



SMMSN

Funding Update

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

SPOTLIGHT

Apply to observe a Wellcome funding advisory committee

Deadline: 11th May 2026

The Wellcome Trust is offering the opportunity for researchers, planning to apply for Wellcome funding within two years, to observe a real funding advisory committee meeting and see how applications are assessed. Observers attend a half-day online session to understand assessment criteria and decision-making, helping them prepare stronger future applications.

Further information: <https://wellcome.org/research-funding/guidance/prepare-to-apply/apply-observe-Wellcome-funding-advisory-committee>

NIHR Call Sandpit

The Interdisciplinary Institute, in collaboration with the Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaborative (HDRC), is gauging interest in organising a sandpit-style event for University colleagues, Aberdeen City Council officers, and relevant third sector organisations interested in applying for the [Active travel facilitators and barriers within different populations | NIHR](#) and [Housing, place and the built environment for an ageing population | NIHR](#). The sandpit is intended to explore shared priorities and potential collaborative approaches to either (or both) calls.

If you are considering engaging with either call, please email interdisciplinary@abdn.ac.uk to indicate which calls you are interested in and any initial thoughts on how your expertise could contribute.

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

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>

Programme/Centre/Strategic Grants

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

Innovate UK Frontier AI Discovery

Note of Interest to Research Development Team Contact: 5pm, 6th May 2026

Closing Date: 11am, 10th June 2026

Scope: Funding to advance the development of frontier Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and foundation models in the UK. Your proposal must fall within one or more of the following themes: AI-Enabled Health & Life Sciences; Advanced Materials with AI; Secure AI for National Security & Defence; Fundamental AI.

Successful Phase 1 projects will be invited to submit full proposals for collaborative R&D projects with project costs from £5 million to £10 million per project and duration of 24 to 32 months.

Funding for Phase 2 is subject to Innovate UK Business Case approvals.

An organisation can only lead on one application. If you are interested in this call, please advise your Research Development Team Contact by **5pm on 6th May 2026** as an internal triage might be required.

Budget: Phase 1 (£25-50k), Phase 2 (£5-10M)

More Info: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/2422/overview/a5c16dd4-c60d-4cc1-8035-33fe76a52489#summary>

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>

Wellcome Trust Infectious Disease Clinical Trial Award: Optimising Interventions for Impact

Deadline: 2nd June 2026

Scope: This call funds full-scale randomised controlled trials. The scheme aims to generate high-quality evidence capable of driving changes to policy, practice and clinical guidelines. A lead applicant and at least one coapplicant needs to be based at an organisation in Africa, South Asia or South-East Asia

Budget: 3-5 yrs, £1M-£8M

More Info: <https://wellcome.org/research-funding/schemes/infectious-disease-clinical-trial-development-award>

UKDI (formerly DASA) Blood on demand

Deadline: 2nd June 2026

Scope: proposals that develop technology to reduce the logistical burden associated with collecting, testing and administering blood in a deployed setting.

Budget: Up to 24 months, £500K-£700K

More Info: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/blood-on-demand-ukdi-seeks-innovations-for-blood-testing-in-the-field>

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?>

NIHR BMBR Programme researcher-led

Deadline: 23th June 2026

Webinar: 6th May 2026

Scope: for a methodological sub-study, which can help significantly improve methodology of future research as well as the host study. Sub-studies can also support the decarbonisation of research.

Budget:

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/bmbr-programme-researcher-led/2026406?>

BBSRC 2026 to 2027 strategic Longer and Larger (sLoLa) outlines

Deadline (outline): 26th June 2026

Deadline (full application): 9th February 2027

Webinar: 30th April 12.00pm

Scope: Funding to undertake large team-based curiosity-driven bioscience discovery research projects. Projects should demonstrate the potential for major breakthroughs in our fundamental understanding of living systems, a fully integrated team science approach, the need for longer and larger scale funding and enhancing the capability and capacity of UK biosciences

Budget: >£2M

More Info: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/2026-to-2027-strategic-longer-and-larger-slola-outlines/>

NIHR BMBR Develop guidance for better research methods

Deadline: 23rd June 2026

Scope: to fund research into developing guidance on biomedical and health and social care research methodologies.

Budget:

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/develop-guidance-better-research-methods/2026414>

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 Research for Patient Benefit

Deadline (outline): 8th July 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-march-2026/2026352-2026353-2026354?>

NIHR HSDR - Researcher-led

Deadline (outline): 8th July 2026

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

Budget: -

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/hsdr-researcher-led/2026412?>

NIHR NICE rolling funding opportunity

Deadline (outline): 8th July 2026

Scope: to meet recommendations in research identified in NICE guidance which has been published or updated within the last 5 years.

Budget: -

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/nih-nice-rolling-funding-opportunity/2026413?>

NIHR HTA: Early intervention programmes for infants with an increased chance of neurodisability

Deadline (outline): 15th July 2026

Scope: to fund research about early intervention programmes for infants with an increased chance of neurodisability.

Budget:

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/early-intervention-programmes-infants-increased-chance-neurodisability/2026382>

NIHR HTA: Target trial emulation: utilising routine data to answer key health and care questions

Deadline (outline): 15th July 2026

Scope: to fund target trial emulation studies.

Budget:

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/target-trial-emulation-utilising-routine-data-answer-key-health-and-care-questions/2026384>

NIHR HTA: Transabdominal ultrasound surveillance for gallbladder cancer in patients with gallbladder polyps

Deadline (outline): 15th July 2026

Scope: to fund research about transabdominal ultrasound surveillance for gallbladder cancer in patients with gallbladder polyps.

Budget:

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/transabdominal-ultrasound-surveillance-gallbladder-cancer-patients-gallbladder-polyps/2026405>

NIHR HTA: What is the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of specialist palliative care support in care home settings?

Deadline (outline): 15th July 2026

Scope: to fund research about specialist palliative care support in care home settings.

Budget:

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/what-effectiveness-and-cost-effectiveness-specialist-palliative-care-support-care-home-settings/2026381>

UKRI Video games and gambling-related harms

Deadline: 23rd July 2026

Scope: Apply for funding to improve understanding of the relationship between gambling and video games and produce insights to inform policy and regulation, support interventions, and promote safe and responsible video games.

Budget: £1M, 3 years

More Info: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/video-games-and-gambling-related-harms/>

NIHR EME Programme researcher-led

Deadline (outline): 5th August 2026

Webinar: 11th May 2026

Scope: The Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme is accepting outline applications to its researcher-led workstream. The funding opportunity is open to all relevant research areas, but there are also several highlight notices open.

Budget: -

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/eme-programme-researcher-led/2026407>

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>

NIHR Public Health Research: Women in the armed forces

Deadline: 18th August 2026

Webinar: 9th June 2026

Scope: the evidence base relating to which interventions exist for servicewomen and female veterans in the UK, how they operate, and what impact they have is still emerging, and could benefit from further underpinning development work before full studies are undertaken.

Budget: £50K-£150K, 6-12 months

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/phr-development-awards-women-armed-forces/2026376>

NIHR Public Health Research: Women's health communication

Deadline: 18th August 2026

Webinar: 9th June 2026

Scope: to fund research into how effective public health messaging is in improving the health of, and reducing health inequalities experienced by women and girls.

Budget:

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/womens-health-communication/2026379>

NIHR Public Health Research: School readiness and the home learning environment

Deadline: 18th August 2026

Scope: to fund research into the effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness, of interventions seeking to improve the home learning environment and school readiness for children in the UK.

Budget: -

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/school-readiness-and-home-learning-environment/2026378>

NIHR Public Health Research: Active travel facilitators and barriers within different populations

Deadline (outline): 18th August 2026

Scope: fund research into the health and health inequality impacts of interventions that affect active travel behaviours at a population level. Potential to partner will Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaborative (AHDRC)

Budget: -

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/active-travel-facilitators-and-barriers-within-different-populations/2026377>

***The Interdisciplinary Institute are gauging in interest in these calls to organise a sandpit-style event with University colleagues. If you would be interesting in applying please email interdisciplinary@abdn.ac.uk ***

NIHR Public Health Research: Housing, place and the built environment for an ageing population

Deadline (outline): 8th December 2026

Scope: funds research into how housing and the physical and social aspects of place affect the health and health inequalities experienced by older people, including mental health. Potential to partner will Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaborative (AHDRC)

Budget: -

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/housing-place-and-built-environment-ageing-population>

***The Interdisciplinary Institute are gauging in interest in these calls to organise a sandpit-style event with University colleagues. If you would be interesting in applying please email interdisciplinary@abdn.ac.uk ***

Charity Research Grants

Children with Cancer UK: Research Grant Call

Deadline: 28th May 2026

Scope: 2026 grant for UK-based researchers tackling childhood cancer through discovery, detection, treatment, or impact-focused projects.

Budget: £350K

More Info: <https://www.childrenwithcancer.org.uk/funding-opportunities/2026-research-grant-call/>

Leukaemia & Myeloma Research UK: Research Grants for ECRs

Deadline: 31st May 2026

Scope: For ECR's, 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.bcrct.org.uk/research/for-researchers/>

Arthritis UK Living Well 2026

Deadline: 24th June 2026

Scope: For applied health and social care research that aims to develop innovative ways to help people live well after arthritis diagnosis or treatment, while addressing health inequalities.

Budget: £400K-£1M, 36 months

More Info: <https://www.arthritis-uk.org/research-professionals/research-opportunities-and-funding/open-and-future-funding-calls/living-well-2026/>

The Michael J. Fox Foundation Immune Profiling Insights Program

Deadline: 29th June 2026

Scope: for research that deepens understanding of how specific components of the immune system contribute to Parkinson's disease risk, onset and progression.

Budget: 6-24 months, \$3M total available

More Info: <https://www.michaeljfox.org/grant/immune-profiling-insights-program>

Sarcoma UK Improving Understanding and Treatment of Metastatic Sarcoma Research Call

Deadline: 2nd July 2026

Scope: to support research that advances understanding of the biological mechanisms underpinning metastatic sarcoma and translates this knowledge towards improved therapeutic strategies and patient outcomes.

Budget: £100K-£200K

More Info: <https://sarcoma.org.uk/our-research/apply-for-research-funding/improving-understanding-and-treatment-of-metastatic-sarcoma/>

Carnegie Masters Grant

Deadline: 31st July 2026

Scope: The scheme is designed for students who are ordinarily resident in Scotland, live in low-income households, have applied for, or secured, a place on an eligible taught master's course beginning in 2026/27

Please alert relevant students to this opportunity.

Budget: A Carnegie Masters Grant will provide a contribution towards the cost of Home-rate tuition fees for Master's programmes up to a maximum of £10,000 (full-time) or £5,000 per year (part-time).

More Info: [Carnegie Education Fund website.](https://www.carnegie.org.uk/)

Radala Foundation Research Grants in ALS

Deadline: 30th September 2026

Scope: For a potentially ground-breaking, high-risk project in basic research in ALS

Budget: 2 yrs, CHF 200K

More Info: <https://radala-foundation.com/index.html>

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

Mental Health Research UK PhD Competition 2027

Deadline: 29th May 2026

Scope: MHRUK is offering four scholarships for the 2026/27 application, on specific themes within mental health. This call is supervisor-led.

Budget: fees + stipend

More Info: <https://www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org.uk/research.html>

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>

NIHR Global Advanced Fellowship

Deadline: 30th June 2026

Scope: early to mid-career Global Health researchers, clinical and non-clinical

Budget: £750K, 2-5 yrs

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/global-advanced-fellowship-cohort-2/2026411>

NIHR Global Health Research Professorships

Deadline: 30th June 2026

Scope: professorial level (less than 5 years), clinical and non-clinical; focus on addressing global health security threats and challenges, improving the ability of health systems to protect the health of the poorest and most vulnerable in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia

Budget: 5 yrs, up to £2M

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/global-health-research-professorships-cohort-9/2026423>

Royal Society Wolfson Fellowship

Deadline: 1st July 2026

Scope: Funding to enable UK universities and research institutions to strategically recruit and attract outstanding emerging or established international research leaders to the UK from overseas by offering long-term support and flexible funding to conduct high-quality research.

The aim is to strengthen research and help build a critical mass of excellence in the UK's best university departments and research institutions in fields considered to be strategically important by the institution

Budget: £300k

More Info: <https://royalsociety.org/grants/royal-society-wolfson-fellowship/>

Medical Research Foundation Fellowship in Antimicrobial Resistance research

Deadline: 2nd July 2026

Scope: For early or mid-career researchers in the field of Antimicrobial Resistance research; All areas of research relevant to Antimicrobial Resistance will be considered.

Budget: Salary + research costs

More Info: <https://www.medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk/grants/antimicrobial-resistance-research>

Action Medical Research Research Training Fellowships

Deadline outline: 7th July 2026

Scope: For early career health professionals with some research experience, e.g. through a master's degree; on child health

Budget: 2-3 yrs, £300K

More Info: <https://action.org.uk/research/apply-research-grant/apply-research-training-fellowship>

NIHR Population Health Career Scientist Award (Round 6)

Deadline: 9th July 2026

Scope: in population health from a wide range of disciplines, to enable senior researchers to make the next step to reader/professor level in their host institutions.

Budget: 5 yrs, salary + expenses

More Info: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/population-health-career-scientist-award-round-6/2026416>

RNID PhD Studentships

Deadline: 15th July 2026

Scope: Studentship for hearing, deafness and tinnitus research in the UK

Budget: 3 yrs, £100K

More Info: <https://actiononhearingloss.org.uk/hearing-research/im-a-researcher-looking-for-funding/phd-studentships/>

European Commission MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Deadline: 9th September 2026 (please get in touch with the EU team as soon as possible to assess whether the candidate is suitable: europe-rg@abdn.ac.uk)

Scope: For postdocs coming to the UK with an exceptional track record, any discipline; Up to 8 years post PhD.

Budget:

More Info: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/postdoctoral-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

International Brain Health Conference 2026 Edinburgh

Deadline: 1st May 2026

Date: 18th –19th May 2026 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh

ONE Life Sciences is pleased to be a partner of the [International Brain Health Conference 2026](#). ONE Life Sciences has a limited number of conference places available for **researchers, clinicians and company leaders**.

You can apply for a place by completing this short application [Application to Attend the International Brain Health Conference 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Engineering Biology Showcase Research Community Meeting

Date: Thursday 7th May 2026, 10am – 5.30pm (Registration 9.30am, Drinks/networking: 5.30pm)

Larch Lecture Theatre, The Nucleus Building, The University of Edinburgh

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.

For more information and registration: <https://ScotEngBioCommunity.eventbrite.co.uk>

Royal Society reviewer rewards

Reviewers play a critical role in ensuring the quality and integrity of published research. By reviewing for a Royal Society journal you are actively participating in the research community. When you review an article in a Royal Society journal, you will be eligible for a discount token (equivalent to £200/\$254/€233) towards the [Article Processing Charge \(APC\)](#) for publishing in our fully open access journals. A referee token will be available for each paper reviewed (review of original paper and revised paper counts as one review) subject to providing a satisfactory review and to terms and conditions (see below). Tokens can be 'stacked' for a bigger discount and combined with tokens from co-authors.

For more information: <https://royalsociety.org/journals/reviewers/>

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](#).

Upcoming ResearchBites sessions

ResearchBites Series: Introduction to Impact	13/05/2026
ResearchBites Series: Embedding Research Impact in Grant Proposals	20/05/2026
ResearchBites series: Copyright and IP	27/05/2026