

Wellcome Trust Investigator Award in Humanities and Social Science

Investigator Awards enable humanities and social science researchers with a compelling research vision to tackle the most significant questions in human health.

Funder Deadlines

Preliminary Stage Application:	7 th January 2020, 5pm
Full Stage Application:	24 th March 2020, 5pm
Interviews:	July 2020

An X5 costing is required at both Preliminary ('outline' X5) and Full Stages.

The Research Operations Office (ROO) require seven working days for the 2-stage application check or five working days for the 1-stage application check. Please see below for details:

ROO deadlines:

7 day deadline	18 th December 2019, 5pm
5 day deadline	20 th December 2019, 5pm

Please note that this scheme will be paused following this round (Jan 2020).

Principal Investigator

Applicants must be based in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, or a 'low-to-middle-income country' and hold a permanent, open-ended or long-term rolling contract, or have the written guarantee of such a post.

Applicants may only hold one Investigator Award at any one time.

Applications are invited from researchers throughout their careers.

Early career researchers should have a track record relative to their career stage of:

- developing innovative and creative research
- making contributions to your area of research (e.g. publications and impacts on policy) and/or securing grant funding
- leading or managing a research project

More established researchers should have an international reputation in their field and a track record of:

- delivering innovative and creative research
- making significant contributions to your area of research, e.g. publications and impacts on policy
- securing and managing research grants or gaining similar experience in a management role (e.g. in an academic department or in healthcare)
- developing and mentoring less experienced researchers

Budget Limit & Categories

Investigator Awards are usually for three to five years. Awards range from £250,000 to £1 million.

These awards do not fund the salary costs of the applicant, but rather cover the cost of a temporary replacement lecturer post. The replacement post should be at a more junior level than the post holder and can be spread across the full period of the grant; awards will be made for up to 40% of the applicant's contracted time and 40% of the co-applicant's contracted time.

The Trust covers the direct costs of carrying out the research, including:

- research expenses, materials and consumables
- research assistance, including PhD fees for postgraduate research assistants employed on the project
- travel and subsistence, and funding for collaborative activity and conference attendance (budget limits in place, refer to scheme guidance)
- Computing (the cost of one personal computer or laptop per person up to £1,500) and recurrent costs dedicated to the project (e.g. software licences)
- recruitment, advertising and interviewee travel costs for staff to be employed
- consultancy fees
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- public engagement materials where dissemination is a key activity of the project

The Trust does not fund on the basis of fEC and information on this cost is not required at preliminary stage. Approximate costs are given at preliminary stage, across broad headings. Detailed costings, including a note on the fEC must be provided at full stage.

The Trust do not pay overheads except in exceptional circumstances, details of which can be found [here](#).

VAT is eligible, and should be added to applicable non-staff budgets at 20%.

Open Access (OA) – the University is provided with a grant by the Wellcome Trust to support their OA policy. The OA team will advise at the point a manuscript is uploaded whether it is eligible for funding. Costs for OA should not be included as a direct cost in the application. The Wellcome Trust policy can be found [here](#).

Additional Funding Available

[Research Enrichment – Public Engagement](#) funding is available to Trust grantholders to help engage the public with their research. The Trust offers enrichment funding in the following three areas: 1) public engagement 2) open research and 3) diversity and inclusion. Applications can be submitted to this scheme by grantholders on confirmation of award.

Wellcome Trust Grants Tracker

Applications are made through the [Wellcome Trust Grant Tracker](#). Applicants must register an account the Grants Tracker prior to submitting an application.

Further information on the Grants Tracker can be found [here](#).

Application Process

At preliminary stage, when the applicant submits in the Grants Tracker portal, the application will go directly to the Wellcome Trust, without an institutional approval step. Prior to submitting the preliminary stage application, [a PDF of the application](#) and the X5 should be submitted to the ROO in accordance with the above deadlines. The X5 costing should be used to obtain the approximate costs requested, using the following details:

Funder: [WELLCOME] WELLCOME TRUST
Scheme: Standard 2%

If invited to submit an application at full stage, changes from the preliminary stage are permitted. The Grants Tracker application and X5 will need to be approved by the Research Operations Office, in accordance with the ROO internal deadlines:

7 day deadline	13 th March 2020, 5pm
5 day deadline	17 th March 2020, 5pm

Statement of Commitment

Full stage applications must be accompanied by a statement of commitment on behalf of the host institution from the most senior authority (usually Head of Department / Faculty) in the institution.

This should detail:

- why the applicant merits an Investigator Award
- how the Institution will support both the applicant and the fulfilment of project objectives, including details of any financial, administrative or technical support that the institution will commit in support of the application
- how the research proposal complements and addresses the Institution's strategic aims and priorities
- the nature of the applicant's employment contract, and its compliance with the eligibility criteria
- availability of the additional space, facilities and infrastructure that will be required throughout the duration of the project