

BIRAX Healthy Ageing 2025 Call for Proposals

Guidelines for Applicants – BIRAX Healthy Ageing Sub-call for Follow-on Funding: Preliminary Proposals

*The following notes are intended for applicants submitting **follow-on projects that build upon successful previous BIRAX-funded research**. They provide guidance on eligibility, completion of the [application form](#), and the conditions under which research awards are ultimately issued. These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the **Call for Research Proposals** documentation, available on the British Council's [website](#).*

Applicants must complete the application form online, in accordance with the guidance notes provided within the form itself.

Applicants whose Preliminary Proposals are shortlisted by the BIRAX Healthy Ageing Academic Selection Panel will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

All proposals must be submitted electronically and in English.

1. Outputs of Scheme

The **BIRAX Healthy Ageing Sub-call for Follow-on Funding** is open only to previous project leads and co-leads of BIRAX-funded projects, enabling them to build on successful research under the BIRAX programme (BIRAX Regenerative Medicine Initiative (RMI) and BIRAX Ageing). This opportunity aims to fund research that will contribute to realising the transformative potential of the projects funded through BIRAX. Applicants are expected to extend or deepen their original work, leveraging prior findings to advance the research further. Applications must clearly articulate the added value of continued funding and demonstrate how the proposed work enhances or expands the outcomes of the initial BIRAX-supported project.

The scheme is *not intended* to merely supplement ongoing research, nor to address funding gaps in existing projects supported by other sources. It is also not intended to simply “top up” funding for postgraduate students, research assistants, or others working with the applicant(s).

1.1. Scheme Conditions

Proposals within the scope of this funding opportunity should explain how they will expand on the results or impact of their previous BIRAX grant. The follow-on project must take forward, and be clearly linked to, the research vision of the original project and build on its research outputs. These projects should also support the development of early-career researchers.

The vision of the previous BIRAX project may be adapted in response to emerging findings, new priorities, or opportunities, including the involvement of additional partners where appropriate.

Funding should be requested solely for a new programme of activities which should not duplicate work from the original project.

Eligible Activities May Include:

- Further scientific and technical development based on original project findings;
- Activities aimed at broadening the impact of the original research.

The project must focus on excellent research, driving this forward to create impact.

Collaborations may build upon the original partnership or form a new one. However, at least one component of the original team must remain involved. For details, please see section 2, *Eligibility Criteria*.

Multiple applications per previous grant will not be accepted. If multiple applications are received for the same previous grant, the application will be returned to the PIs, who will need to decide which project they wish to pursue under this funding call.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1. The BIRAX Healthy Ageing Sub-call for Follow-on Funding is open **exclusively to proposals relating to previous BIRAX funded projects** (BIRAX RMI or BIRAX Ageing). These proposals should build on the outcomes of their original BIRAX-supported research.
- 2.2. Proposals must be jointly submitted by two **Principal Investigators (PIs)**: one based in the UK and one based in Israel. Both PIs must be employed by an academic institution, research hospital, or research institute in their respective countries of residence.
- 2.3. At least one of the PIs is expected to be an established researcher with a demonstrated track record of academic progression, student supervision, and grant management. Consideration will be given to applicants with career breaks or other extenuating circumstances.
- 2.4. PIs and associated researchers must hold a position in research institutions or academic institutions in the UK or in Israel, that are officially recognised by both countries.¹
- 2.5. PIs may apply within the same partnerships, formed for their previous BIRAX funded projects, or with a new PI. If the latter, the PI will need to submit a supporting letter from the former partner PI confirming their support.
- 2.6. Co-PIs of previously funded BIRAX projects may submit an application instead of a previous PI, but this will need to be endorsed by both former grant PIs through supporting letters.
- 2.7. Proposals may include a partner from a third country; however, BIRAX funding will support only the activities of the British and Israeli laboratories.

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For the UK this represents only institutions in geographic areas under the administration of the State of Israel before 5 June 1967. This position should not be construed as prejudicing Israel's principled position on this matter. Accordingly, the participants accept that the application of this understanding is without prejudice to the status of those areas.

- 2.8. Each proposal must present a joint research programme submitted as a single, coordinated application. The respective roles and responsibilities of each partner must be clearly defined within the proposal.
- 2.9. Projects previously funded through the BIRAX programme must clearly demonstrate a substantial link to prior BIRAX-supported research, showing measurable progress and added value through new activities that build on the original project.
- 2.10. Multiple proposals from the same institution are permitted. Each PI may submit up to two proposals in response to this Call for Proposals: one for a new BIRAX Project (under the main BIRAX Healthy Ageing 2025 Call) and one for BIRAX Healthy Ageing Sub-call for Follow-on Funding. Multiple applications based on the same previous or new grant will not be accepted. However, a **PI may receive only one grant**. Submitting multiple applications does not provide any preferential consideration by the Academic Selection Panel. Proposals are assessed individually, with decisions based only on academic excellence.
- 2.11. PIs or Co-PIs currently leading an active BIRAX-funded project may apply only if their existing project is scheduled to conclude by the expected start date of the new Follow-on Funding project (currently anticipated between January and March 2027. Please note that these dates are provisional and may change). **BIRAX will not fund more than one project led by the same PI at the same time.**
- 2.12. The Preliminary Proposal must be signed only by the PIs of the BIRAX Follow-on Funding project. Signatures from senior authorised personnel of the participating institutions (e.g. Deans of Faculty in the UK or the University Research Authority in Israel) are not required at this stage. By submitting the application, the PIs are understood to have secured the necessary authorisations from their respective institutions.

If you are uncertain about any aspect of eligibility, please contact the British Council by emailing biraxageing@britishcouncil.org.il, clearly marking the subject line as **“Eligibility Query”**.

Please note that we are unable to comment on the scientific or conceptual content of the proposals. We can only respond to queries related to eligibility and technical matters. Responses to general questions will be published periodically on the British Council's [website](#).

Other Requirements

- Several BIRAX funding partners require **patient and public involvement (PPI)** in the research activities they support. Projects funded by these partners will be expected to incorporate reasonable PPI into their work plans, in accordance with the respective funder's policy. These requirements will be discussed with individual projects once a funding offer has been made. Applicants are not expected to include PPI activities in their Preliminary or Full Proposals. However, **by submitting a proposal, applicants indicate their consent to incorporate reasonable PPI into the project** where relevant and as required by the funding partner.
- At the Full Application stage, successful applicants will be required to submit a detailed budget, as outlined above, a letter of support from their institutions, and any additional documentation that may be requested.

3. Funding and Project Duration

Grants of up to **£100,000 over a period of one to two years** (12 to 24 months) are available to support joint research projects.

Please note that the final amount awarded to each individual project will be subject to the availability of funds.

4. Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be assessed by an Academic Selection Panel composed of scientific experts from the UK and Israel. The Panel may also include members from other countries.

Preliminary Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

4.1. General Criteria

- **Relevance to the objectives of the call for proposals**, as defined above.
- **Feasibility** – the extent to which the scope and depth of the proposed activities are realistically achievable within the given timeframe.
- **Scientific quality and research delivery** – high-scoring proposals will demonstrate a clearly defined research focus, a strong scientific foundation, and an excellent understanding of international priorities, including how the proposed research aligns with them.
- **Novelty** – high-scoring proposals will present original and innovative research that makes a significant contribution to international knowledge.
- **Synergy** – strong proposals will clearly demonstrate the complementarity of the collaboration between the research teams.
- **Mode of Collaboration** – high-scoring proposals will provide clear evidence of the quality and quantity of collaborative activities, which may include, but are not limited to, joint experiments, exchange of postdoctoral researchers, and transfer of materials.

4.2. Follow-on Funding Specific Criteria

- **Alignment** – the extent to which the proposed project advances and adapts the original research vision.
- **Continuity** – clear evidence of links to the aims and outputs of the previously funded BIRAX project, demonstrating measurable progress and added value.
- **Impact** – the degree to which the proposed work realises the transformative potential of the original idea or expands its reach and influence.

While the primary consideration in the selection of projects will be based strictly on academic merit, the BIRAX programme encourages proposals led by early- and mid-career researchers as PIs (within the range of 8 to 15 years of commencing a tenure-track position or an equivalent role as an independent researcher).

Please ensure that your proposal **complies** with the requirements outlined in this *Guidelines for Applicants* document and the guidance notes provided in the online Application Form.

The decision of the Academic Selection Panel is final and confidential. No appeals will be considered. The British Council is unable to enter into any correspondence regarding the decisions made by the Academic Selection Panel.

This stage serves as a preliminary phase. Please note that all shortlisted Preliminary Proposals will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. Projects will be selected for funding only at the Full Proposal stage. For a detailed overview of the application process, including the stages of Preliminary and Full Proposals, please refer to section 10, *Call for Proposal Process Flow*.

5. Closing Date

Preliminary Proposals must be submitted by **Sunday, 1 March 2026 at 21:59 (UK Time) / 23:59 (Israel Time)**.

6. Equal Opportunities and Diversity

The British Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunities. For detailed information, please refer to our website: [Equality global policy statement | British Council](#). All proposals will be evaluated solely on the basis of the assessment criteria outlined above.

7. Data Protection

The British Council is the Data Controller of the information you provide as part of your participation in the BIRAX Healthy Ageing programme. This means that the British Council is responsible for determining how your information is collected and used. The legal basis for collecting your data is that the processing is necessary for the administration of your application to BIRAX Healthy Ageing.

By submitting your proposal, you understand and accept that your information may be shared with BIRAX partners for the purposes of awarding and administering the grant. These partners may include:

- The Science and Technology Network and other relevant departments at the British Embassy in Israel
- Current and potential BIRAX funding partners
- The BIRAX Academic Selection Panel
- Peer reviewers
- Creative Force Ltd (Malta), as the third-party provider of the Good Grants application platform

The British Council complies with data protection legislation in the UK. For detailed information, please refer to the privacy section of our website: [Privacy and terms of use | British Council](#), or contact the British Council Israel office at israelscience@britishcouncil.org.

Your information will be retained for an appropriate period, in accordance with applicable legal, regulatory, and organisational requirements.

8. How to Apply

Complete the [online application form](#) in English by the closing date (see section 5, *Closing Date*). Please note that you may return to your application and make changes at any time before the application deadline. Any downloadable version of the form provided online is for information purposes only and cannot be submitted.

9. Indicative Timeline (may be subject to change)

Deadline for Preliminary Proposals	1 March 2026
Notification of Academic Selection Panel's shortlisted proposals	March 2026
Deadline for Full Proposals	End of June 2026
Final Academic Selection Panel results (Full Proposals)	November-December 2026
Announcement of funded projects	December 2026

10. Call for Proposal Process Flow

