

Research and Commercial Services

Fact Sheet Applying for funding to the Wellcome Trust

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MISSION

The Trust's mission is to foster and promote research with the aim of improving human and animal health. The trust has six main aims:

- Advancing knowledge
- Using knowledge
- Engaging society
- Developing people
- Facilitating research
- Developing the organisation

PRIORITIES

The Trust's priorities for 2005-2010 are:

- To ensure that the single biggest element of the total funding is used to support **basic, curiosity-driven, investigator-led research and career initiatives** – recognizing that this underpins future discovery and application.
- To use around 10 per cent of the spend each year to enable the Trust to respond flexibly to new, unanticipated opportunities.
- To increase support for **clinical research and training** to ensure that the research supported benefits human health.
- To increase support for the use of **knowledge** that arises from **biomedical research** for health benefit.

WHAT THE TRUST FUNDS

The Trust fund **biomedical and veterinary research; technology transfer activities; history of medicine research; biomedical ethics research and public engagement activities** through its six funding streams:

- Immunology and Infectious Disease
- Population and Public Health
- Neuroscience and Mental Health
- Physiological Sciences

- Molecules, Genes and Cells
- Medical Humanities

In addition to the above there are **two cross-cutting themes** covering Public Engagement and Technology Transfer

Research Project Support

Flexible Travel Awards: provide successful scientists with enhanced opportunities for mobility collaboration and interdisciplinary research.

Programme grants: provide support for internationally competitive research relevant to human and animal health. This longer-term funding allows researchers to concentrate on a programme of research with the opportunity to pursue new ideas and avenues as they arise.

Project Grants: provide funding for high-quality projects, in the basic and clinical sciences, which are relevant to human and animal health.

Equipment and Resources

Technology development: provide support for researchers wishing to develop technologies or to refine existing techniques.

Biomedical resources: provide support for researchers wishing to establish or maintain biomedical resources (including database and collections) for the benefit of the wider scientific community.

Equipment grants: for multi-user items of equipment, including equipment required to create a central resource for a number of disparate scientific programmes.

Fellowships

Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowships: provide support for the most promising newly qualified postdoctoral researchers.

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[Research Career Development Fellowships in Basic Biomedical Sciences](#): provide an opportunity for postdoctoral scientists to become independent research scientists and to undertake research of high quality.

[Senior Research Fellowships in Basic Biomedical Science](#): provide support for exceptional individuals who can demonstrate their ability to carry out independent research.

[Career re-entry Fellowships](#): give postdoctoral scientists who have had a recent break of at least two years the opportunity to return to high-quality research, with the potential for refresher or further training.

[Research Training Fellowships for Medical, Dental and Veterinary Graduates](#): for medical, dental or veterinary graduates who have little or no research training, but who wish to develop a long-term career in academic medicine

[Senior Research Fellowships in Clinical Science](#): provide support for clinical investigators to further develop their research potential and to establish themselves as leading investigators in clinical academic medicine.

[Intermediate Clinical Fellowships](#): for medical, dental or veterinary graduates who have had an outstanding start to their research career. Fellowships will enable successful candidates to continue their research interests at a postdoctoral level and develop towards independence.

[International Senior Research Fellowships](#): supports outstanding researchers, either medically qualified or science graduates, who wish to establish a research career in an academic institution.

[University Awards](#): This award allows universities to attract strategically important research staff. **Two types of staff can be supported** in this way; **research staff** who will take up academic positions within a university department and **research technologists or analysts**, who would normally be expected to work in association with a group or department that is in receipt of substantial Wellcome Trust funding. Both schemes require that applicants are **nominated by the head of department** and have an undertaking from the institution that their **personal support** will be **taken over** by the institution at the end of the grant.

[Principal Research Fellowships](#): provide long-term support for researchers of international standing. Candidates will have an established track record in research at the highest level.

International Funding

The Trust funds a wide range of activities for health-related research conducted outside the UK.

- [Developing and restructuring countries](#) (Global health research) biomedical research in developing and restructuring countries, with a particular emphasis of research in infectious diseases and public health.
- [Countries with developed market economies](#); major international scientific partnerships between countries with developed market economies, such as collaborations in genetics and genomics.

Technology Transfer

[Translation awards](#): provides funds for applied research or development projects to address an unmet need in healthcare.

[Strategic translation awards](#): provides translation research funding in areas of strategic importance.

[Strategic translation awards](#) in seeding drug discovery: an initiative to facilitate early-stage small molecule drug discovery research.

History of Medicine

The following grants are specifically for encouraging serious academic study and career in the [History of Medicine](#).

[Programme grants](#): provide support for up to five years for extensive or long-term research.

[Project grants](#): provide funding for discrete and focused research projects. They are normally for three years but shorter projects may also be funded.

[Research leave awards](#): Allow for staff to be released from their teaching and administrative duties so they can undertake an uninterrupted period of full-time research. Awards are normally tenable for one to three years.

[Short-term research leave awards for clinicians and scientists](#): enable clinicians or scientists who hold established posts to undertake a short-term period of full-time research at a centre or department with academic expertise in medical history.

[Research expenses](#): supports experienced researchers who wish to carry out a modest programme of study. It also provides modest assistance with research expenses for self-funded postgraduate students working for a doctorate.

[Travel grant](#): funds scholars based outside the UK, the Republic of Ireland or the Netherlands to one of these

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countries to consult libraries or archives and to exchange views or work with colleagues who have a similar research interest.

[Strategic and Enhancement Awards in the History of Medicine](#): The purpose of these schemes is to provide core support for groupings of historians of medicine within UK or Irish universities

[Research Resources in Medical History](#): Supports preservation, cataloguing and digitisation projects for significant medical history collections in UK libraries and archives.

Personal support

- [Master's awards](#): Enable young scholars to undertake basic training in research and methods through a one-year Master's course in the history of medicine.
- [Doctoral Studentships](#): Enable young scholars to undertake up to **three years** of full-time research on a history of medicine topic leading to a doctoral degree.
- [Research Fellowships](#): Support individuals at all stages of a career not in established academic posts, wishing to undertake a period of research. Maximum duration is **three years**.

Public Engagement

[Public Engagement Awards in the History of Medicine](#): Applications under this scheme may involve television, radio, exhibitions, theatre, websites, educational resources, lectures and debate series on a history of medicine topic.

Others

[Research Leave Award](#): allows university staff to be released from their teaching and administrative duties so they can undertake an uninterrupted period of full-time research.

[Sabbatical Awards](#): These are open to internationally competitive researchers who wish to undertake a sabbatical in order to enrich their research programmes and initiate significant new collaborations. The sabbatical visits must be for a significant new activity or collaboration that is not possible through existing available funds. Applicants must hold an established post in an eligible UK or RoI institution. Clinical candidates should currently occupy a permanent academic position at the level of a senior lecturer or above. Awards will be held at the candidate's host institution for periods of six to 12 months. Grants provide research expenses, such as consumables, small items of equipment, travel and subsistence

[Electronic patient records](#): a cross-research council initiative providing support for the use of electronic databases for health research.

[Genome-wide association studies in common disease](#): provide support for genome-wide association studies in common, complex disease.

[Capital funding](#): for building refurbishment and capital projects related to public engagement and medical history, learned societies and science-based activities.

[People awards](#) provide funding to support activities such as events, debates, exhibitions, art projects and drama productions. Applications can be made at any time on projects that raise the awareness of biomedicine and its related issues.

[Society awards: activities](#). This scheme is for projects that consider the issues raised by biomedicine and increase public awareness of its impact on society. Funding is available for either larger scale activities or academic research;

[Society awards: research](#). These awards are available to support academic research that will advance knowledge about public engagement in biomedical science;

[Sciart](#) supports and encourages imaginative and experimental arts projects that investigate biomedical science;

[Pulse](#) supports young people's arts projects that engage with biomedical science.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

The Trust has their own [eGrants](#) on line system which must be used for all applications. This system is in the process of being restructured and it is hoped that this work, which will allow added functionality from an administrative point of view, will be up and running by the end of December 2007.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

The Wellcome Trust provides access to resources to support biomedical researches as follows:

- [The Mutagenic Insertion and Chromosome Engineering Resources](#)
- [E. coli resources](#)
- [The Human Developmental Biology Resource](#)
- [The International Sequencing consortium database](#).
- [Ensemble genome browser](#)

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- [The Cambridge Resource Centre for Comparative Genomics](#)
- [Structural Genomics Consortium](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

The Wellcome Trust are to open a new public venue in the summer of 2007 called the Wellcome Collection which aims to provide a thoughtful and experimental look at what connects medicine, life and art, rooting science in the broad context of health and wellbeing. The venue boasts

- Two permanent galleries
- Temporary gallery
- Forum- events space
- Library
- Bookshop
- Café
- Conference facilities
- Members club

Further information is available at www.wellcomecollection.org.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be found from the Trust's web pages at <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk> or by telephoning the Trust direct on: 020 7611 8888, email: contact@wellcome.ac.uk