RSTMH Early Career Grants Programme – Guidance for applicants

This guidance is written for those considering making an application to RSTMH's Early Career Grants Programme. It explains in detail each part of the application form which needs completing when applying for the grant. We are also planning to deliver a training webinar on the 24th February, for those considering applying for an Early Career Grant. If you would like to find out more and register for this event please go here.

Purpose of Early Career Grants

The Early Career Grants Programme offers early career researchers, and global health professionals, based anywhere in the world the opportunity to apply for funding to carry out a project on a topic related to tropical medicine and global health. The programme funds projects across the research spectrum, including lab-based, clinical, implementation and policy-related research, either as stand-alone projects or distinct elements within a larger project. They are for those who have not received a research grant in their own name before. It is open to those working in all sectors including academia, healthcare, NGOs and companies.

RSTMH anticipate that most applicants will be at the start of their careers, though we recognise that some more experienced professionals may be new to research and will still be eligible to apply for a grant.

The aim of the programme is to develop the skills, experience and careers of the next generation of global health researchers and professionals by providing this first opportunity to test out their ideas and hypotheses. We hope that many of them will be able to publish and present their findings, improve their networks and skills, secure follow up grants or move to an improved role in their careers.

Grants are awarded for up to £5,000, including any relevant tax on purchases, and the project should take up to 1 year in duration.

Thematic priorities

Applications can be on any area of tropical medicine or global health. RSTMH's thematic priorities in its current strategy, plus other areas of health that are less well known are encouraged. These are listed below:

- Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), with a particular focus on their overlap with Non-Communicable Diseases and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Malaria, with a particular focus on drug resistance
- One Health and wider planetary health. The consideration of human health alongside animal health and the environment, in the context of social, economic and political factors
- Topical issues including, but not limited to, emerging diseases

- Drug resistant infections
- Snakebite
- Mycetoma and other skin NTDs
- Co-morbidity and NCDs
- Coronavirus
- Climate change

Online application system

All applications must be submitted via the Submittable grants management system and in English. Submittable is used for the submission and review of all grant applications. Please follow the instructions carefully to complete and submit an application. The application can be stored and edited at any time prior to submission.

The application deadline is **5pm BST on Friday 29th April 2022** No applications will be accepted after the deadline. Applicants should allow enough time for submission of their application and of the 2 required references before the deadline.

Requests for references are not sent to referees until the applicant has submitted their application. Referees are sent reference requests and instructions directly from Submittable. **Applicants are responsible for ensuring their referees submit references directly to Submittable before the closing date,** and follow the Early Career Grant conditions. Applications without two complete references submitted by the deadline date will not be considered.

If you have any technical problems with filling out your application form, please email support@submittable.com

If you have a question about the scope and content of your proposal, please email Shrija.koiri@rstmh.org

Application form

The application form asks for personal information as well as information about your project. Please find below key questions from the application form.

Personal email address

This email address will be used for all communications relating to your application and if successful, an Early Career Grant. This should be the same email address you used to set up your Submittable account, and should be valid up to July 2024 for ongoing communications from RSTMH.

Please explain how you consider yourself to meet the profile of an early career researcher

This programme is aimed at early career researchers and professionals, who have not conducted their own research before. We expect applicants to have not received research funding in their own name before, and be able to:

- Carry out research under supervision
- Have the ambition to develop knowledge of research methodologies and discipline
- Have demonstrated a good understanding of a field of study
- Have demonstrated the ability to produce data under supervision
- Be capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas
- Be able to explain the outcome of research and its value to colleagues

Project Information

Title of the project for which you seek an Early Career Grant

A maximum of 20 words and it should be clear, descriptive and concise.

Please state the disease area or main health area your project is addressing

This is important for us to be able to match your project with one of our experienced Global Assessors for review.

Description of your project, in simple non-technical language

Please provide a summary of your project that would be understandable by people who may not be familiar with your subject. The description should be in plain English using non-technical language and avoiding unexplained acronyms and/or abbreviations. We may edit your summary and then use it to describe your project on our website and elsewhere. Maximum 100 words.

Project start date

The project should start between September and December 2022.

Project end date

The project should be completed within a year of it starting.

How much if your research project in in a laboratory?

Please explain how much of your research is carried out in a laboratory – by selecting none, some, most or all

Detailed project statement

Describe your project answering the headings below:

- Project background, context and needs addressed – this is asking you to tell us what need or problem your project is addressing, why you want to carry out this work and any context to the piece of work you feel we should know
- Aims or research questions being addressed – this is asking for the key question your project is trying to address. If possible this should be written as a research question or hypothesis to be answered through your project.
- Project design – this is asking exactly what methods you will use in your research, such as how you will obtain the data, how you will analyse it, how you will draw conclusions
- Approach used to maximise the impact of research outputs, to improve health and the research community – this is asking how you will get the most out of your research
- Expected outcomes – this is asking you to describe the what results you think your project will deliver as outcomes from your study
- Your role in the project – this is asking for you to describe exactly what your role is in the project, how much of the work you will do yourself

Maximum of 1,500 words

Project budget

Please tell us the budget you are requesting for this project, with a breakdown of the types of costs. This should include any costs of travel and subsistence needed to carry out your project, the cost of materials and equipment needed, and the cost of specific individuals you may need to help carry out your research e.g. lab technicians, health workers.

There is also a space for you to explain why you need certain items, so we are able to assess your budget fully.

The maximum amount that can be requested is £5,000 (GBP) including any tax you have to pay on any purchases.

- Consumables
- Fieldwork expenses, including reasonable per diems for staff standard class travel to, from and within site(s) and accommodation
- International travel to carry out the research, total costs up to 50% of the overall budget
- The grant costs cannot be solely used for equipment, the total cost allowed is up to 50% of the overall budget
- Computers, tablets and phones, up to 20% of the overall budget
- Training course, tuition or bench fees that are related to and directly relevant to the project, up to 20% of the overall budget
- Local dissemination costs, up to 20% of the overall budget
- Ethics approval costs, up to 10% of the overall budget
- Reasonable contingency costs

- Tax on any purchases where relevant

The majority of the grant cannot be used for travel to another country to carry out the research.

If this grant application is part of a larger research programme, matched funding must be in place at the time of submission of the Early Career Grants application. In addition to the application budget, applicants must also include a brief outline of the larger research programme's budget in the application.

Progress stages of your research project

Please list the stages of progress you aim to reach for your research project by March, June, September and December.

Other funding applications for this piece of work

Please tell us if you have submitted this application or substantially the same application elsewhere. If the RSTMH Early Career Grants application and the other application are both successful, you must let us know as soon as possible that the other application was successful and decide which to accept. Failure to notify us can result in RSTMH withdrawing the Early Career Grant.

Tell us how this Early Career Grant would further your career

Please tell us how you think carrying out this project could help you to progress your career. This can include new roles or additional funding as well as developing new skills, networks or experiences.

Referees

Please tell us the full name, title and institution of both referees who have agreed to provide you with a written reference for this application. One should be a senior member of your employing organisation, who knows your qualifications and experience. The second should be your supervisor for this project. Your supervisor is asked to also comment on your suitability against the early career profile. Referees must follow the guidelines set out in the Early Career Grant conditions.

You should contact your referees well ahead of the deadline. They will be contacted directly as soon as your application is submitted and not before, so you will need to check they have the reference request and that they are able to submit it ahead of the deadline. If both referees do not submit references for you then your application will be void and we will not be able to consider it for funding.

References must be on headed paper and must be complete and uploaded to Submittable by the deadline. **Referees should use an institutional email address and not a personal email address to submit their reference**. If that is not possible, a personal email address can be used, with justification.

The supervisor should assess and clearly comment on:

- The feasibility of achieving the project's aims with the resources defined in the application
- The relevance of the project to your research
- The benefit of the project to the wider community
- Verify that to the best of their knowledge the applicant meets the guidance for being early in their career
- The mentorship and support available to the applicant

The senior member from the employing or affiliated organisation should comment on:

- The training and career development opportunities available to the applicant
- The availability and use of relevant institutional resources
- The mentorship and support available to the applicant

PLEASE NOTE: Your referees will NOT be emailed until you click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the form to complete the application process and submit your application. Therefore, you must submit your application before the deadline date with sufficient time to allow your referees to submit their references before the deadline date.

IMPORTANT: Applicants are responsible for ensuring their referees submit references directly to Submittable by the closing date, and follow the Early Career Grant conditions. **Applications without two complete references submitted by the deadline date will not be considered.**

Apply

To make an application go to our website [here](#) and follow the instructions, to apply through our platform Submittable

Once you have submitted your application, you will receive a confirmation email from Submittable. Your two referees will then receive an email asking them to submit a reference. They will not receive this email until you submit your application. Once a referee submits their reference, you will be notified by email from Submittable.