects of climate change visible

Deadline: Wednesday 8th April 2026

Scope: Funding for transdisciplinary proposals that generate or synthesise context-specific evidence on significant health issues arising from climate impacts. The Trust are also looking for proposals that account for the economic consequences of the health impacts of climate change at various levels. Projects must use this research to advance narratives and support the development of policy solutions that can be scaled to multiple settings. Priority will be given to research that meaningfully involves and serves communities most affected by the health impacts of climate change.

Budget: <£2.5m, 3 years

More info: <https://wellcome.org/research-funding/schemes/climate-impacts-awards-unlocking-urgent-climate-action-making-health-2>

If interested in applying please contact grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk. The Grants Academy and Interdisciplinary Institute may convene a funding insight session or sandpit to connect potential collaborators and explore ideas.

Programme/Centre/Strategic Grants

NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research

Deadline: 1st April 2026

Scope: for research proposals to develop individual programmes of applied health research.

Budget:

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/programme-grants-applied-research-february-2026/2026349-2026350-2026351?>

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

Internal Triage For 2026/2027 Strategic UKRI Capital Equipment Calls

Deadline (Expression of Interest): 1st May 2026

Deadline (Submission of Business Case): 1st September 2026

Scope: UKRI, via the Research Councils, issues annual calls for major equipment to support strategically significant research. Although the announcement for the 2026/2027 round has not yet been released, the information in the link provides indicative guidance on the forthcoming mid-range equipment calls from the relevant UKRI councils (MRC, BBSRC, EPSRC and NERC). Large capital bids require early planning to enable strong evidence of cross-institutional demand, institutional alignment, and planning for long-term sustainability. In order to maximise the use of the equipment, discussions between relevant School should take place at an early stage.

The internal triage process is structured into two key stages: Expression of Interest (EoI) and if successful Business Case Development.

To apply: Please contact Dr Sabine Freitag via grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk to request the EoI proforma, which must be returned no later than 5pm on 1 May 2026.

More Info: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/research/support/funding-opportunities/managed-calls/#panel33071>

Research Grants

Roullier Endowment Fund Research Projects on the theme of soil

Deadline (outline): 6th April 2026

Scope: Grants to support research projects concerning sustainable and efficient agriculture, with a particular focus on improving the quality of agricultural soils.

Budget: €400K

More Info: <https://www.fondsdedotationroullier.org/en/call-for-projects/>

Innovate UK Contracts for Innovation: Industrial Human Relevant Drug Models - Phase 1 Competition

Deadline: 15th April 2026

Scope: to undertake phase 1 feasibility projects to develop innovative alternatives to pharmacokinetic and cardiac safety studies for use in drug development, with the majority of work carried out in the UK

Budget: £200K

More Info: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/2396/overview/d55398bb-ff62-43b9-9ee1-bf3fa4b95c5c>

NIHR Public Health Research: Domestic violence against women and girls

Deadline (outline): 21st 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): 6th 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?>

Innovate UK Advancing Innovation in Drug and Alcohol Addiction Healthcare Competitions

Deadline: 6th May 2026

Scope: to develop and advance pharmaceutical, MedTech and digital interventions addressing drug and alcohol addiction healthcare.

Budget: £7M

More Info: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/2394/overview/33b56af8-353f-46ac-bb66->

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

Deadline: 14th 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 HSDR Programme: Researchers-led

Deadline (outline): 14th May 2026

Scope: to fund high quality, well designed research to provide findings which meet the needs of NHS and social care managers and leaders.

Budget: -

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/hsdr-researcher-led/2026393?>

NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling funding opportunity (HSDR Programme)

Deadline (outline): 14th May 2026

Scope: In this funding opportunity we are looking to receive applications for research studies addressing JLA PSPs' research priorities, rather than to conduct a PSP itself. One of the themes would be how palliative and end of life care can better meet the needs of people living with dementia and those close to them.

Budget: -

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/nihr-james-lind-alliance-priority-setting-partnerships-rolling-funding-opportunity-hsdr-programme/2026395>

NIHR Evidence Synthesis Programme (ESP): Researcher-Led – Evidence Synthesis

Deadline: 18th May 2026

Scope: We invite applications for standalone evidence syntheses that address the UK's most pressing health and social care challenges.

Budget: -

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/evidence-synthesis-programme-esp-researcher-led-evidence-synthesis/2026361>

BHF 2026 International Cardiovascular Research Partnership Awards (ICRPA)

Deadline: 27th May 2026

Scope: The awards aim to support ambitious, high-quality projects and foster international cooperation between mid-career investigators (having 8-15 years research experience post-PhD). The scope of the scheme covers innovative research that contributes to improved clinical diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of cardiovascular disease, with strong encouragement for multidisciplinary approaches.

Each project must be co-led by at least 3 independent mid-career Principal Investigators (PIs), each based in one of the five participating countries: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Budget: £500k

More Info: <https://www.bhf.org.uk/for-professionals/information-for-researchers/what-we-fund/partnership-funding/icrpa>

Pre-announcement: NIHR Global Health Research calls

Calls to open April 2026

Scope: New funding calls will open in April 2026 and will focus on the most pressing health problems in the poorest countries. Also in April 2026, the NIHR will resume 2 personal award schemes to support the next generation of global health research leaders.

More info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/nihr-announces-global-health-research-calls-2026?>

CSO Response Mode Grants

Deadline: 26th June 2026 (outline application)

Scope: Funding over a maximum of three years to support research aimed at improving treatments for conditions of clinical importance to the population of Scotland and improving the quality of healthcare within Scotland.

Budget: £350k

More Info: <https://www.cso.scot.nhs.uk/grant-funding/response-mode-funding-schemes/>

NIHR Public Health Research: Loneliness in the community

Deadline (outline): 18th 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

Wellbeing of Women-Scottish Government Women's Health Fund Research Project Grant

Deadline: 22nd April 2026

Scope: research in women's menstrual and gynaecological health, menopause, pelvic floor health, and healthy ageing.

Budget: £350K, 3 yrs

More Info: <https://www.wellbeingofwomen.org.uk/what-we-do/research/for-researchers/funding-opportunities/wellbeing-of-women-scottish-government-research-project-grants-scottish-womens-health-researchfund/>

FARA Blood-Based Biomarkers for Friedrich's Ataxia RFP

Deadline: 1st May 2026

Scope: Funding for projects to identify and validate blood-based protein biomarkers to accelerate the development and regulatory approval of new therapeutics for Friedrich's ataxia (FA).

Budget: \$500K

More Info: <https://www.curefa.org/research/grant-program/grant-type/#proposals>

Breakthrough T1D Strategic Research Agreements

Deadline: 7th May 2026

Scope: For research projects investigating the causes and potential treatments for all forms of inherited retinal disease. We are particularly keen to receive proposals with demonstrable translational potential. Applicants should note that only projects that are clearly focused on our charitable objectives will be considered.

Budget:

More Info: <https://www.breakthrough1d.org/explore-research/funding-opportunities/>

Cystic Fibrosis Trust Strategic Research Centres

Deadline: 11th May 2026

Scope: Strategic Research Centres (SRCs) are designed to be virtual groups of interdisciplinary experts coming together to work on projects that are important to people with CF. An SRC application must have at least three but may include up to six related workstreams that share a well-defined theme and overall objective.

Budget: £700K-£800K, 3-4 yrs

More Info: <https://www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk/research/support-for-researchers/apply-for-funding/strategic-research-centre-programme>

Leukaemia & Myeloma Research UK: Research Grants for ECRs

Deadline: 31st May 2026

Scope: For ECR's, within within 3 years of their first independent (salaried) role; to advance understanding of stem cells and how they can be used to treat blood cancer patients, particularly through stem cell transplants.

Budget:

More Info: <https://lmruk.org/research/>

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-notices>

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-notices>

BCRT Research project Ewing sarcoma restricted

Deadline: 1st June 2026

Scope: to support projects focused on improving outcomes for Ewing sarcoma patients.

Budget: Up to £250K

More Info: <https://www.bcrf.org.uk/research/for-researchers/>

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

MRC Professional Doctorate and Capacity Building Clinical Research Training Fellowships

Deadline: 8th April 2026

Scope: Fellowship awards for clinical researchers at pre-doctoral or entry level seeking to undertake two, three or four year projects, leading to a PhD or other higher degree, as well as capacity building awards for applicants seeking to reacquire research skills.

Budget:

More Info: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/capacity-building-clinical-research-training-fellowship/>

AACR-Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance Invasive Lobular Carcinoma Research Fellowship

Deadline: 9th April 2026

Scope: to support and encourage innovative research projects with direct applicability and relevance to ILC and to help investigators establish a successful career path in the field.

Budget: \$130K, 2 yrs

More Info: <https://www.aacr.org/grants/aacr-lbca-invasive-lobular-carcinoma-research-fellowship/>

AACR-AstraZeneca Career Development Award for Physician-Scientists

Deadline (LoI): 14th April 2026

Scope: to encourage and support early-career physician-scientists to conduct research and bolster the development of innovative targeted therapeutics.

Budget: \$300K, 3 yrs

More Info: <https://www.aacr.org/grants/aacr-astrazeneca-career-development-award-physician-scientists-jose-baselga/>

MRC Early Independence: career development fellowship

Deadline: 21st April 2026

Scope: The MRC fellowship will support talented researchers who have gained a higher research degree and have evidence of career consolidation and productivity across past appointments to lead their own research plans to establish their own research niche, start to build their own research team and make the first step-change towards independence

Budget: <5 years

More Info: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/early-independence-career-development-fellowship/>

Early Independence BBSRC Fellowship: outline

Deadline: 22nd April 2026

Scope: The BBSRC fellowship will provide support for researchers wishing to undertake independent research and gain leadership skills. The scheme will support the transition of early-stage researchers to fully independent research leaders.

Budget: 3 years

More Info: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/early-independence-bbsrc-fellowships-outline/>

Bone Cancer Research Trust Early Career Fellowship

Deadline: 29th April 2026

Scope: a personal award which will enable a talented primary bone cancer researcher to transition from a postdoctoral position as part of a research group to an independent principal investigator.

Budget: 5yrs, £650K

More Info: <https://www.bcrct.org.uk/research/for-researchers/>

RNID Fellowship Scheme

Deadline: 30th April 2026

Scope: ECR's with no permanent position; hearing disorder and tinnitus research

Budget: 3u yrs, £650K

More Info: <https://www.bcrct.org.uk/research/for-researchers/>

NIHR SSCR Post Doctoral Research Fellowships

Deadline: 8th May 2026

Scope: postdoctoral fellowship in Social Care Research

Budget: 2yrs, £200K

More Info: <https://sscr.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/social-care-research-career-opportunities/post-doctoral-fellowships/>

The Eve Appeal and North West Cancer Research Fellowship

Deadline: 13th May 2026

Scope: fellowship to lead cutting-edge research in gynaecological cancer; up to 4 years post PhD

Budget: 3yrs, £120K/y

More Info: <https://eveappeal.org.uk/research/open-calls/>

Friends of Anchor Transition to Independence Fellowship

Deadline: June 2026

Scope: An exceptional opportunity for researchers in the field of oncology or haematology aiming to establish an independent career. Applicants must have 3+ years of postdoctoral experience and have a proven, outstanding research record.

Budget: Salary + £30k, 18 months

More Info: Please contact your RDE for full call details and application form

Parkinson's UK Senior Research Fellowship

Deadline (preproposal): 1st July 2026

Deadline (full application): 7th October 2026

Virtual Workshop: Thursday 19th March 2026 at 10.00am-11.30am

Scope: Funding for researchers who want to specialise in Parkinson's research by establishing their own independent research group.

Budget: £300k, 3 years

More Info: <https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/research/funding-grants/senior-research-fellowships>

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

What is the state of mis- and disinformation in Scotland?

Tuesday 24th March, 10–11am (coffee and networking 11–11:30am), Interdisciplinary Lounge in Crombie Halls

Funded by the Scottish Council on Global Affairs, five researchers from the Department of Politics and International Relations are mapping the rise of mis- and disinformation across Scotland, from far-right claims on migration to climate denial to vaccine scepticism. Now we're looking to connect with experts across the University. We are seeking researchers (staff or PhD students) whose work touches on any aspect of mis/disinformation to join us for a workshop on Tuesday 24th March. Learn more here.

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](#)

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](#).

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](#).

SPRE Policy Engagement Essentials Workshop

Wednesday 11th March from 13.00-15.30, online

The Scottish Policy Research Exchange (SPRE) will be hosting a Policy Essentials online training workshop on Wednesday 11th March from 1-3.30pm. This session will focus on

how, when, and why to engage with the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament with research evidence and expertise.

To attend, please register [here](#).

Horizon Europe Pillar II: Professor Marcel Jaspars will share his journey toward winning a European Network Grant

Thursday 19th March, 12.00-13.00, online

Join us for a ResearchBites session on Horizon Europe Pillar II – Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness. Pillar II funds collaborative research projects that address major societal and scientific challenges, bringing together academic teams with partners across Europe (and often beyond). There are plenty of opportunities across 2026/27 in all fields. In this session, Professor Marcel Jaspars, drawing on his extensive background in applying for EU funding, will discuss his journey toward winning a European Network Grant.

Register here: [ResearchBites session “EU Pathway – Pillar II and Consortium Grants Explained”](#)

Webinar: Embedding public partnerships in MRC funding applications

24th March, 14.00-15.00, online

The MRC organizes this webinar to encourage its research community to consider how public partnerships can inform and improve research and be of mutual benefit.

More information and registration [here](#).