

RESEARCH GRANTS POLICY STATEMENT

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust funds ground-breaking research that is of imminent and/or important clinical relevance to people with Cystic Fibrosis. It particularly wishes to support translational research which is likely to have an impact on the clinical care of people with Cystic Fibrosis in the near future.

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust will consider high quality grant applications for research into the cause, treatments and impact of Cystic Fibrosis. The research should address important scientific, clinical or social questions relating to Cystic Fibrosis. Applications for grant funding from outside the UK will be considered, but due to restricted resources priority is likely to be given to applications from within the UK.

There are 3 different schemes to support research:

1. Project Grants

The essential purpose of a **Project Grant** is to provide support for a time-limited research project designed to answer a single question or a small group of related questions. Such questions must be directed towards furthering our understanding of CF and/or developing effective treatments for the condition. Project grants may be awarded for research in university, hospital, medical school or other research institution and may provide for the salary of the applicant(s), and/or scientific/technical assistant(s) (not PhD candidates), the running costs of the project and the purchase of items of essential equipment. Support can be provided for a maximum of 3 years up to a total of £150,000. The Cystic Fibrosis Trust welcomes applications to continue and develop research that it is already funding, but these will be considered in competition with all applications in that grant round.

2. Innovative Awards

The purpose of an **Innovative Award** is to provide support for a short-term, small-scale pilot or proof of concept research project. It is hoped that these awards will encourage established researchers from both within and outside the CF field to explore ideas in CF research that might provide the basis for a future Project Grant application to the CF Trust or other funding bodies. Innovative awards may be given for research in university, hospital, medical school or other research institution and may provide for the salary of scientific/technical assistant(s) (not PhD candidates), the running costs of the project and the purchase of items of essential equipment (if justified). Support can be provided for a maximum of 12 months up to a total of £50,000.

3. PhD Studentships

PhD Studentships are designed to encourage the best young science graduates to embark on a research career in Cystic Fibrosis. These awards provide practical research training through a time-limited research project related to CF, under the direct supervision of a senior and experienced researcher, and leading to a doctoral qualification. Applications will be judged in the first instance on the quality of the research proposal. However, the ability of the prospective Supervisor and the quality of the training provided will be equally important considerations.

Application should be made by the prospective Supervisor who should be associated with an established multidisciplinary research group in a university department or similar research environment in the UK. The award will provide a tax-free stipend for the candidate student, tuition fees (at home student rates) and the running costs of the project (up to £6,000 per year). No provision is made for capital equipment under a CF Trust PhD Studentship.

For applications to the 2012 Grant Round, stipends are as follows:

| | <u>Year 1</u> | <u>Year 2</u> | <u>Year 3</u> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Within London | £21,942 | £23,846 | £24,561 |
| Outside London | £19,619 | £21,321 | £21,960 |

Studentships are awarded to the Supervisor who is responsible for identifying a suitable candidate, subject to the minimum requirement of an upper 2nd class honours degree. It is not necessary to name a candidate at the time of application, but you may do so.

Application process

Applications for a Research Grant must be made on the CF Trust's official application forms. There is a two-stage application process. Stage 1 outline applications are reviewed by the CF Trust's Research Advisory Committee. Successful applicants at Stage 1 are invited to submit a full Stage 2 application. These are peer reviewed by external and internal referees and discussed in detail by the Cystic Fibrosis Trust's Research Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations for funding to the Trustees of the CF Trust.

An approximate timetable each year is as follows:

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|---|---------------|
| Call for Stage 1 outline applications | early October |
| Closing date for submission of Stage 1 applications | mid November |
| Invitation to submit a Stage 2 full application | mid January |
| Closing date for submission of Stage 2 applications | early March |
| Meeting of RAC to make award recommendations | June |
| Final decision on awards by the Trustees | July |

Appropriate forms, guidelines and exact deadlines can be found on our website (www.cftrust.org.uk). Subject to receiving sufficient high quality applications, we aim to fund around 50% of Stage 2 applications.