

Information for applicants

FAQs

Glaucoma UK operates response mode research funding and has an annual awards cycle inviting applications for research grants. It will consider applications for clinical and laboratory-based research projects into the causes and prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment or improving the quality of life of people of all ages living with glaucoma and allied conditions.

Q: How much is available?

A: Grant funding is dependent on Glaucoma UK's charitable income, so varies year to year. The Awards schedule is determined annually in June and published on Glaucoma UK website between July and September.

Q: what costs are eligible?

A: Eligible costs include:

- staff costs, administrative support
- capital items (items over £2,500 require three written quotes once an award is agreed), and consumables
- open access publication
- computing / data analysis
- reasonable travel, communication and dissemination costs

Ineligible costs include:

- non-project related expenses
- annual leave / sick leave/ parental leave costs
- parking or travel to the general place of work
- institutional overheads

Q: How are decisions made?

A: Grants are awarded in open competition by an awards panel. The Chair of Glaucoma

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UK's Clinical Advisory Panel (CAP), Prof Anthony King, will determine the membership and procedures for each awards panel, in consultation with any other organisations involved in administering the grants.

Panels will usually include at least one lay member. The awards panel will ensure all award applications are assessed against objective criteria in keeping with the objectives of the award.

Peer review processes will vary according to the size and type of the grant, the degree of in-house expertise, and the funding mechanism, but the usual process will be for applications to be sent for at least one, but preferably two external peer reviews.

Q: What are the grant making criteria?

A: Grants will be awarded on the basis of:

- scientific content
- likelihood of a conclusive outcome of the proposed study
- likely impact of the research on patient care or appropriate scientific
- advance or understanding of glaucoma
- location in a suitable institution
- presentation
- value for money
- ethical considerations
- strategic research priorities, as advised by the Board of Trustees and the CAP

Q: What is the payment schedule?

A: Payments are staged, with 45% given on receipt of a signed agreement, 45% on receipt of a satisfactory progress report, and the final 10% on receipt of a final report. Progress reports are expected periodically and reports must be approved by Glaucoma UK. Grants that fail to begin and/or fail to supply relevant information or a fully signed agreement within 12 months of the date of the written confirmation of the award may be withdrawn.

Q: Will Glaucoma UK co-fund projects?

A: Yes, we are happy to co-fund, and often work with partners to administer and/or co-

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fund research grants. Recent partners have included the UK and Eire Glaucoma Society, the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, the College of Optometrists and the charity Fight for Sight.

Q: Does Glaucoma UK accept unsolicited funding requests?

A: In exceptional circumstances and where funds allow, Glaucoma UK may consider unsolicited or ad hoc funding requests for fellowships, scholarships, awards, prizes, small research grants or joint awards with other funding bodies.

Q: Are there any geographic constraints on research awards?

A: The lead researcher must be based in the British Isles, and if a research project is to take place outside the British Isles, it must have demonstrable benefit to the British population.

Q: What is Glaucoma UK's position on animal research?

A: Glaucoma UK supports the use of animals in research only when it is necessary to advance understanding of health and disease and to develop new treatments. This research only takes place

- where there is no alternative available. We will only support the use of animals:
- where no valid alternative exists
- where regard to animal welfare is a priority for the applicant
- where the applicant considers the possibilities to advance the refinement, reduction and replacement of animal use throughout the project.

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