



The Meath Foundation Fondúireacht Na Mí

Healthcare Research, Education, Quality Improvement
& Arts in Health at Tallaght University Hospital

Research Grant Conditions 2024

*The Research Grant Conditions 2024 were approved by
The Meath Foundation Board of Directors on 30 May 2024*

The Meath Hospital was founded in 1753 to provide Healthcare for the poor of Dublin's Liberties. Funded entirely by voluntary subscriptions and donations from prominent citizens of the day, the hospital would attract some of Ireland's most celebrated physicians and surgeons and become an internationally recognised centre for the advancement of medical science.

In 1998, along with the Adelaide and the National Children's Hospital, the Meath Hospital moved to a new Hospital at Tallaght now known as Tallaght University Hospital (TUH).

The Meath Foundation was founded at that time to support the provision of research and education in Healthcare in TUH and remains committed to providing funding in these areas. Such support is vital in helping to develop the necessary skills to transform the health service and deliver a safer and better quality service to its patients.

Through the provision of research funding, the Foundation is seeking, in particular, to encourage Healthcare professionals in the early stages of their career to start or develop research capability through the pursuit of innovative, high quality projects. The oversight of the Research Grant programme is undertaken by The Research, Education, Quality Improvement and Innovation Board Committee (REQII), which is a sub-committee of The Meath Foundation Board of Directors.

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RESEARCH GRANT CONDITIONS

The following terms and conditions are intended to inform applicants of their responsibilities if successful and in accepting funding from The Meath Foundation.

Definitions

In these Conditions

- Foundation is The Meath Foundation;
- Hospital is Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) or the Hospital's Institutes;
- The Principal Investigator (PI) of the research is the person responsible for the conduct of the Research Grant which has been awarded by the Foundation.

1. 2024 Campaign

Two Research Grants of up to €75,000 each will be available in 2024.

The Foundation is interested in receiving applications that will support researchers who are early in their research careers and seeking to develop their work further.

The research should be of a basic or exploratory nature, although projects seeking to underpin work that may have an applied end will also be considered.

2. Eligible Applicants

The principal investigator (PI), must be employed in a defined capacity by TUH or hold a contract with another institution e.g. Trinity College Dublin with a contractual arrangement to work in the Hospital. If the PI is a qualified Healthcare practitioner the Clinical Indemnity Scheme must cover the position held by the applicant.

3. Project Assessment

Applications will be reviewed by an external panel of assessors using the following criteria:

- 3.1 The originality of the research proposal (to avoid duplication with other research efforts);
- 3.2 The research record of the applicant, taking into account, where applicable, the early stage of their research career;
- 3.3 Show how the proposed work would add to existing knowledge in the area, and the possible impact that such new knowledge would have on that area;
- 3.4 Value for money.

The results of the Assessment Panel will be used by REQII to make a recommendation to the Board of the Foundation, which will make the final decision. All decisions of the Board of the Foundation on the awarding of Research Grants are final.

4. Research Staff

The PI will be expected to ensure the following where research staff are employed:

- 4.1 That they have a letter of appointment for the research they are undertaking and receive training appropriate to their duties including Health and Safety training;
- 4.2 That they understand that they are not agents or employees of the Foundation;
- 4.3 That they receive appropriate direction in undertaking research and that supervision of research staff is provided;
- 4.4 That all appropriate health and safety procedures are in place in relation to research;
- 4.5 That all research staff including students have Garda clearance if carrying out research in TUH;
- 4.6 That all research staff have professional indemnity insurance where appropriate;
- 4.7 That they have a contingency plan in place to cover any research staffing issues that may arise.

The Foundation will, in the event of a PI resigning or leaving their institution for other reasons during the period of tenure of the grant, seek to ensure that postgraduate students supported by the grant are given every opportunity to complete their degree.

5. Financial arrangements

The following are the financial arrangements pertaining to Research Grants:

- 5.1 Payments will be made through The Foundation and will be disbursed according to the terms set out here;
- 5.2 The grant must be used within the time-limit set in the application. In exceptional circumstances, a grant extension may be requested, although The Foundation is under no obligation to grant it;
- 5.3 The Foundation will require a financial statement at the end of the grant detailing PI disbursements from the grant and confirmation that the grant has been used for the purposes set out in the original application;
- 5.4 The Foundation reserves the right to require a financial statement at any time during the grant period;
- 5.5 Expenditure from the award shall be limited to expenses properly and necessarily incurred for the successful completion of the approved research project. The Meath Foundation is not in a position to award overheads. All costs must be made transparent and agreed with the Foundation before the awarding of the grant.

6. Intellectual Property Rights

The PI should be aware that there may be potential for intellectual property to be created during the course of the research. Any Intellectual Property (IP) arising from the research should be managed according to the policies set out in the Government publication: **Ireland's National IP Protocol 2019**. Support for the PI on this topic is available from **Knowledge Transfer Ireland (www.kti.ie)** whose mission is to support business and the research community to maximize innovation from research by getting technology, ideas and expertise into the hands of business swiftly and easily for the benefit of the public and the economy.

7. Acknowledgement

The PI undertakes to acknowledge the support of The Foundation in any publication, presentation or report of research funded by The Foundation or in any publicity given to such research.

8. Good Research Practice

The Foundation expects that the research will be carried out in accordance with the best practices and standards of research and in line with TUH Research policy as set out by the Higher Education Authority (<https://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2017/04/HEA-Principles-of-Good-Practice-in-Research-in-Irish-HEIs-2020.pdf>)

9. Data Protection

For the purposes of considering an application and, if the grant is awarded, administering the grant, the Foundation has a legitimate interest in processing your data. All applicants will be contacted regarding their applications and, if the PI is successful, their data will be used to manage the grant for its duration. The Foundation may publish (on its website, social media or in printed form) some basic information on successful awards including the name of the PI and/or any research staff, the title of the research project, the amount of the research grant they were awarded and a summary of their research. After the grant has ended the Foundation shall keep the information to allow it evaluate the outcomes, outputs and impacts of the Foundation's investment in the research and to promote the work of the Foundation into the future.

10. Responsibilities of the PI

10.1. Ethical approval

The PI will provide a written copy of ethical approval from the Joint TUH/St. James's Hospital Ethics Committee or in the case of non-clinical studies from TCD School of Medicine REC for any research for which an award has been approved by the Foundation.

10.2. Sign off by EMT/Clinical Director Lead

Applications for support from the Foundation must be signed off by the appropriate EMT/Clinical Director Lead. In order to allow time for the application to be reviewed it must be submitted to EMT/Clinical Director Lead at least 2 weeks prior to closing date for applications.

10.3. Research Project Management

10.3.1 The PI of a research grant may not apply for or receive funding for the same research project from any source other than the Foundation without prior permission from the Foundation.

10.3.2 The PI may, in consultation with the Foundation, modify the aims and objectives of an approved research project in order to follow scientific developments.

10.3.3 The PI may not use any amount of an award for purposes not directly related to the research project.

10.3.4 Funds remaining unused and uncommitted at the end of the grant period shall be returned to The Meath Foundation.

10.4. Review of Research Grants

The PI may be requested to participate in a review of the progress of the research, its organisation, financing and any other relevant issues at a date decided by the Foundation.

10.5. Reports and publications

10.5.1 The PI shall provide a final technical and financial report to the Foundation on the research for which the award was made using the templates provided. Such reports must be made within six months following the end of the period for which the grant has been awarded. PIs who do not comply with this requirement will be deemed ineligible to apply for future funding from the Foundation.

10.5.2 The PI must make themselves available to all reasonable requests from the Foundation for their participation in activities relating to furthering the aims of the Foundation, For example, The Meath Foundation Research Symposium, TUH Events, Foundation Meetings etc.

10.5.3 The PI shall provide the Foundation with details of all publications arising from research funded by the Foundation.

10.5.4 The support of the Foundation must be expressly acknowledged in any publication, presentation, or report of research funded by the Foundation or in any publicity given to such research.

10.5.5 The Foundation at all times reserves the right to publish a summary of the research funded by The Foundation for promotional purposes, taking into account the issue of intellectual property where appropriate. Detailed information, furnished to the Foundation will be regarded as strictly confidential until the grant holder in question has published his/her results elsewhere.

11. General terms

11.1. Research staff

No PI or any person working on a project funded by the Foundation, in relation to or in connection with the research for which The Foundation has granted an award shall represent themselves or consider themselves for any purposes whatsoever to be an employee/representative of the Foundation.

11.2. Termination

The Foundation reserves the right to terminate the award of a grant upon 30 days written notice to the grant holder. The award of a grant will terminate in the event of the grant holder breaching any of the Regulations set out in this document. The PI will furnish all necessary reports of research completed or in progress through to the date of termination.

11.3. Amendment of Conditions

The Foundation reserves the right to amend these Conditions from time to time.