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Funding schemes

Early Detection and Diagnosis Project Award

Overview

This award funds exceptional science to drive transformational change in how and when early cancers and pre-cancerous states are detected and diagnosed.

Key information

Timelines

Applications for this scheme are considered twice a year. Upcoming deadline: 3 December 2026

Funding period

up to 4 years

Funding amount

up to £500k

Who is eligible?

Our core eligibility criteria are outlined below.

We strongly encourage that you contact us for an informal and confidential discussion of your proposal prior to submitting your application. We'll advise on your eligibility and provide guidance on submitting your application.

Please also inform your host institution, as they will need to approve your application online before your submission can be completed.

[Email early.detection@cancer.org.uk](mailto:early.detection@cancer.org.uk)

The applicant

You can apply for this award if you're a scientist, clinician or healthcare worker who:

- is based at a UK university, medical school, hospital or research institute (including our institutes)
- in most cases, is fully funded by the host institution for the duration of the award

Career stage

We welcome researchers from all career stages to apply. In cases where an early career researcher is lead or joint lead applicant, we would strongly recommend including at least one established researcher as co-applicant for mentorship.

We outline how we define career stages in our competency framework.

[Read the framework](#)

Collaborations

We encourage applications from research teams, which can be located across different institutions in the UK. Supporting roles from international and commercial organisations may also be included as co-investigators and collaborators.

The host institution

Your host institution must approve your application before the submission deadline, so please ensure you are in contact with your institution's administrative staff in advance.

You must ensure that your host institution will provide sufficient space and access to resources to undertake the proposed research.

If you receive core funding from one of our institutes (including the Francis Crick Institute), you may apply as a joint lead applicant with a researcher based outside our institutes. However, you should explain why you require extra support in addition to the funding you receive from the institute.

You will need to distinguish your core funded research from the research in your proposal and demonstrate your ability to manage both programmes of work. If this applies to you, you must contact us before submitting your application.

Other funding bodies

You can submit applications for the same project to different funding bodies, including us. However, if successful, you may only accept one award. If applicable, please notify us and disclose this in your application under 'Other Funding'.

We may consider joint funding with other organisations. If you're interested, please discuss this with us and the other potential funder before applying.

Flexible working arrangements

Career breaks (due to personal circumstances), part-time working and changes in discipline will be taken into consideration by our panels and committees to make appropriate adjustments when assessing your record of outputs, research achievements and career progression.

You can apply on a part-time or flexible working basis if this fits with the needs of your host institution and they approve your request.

If you'd like to apply on a part-time basis, please contact us before starting your application to discuss your proposed parameters for the award and how to include the part-time request in your application.

[Learn about our flexible research career support](#)

What is suitable for this scheme?

Our Early Detection and Diagnosis Project Award supports exceptional science from discovery through to translational research. Projects should aim to detect and diagnose consequential pre-cancerous changes and cancer at the earliest possible point of intervention, reducing the burden of late-stage disease.

Applications must demonstrate early detection/diagnosis relevance, consider a line-of-sight to clinical or population impact and clearly articulate the cancer-related question you're focusing on.

You can apply for a Project Award in any number or combination of areas relevant to cancer early detection and diagnosis. Examples of areas in remit that we will consider include:

- the discovery and validation of signatures for the detection of early cancer/pre-cancer including the development of the technologies to enable this
- development and validation of tests and other interventions to enable early detection and diagnosis
- clinical trials of early detection and diagnosis technologies and approaches
- early detection and diagnosis health systems
- clinician behaviour and decision support
- understanding and intervening in public behaviour to enhance early detection and diagnosis
- health economics of early detection and diagnosis research

For more information on our strategic priorities, explore the following resources.

[Read our research strategy](#)

[Read our statement of intent](#)

[Read our early detection and diagnosis of cancer roadmap](#)

Spotlight call: reducing inequalities in cancer early detection and diagnosis

We're committed to addressing critical gaps in cancer research through our spotlight calls, which highlight key areas of need where dedicated research efforts could accelerate progress.

With our new spotlight call, we encourage applications to develop novel approaches to reduce existing known inequalities in cancer detection and diagnosis or explore and address less well understood mechanisms driving inequalities.

Applicants can apply for funding to address the spotlight call through this award. All applications will be considered alongside the full pool of the award's proposals, with primary evaluation based on scientific quality and relevance to early detection and diagnosis. However, applications of comparable quality may be prioritized if they address a strategic need in tackling inequalities.

The spotlight call will span multiple funding rounds, with the decision on when to end the call made by us and the Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee, based on the coverage of awarded projects.

[**Learn more about the spotlight call**](#)

What isn't suitable for this scheme?

- research focussing on late-stage disease and/or metastasis (except early detection of cancer recurrence)
- research without line-of-sight to impact in early detection
- infrastructure support to our clinical trials units or centres

Some programme concepts may straddle the remits of more than one funding committee. If you are unsure which funding committee is most suited to your research proposal, please contact us and we can provide a recommendation.

You can also search our funding schemes to explore other opportunities.

[**View all available funding**](#)

How are applications reviewed?

Panels and committees

Applications are considered twice a year by the Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee, assisted by our Expert Review Panels and Patient and Public Review Panel. The review process involves the following steps:

1. After contacting us for an informal and confidential discussion of your proposal, you can submit an application on Flexi-Grant.
2. Your application will be peer-reviewed by our Expert Review Panel. You will have the opportunity to provide a written response to their comments ahead of the panel meeting. They will consider your application alongside their comments and your response to the comments before making a recommendation.
3. Your application will also be reviewed by our Patient and Public Review Panel regardless of the level of Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) within the proposal. The panel will mainly focus on the lay summary, PPI plans including associated costings and study population, if applicable, and the proposed clinical/population impact of the work.

Recommendations from both panels will be considered by the Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee who make final funding decisions.

[Learn more about how we make funding decisions](#)

Assessment criteria

The Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee and Expert Review Panel will review your proposal based on relevance to our strategy, statement of intent and a set of standard criteria.

You can find more information on the criteria by which applications are reviewed on our committee pages.

The five-year rolling success rate (financial year 2021-2026) from application to funding for this scheme is 22%.

[Learn more about the committee](#)

Observing funding panels and committees

We offer early- to mid-career researchers the opportunity to observe panel and committee meetings across our funding remit and prioritise giving this opportunity to researchers from underrepresented groups.

[Find out more about eligibility and how to apply.](#)

Feedback

We will provide feedback on your application, but all funding decisions are final. Committee members cannot discuss their decisions with applicants, so please do not approach them directly.

This allows our committee members to keep the Code of Practice for Funding Committees, which keeps our review process fair and protects applicants, committee members and external reviewers.

Our review process is extremely important to us, so we reserve the right to decline applications from anyone who compromises its integrity. We do not accept resubmissions, unless recommended by the committee.

What are the key timelines?

We consider applications for this award twice a year.

Applications open	Applications deadline	Committee review
10 Mar 2026	18 Jun 2026	Nov 2026
10 Sept 2026	3 Dec 2026	May 2027
Mar 2027	Jun 2027	Nov 2027

What costs are funded?

You can apply for up to £500k for funding for this award. Funding lasts up to four years and can be used to fund postdoctoral researchers and technical staff, with associated running costs.

You can also request equipment costing up to £50k. If equipment exceeds this value, please contact us to discuss your requirements.

We will consider requests that exceed the limits above for both funding and length of the award, but you will need to discuss this with us before submitting your application and provide a compelling and exceptional scientific rationale.

We will accept smaller pilot applications. These applications will not be disadvantaged during the review process for having less preliminary data than other applications.

For more information on what is covered by our awards, view our costs guidance.

[Read our costs guidance](#)

Salary guidance

One lead applicant, joint lead applicant or co-investigator can apply for their salary provided they:

- are an early- to mid-career researcher, defined as Develop Independence or Establish Independence by our competency framework
- meet all the criteria laid out in our policy relating to funding the salaries of investigators
- can justify how the salary would support a significant career transition towards independence
- complete the relevant Skills and Experience form upload
- contact us to discuss this before applying

If you are applying for your salary, you can only apply for funding for a maximum duration of three years.

For more information on what is covered, view our salary guidance.

[Read our salary guidance](#)

Tissue banks

We will consider funding for creating and using human tissue banks as part of the Project award, under the following circumstances:

- No comparable tissue collection already exists and a clear early detection research question drives the need for the tissue collection to be generated.
- The proposal includes not only funding for the generation of the infrastructural human tissue/linked data resource, but also to conduct an early detection research project which will use the tissue.
- The tissue collection will be of value to the early detection community and you can demonstrate how it will be shared.
- Existing technical infrastructure (eg storage facilities, robots etc) is being used as appropriate.
- You have considered longer-term sustainability (eg cost recovery model).

Applicants must commit to making the tissue resource visible through the UKCRC tissue directory.

[Explore the tissue directory](#)

How do I apply?

Contact us before applying

We strongly encourage you to contact us for an informal and confidential discussion of your proposal for us to determine your eligibility and discuss funding options. Please reach out at least one month before the submission deadline.

[Email early.detection@cancer.org.uk](mailto:early.detection@cancer.org.uk)

Relevant policies and guidance

We recommend you also read additional guidance such as our costs guidance, grant conditions, and other policies to understand any other requirements before applying.

[Read our research policies and guidance](#)

Applying through our grants management system

You can manage your application and if successful, your grant, through our online grants management system, Flexi-Grant.

[Learn about Flexi-Grant](#)

Roles within the applicant team

One primary investigator must assume the responsibility of named lead applicant on the application.

The lead applicant must be able to demonstrate that they can lead the proposal and team effectively, be engaged throughout the duration of the award, as well as meet their other research commitments.

The lead applicant assumes the responsibility of completing and submitting the application on Flexi-Grant.

In addition, the applicant team can include:

- Joint lead applicant(s), if any: essential contributors who dedicate equal time and intellectual input as the lead applicant. Joint lead applicants must be added as supporting roles once the application is opened. The lead applicant and joint lead applicant(s) will be recognised with equal status.
- Co-investigators: specialists who provide major scientific contributions and may lead specific aspects of the project (excludes post-doctoral research assistants funded by the award)
- Named research staff, if any: any named research staff that will be involved in your research (including postdoctoral research assistants funded by the grant)

- Collaborators: key contributors not involved with daily operations but who provide crucial support such as research materials, specialised expertise or patient access
- One administrative support contact (optional): assists with the application submission and completes the sections on the Association of Medical Research Charities and Costs

The lead applicant must invite the joint lead applicants, co-investigators and named research staff to join the application on Flexi-Grant and provide an up-to-date CV and five-year publication. Administrative support contacts must be invited, but do not need to provide a CV.

Collaborators should not be invited as a participant in your application. Their role should be explained in the research proposal, justification appendix and in their letter of support.

Publications and research outputs

When including publications, please include a full author list (where this is unmanageable, for example for large consortium papers, you may list the first 12 authors followed by 'et al.' provided you denote your place in the author list, eg [Bloggs J, 15th of 65 authors]). Please also include the publication title, journal, publication year, volume number and either page numbers or digital object identifier.

ORCID does not pull through the list of authors, so these should be entered manually if using ORCID to generate your publication list.

Also be sure to list any notable and relevant research outputs from your work such as preprints, training delivered, contribution to consortia, patents, key datasets, software, novel assays and reagents etc.

To clearly distinguish between peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed material, you should list your publications and research outputs in separate sections. Research outputs must be clearly labelled and must be in a citable format (eg including a digital object identifier).

Starting your application

As part of your application, you will need to provide the following information:

- applicant and co-applicant information and research abstract, to be completed following the guidance available in Flexi-Grant
- research proposal and accompanying uploads/supporting information, to be completed following the guidance provided below under additional information

As part of your research abstract, you'll need to include a lay summary. Guidance for how to write this is also included below under 'Additional Information'.

Your research proposal

There is no template for your research proposal, but please structure the proposal as outlined below. As a general guide:

- Number all pages and do not exceed 2,500 words.
- Word counts exclude figures, figure legends, time charts, risks and mitigation plans, and references.
- Use single-line spaced text, in Calibri font, pt 11, black.
- The last name and initials of the lead applicant should be included in the header or footer of all pages.
- Where available, you should include preliminary data, figures and any unpublished research findings or methodologies supporting your research proposal.
- Figures should be included in the main body of text rather than adding them as an appendix.
- Datasets and pre-prints should be in a citable format (eg including a digital object identifier).
- Do not upload unpublished manuscripts, ethical approval letters or applications, patient information or preliminary data as they will be removed from your application before review; you should incorporate any preliminary data into your proposal instead.

Purpose

Clearly outline the hypothesis, objectives, and scope of your proposed work, including:

- the scientific and clinical need for the proposed work – why is it necessary to test this hypothesis?

- the significance of your expected results and their relevance to detection of cancer, in particular, potential future clinical applications or impact on policy and practice
- the major outputs you hope to achieve from your proposed work
- future research that may lead on from your work

Background

Summarise your relevant ongoing and published work related to your research proposal, including your key achievements over the past five years. Where applicable, cite your relevant preprints or datasets, for example, using a unique digital object identifier. Describe how you will use your knowledge and experience to address the goals and hypothesis of the proposed research project.

Research plan

We suggest you divide your research plan into objectives. For each objective, please include:

- the research question
- experimental methods, techniques and analyses that you will use to test your hypothesis; refer to your own published work or indicate the availability of appropriate expertise for these methods, including sufficient detail for assessment by expert reviewers, such as sample size calculations
- any available unpublished research or methodologies supporting your research proposal
- briefly describe the expected major achievements of your research

Team composition

Please provide information on the composition of the team of applicants and collaborators, including:

- whether this is a new or existing collaboration
- whether the team or members of the team have published together previously, although this is not a requirement
- an outline of the individual contributions of each co-applicant and supporting roles, highlighting the added value of the collaboration compared to each principal investigator working independently

- whether patient representatives will be appointed and outline their role and responsibilities

Timescales, milestones and deliverables

This is not included in your word count.

Please provide a table to indicate clear and well-defined milestones against which progress can be evaluated. Include a schematic to outline timescales for the research proposal.

Risk and mitigation plans

This is not included in your word count.

List potential logistic or scientific problems and suggest solutions or alternative plans to overcome them.

References

This is not included in your word count.

Please reference your proposal appropriately, including authors, publication year, title, journal name, volume and page numbers. We don't accept shortened references or the use of 'et al.'

Number your references according to the order they appear in the text and list them in the Vancouver style, as detailed by the US National Library of Medicine.

Additional information

As part of your application, you will be required to provide additional information and supplementary uploads as follows.

	Required for application
Generative AI tools	X

**Required
for application**

Narrative CV or skills and experience form	X
Early Detection and Diagnosis of Cancer Roadmap relevance	X
Patient and public involvement plan	X
Nominated reviewers	X
Justification appendix	X
Letters of support	X
Declaration of competing interests	X
Research declarations	X
Data sharing plan	X
Costs	X
Other funding declaration	X
Association of Medical Research Charities full economic costing	X
Registered reports pilot programme opt-in	Optional

Generative AI tools

You will be directly asked to declare whether you have used any generative AI tools when completing the application form. If you have, you'll then be asked to confirm compliance with our requirements on their use.

[Read our policy on the use of generative AI tools](#)

Narrative CV

A narrative CV allows you to highlight your research achievements and contributions relevant to your application. You should also include your research outputs, such as preprints, training delivered, contribution to consortia, community outreach, patents, key datasets, software, novel assays and reagents.

Guidance on the types of activities you may include are provided below each question in the form template, but this is not exhaustive. You do not necessarily need to provide an example for every activity.

All lead and joint lead applicants named on the application will need to complete and upload their own narrative CV labelled with their name in the header or footer.

[Read our guidance on narrative CVs](#)

Skills and experience form

Only complete this form if you are a lead applicant, joint lead applicant or co-investigator eligible to request your salary, or you are an early career researcher (regardless of your salary arrangements). Refer to our salary guidance section for more information on this.

You can use the template provided in Flexi-Grant to complete this section. Your form shouldn't exceed four pages.

Please refer to our competency framework that outlines the range of skills, experiences and types of examples to include in your application.

[Read our competency framework](#)

Early Detection and Diagnosis of Cancer Roadmap

Our joint Early Detection and Diagnosis of Cancer Roadmap aims to unite fragmented efforts across the UK to drive progress in early detection and diagnosis. If your proposal aligns with this roadmap, you'll be asked to briefly explain how.

[Explore the roadmap](#)

Patient and public involvement (PPI) plans

A separate text field is provided for you to describe a Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Plan to explain how these add value to your proposal. If you are not including a PPI plan in your application, you must explain why and justify why it would not add value to your research.

Clearly outline your proposed PPI plan, its rationale and how it will add value to your research proposal. This could include how you'll involve patients in the development of research questions, research planning and design, or evaluation and/or sharing of research findings.

The approach you use should be relevant for the type of study and the research field, and you should explain your reasoning for the proposed approach (including who and how).

Be sure to include:

- detail on specific methods to involve patients and the public, in all aspects of the project, such as focus groups, advisory boards or community forums
- outline recruitment plans to engage diverse communities which define the specific roles of the individuals involved in your planned activities
- how you are offering support, guidance and development opportunities where appropriate for those involved in your research
- a detailed budget breakdown for planned PPI costs, ensuring they align with the level of involvement

Where it would add value, also consider involving key patient/public members as part of the study co-investigators and/or steering group.

There are differences between what we mean by participation, engagement and involvement. Please ensure you are using the correct term, relevant for your proposed study.

Our PPI toolkit for researchers can help you implement PPI plans, including guidance around how to choose the right method, budgeting, recruiting, delivering and evaluating your activity.

[Learn more about our PPI in research and access the toolkit](#)

Writing a lay summary

All applicants must provide a clear lay summary. This should not simply be an adaptation of the research abstract. It should be written in clear and concise language that is understandable for the average UK reading age (9–11 years old).

As part of your lay summary, you should include:

- the study background, assuming the reader has no prior knowledge of the topic
- the study aims and its importance
- the scale of the current problem
- an overview of how the study would be conducted
- how the study will make a difference and what the expected immediate study outcomes are, including why the findings will enable change that provides longer term benefits for people affected by cancer

If relevant, also include:

- the study population
- how the study reduces health inequalities or inequities
- how people affected by cancer and members of the public are involved in the delivery of the study

Where possible, involve patient/public members in drafting and reviewing the lay summary. Your host institution may provide support with writing lay summaries.

[View our guidance on writing in plain English](#)

[View NIHR guidance on writing in plain English](#)

Additional considerations

Input from people affected by cancer and members of the public should be meaningful not tokenistic. And where possible, the people you plan to involve

should have personal experience (including caring) that is relevant to your study question.

Please consider the number of people involved and their time commitment, ensuring that involvement does not burden them, especially patients who may be undergoing treatment.

You should consider the breadth and relevance of insight obtained, especially if your project is focused on a particular target population. Try to gather a diverse, wider view, and to address health inequalities where possible.

There may be barriers in identifying representatives from certain target populations, due to health or personal reasons. But you should try and find ways to mitigate or minimise these kinds of barriers to involvement to ensure your research is applicable to as broad a population as possible.

Reviewers

You may nominate up to 10 reviewers who would be qualified to assess your application critically. You should not nominate individuals if you have had a close collaboration with them, or if you have published with them in the last three years.

You can also nominate referees to exclude from the review process, but please provide justification for the exclusion. We will decide on the final selection of reviewers and nominations must comply with our conflicts of interest policy.

[Read our conflicts of interest policy](#)

Justification appendix

For this award, you will need to submit a justification appendix. For details on how to complete this, please see the link below.

[View our justification appendix guidance](#)

Letters of support

Please upload statements of support on headed paper from:

- the host institution of joint lead applicants or co-investigators based at a different institution to the lead applicant
- collaborator letters of support, outlining what specific expertise and skills they will contribute to the work (not exceeding two pages each)
- additional letters of support from appropriate advisory bodies

Early-career researchers will also need letters of support from their group leader.

Declaration of competing interests

We need to make sure activities with commercial organisations do not compromise the scientific integrity, delivery or potential health impact of our funded research, and that potential conflicts of interest are identified and managed.

Please use the template provided in Flexi-Grant to complete this section. All lead and joint lead applicants must provide this information.

[Read our conflicts of interest policy](#)

Research declarations (research features)

In this section, you will be asked a series of questions about your proposed research, including whether you plan to conduct animal, human or human stem cell research and whether the appropriate approval has been granted.

In addition, whether you anticipate that the proposed work will result in any output which can be translated to cancer patient benefit or otherwise commercialised.

Ethical approval

If you plan to involve patients, patient tissue or patient information in your research, you'll need to get ethical approval. You and your host institution are responsible for ensuring you comply with all legal requirements and ethics approval.

If you need to confirm funding arrangements before you can get ethical approval, we can make you a provisional offer of funding. However, funds may not be released until you've sent us written confirmation of ethical approval. Please bear this in mind when you propose a start date for your award.

If you need any other regulatory approval (eg sponsorship, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency approval, Clinical Trial Authorisation approval, insurance or indemnity arrangements, data protection registration, or honorary contracts with NHS Trusts and Trust R&D approval for sites that research is conducted), we may also need written confirmation before we release funding.

Data sharing plan

We require a data sharing plan for all funding applications to ensure that the data generated through our funding will be put to maximum use by the cancer research community and, whenever possible, be translated to deliver patient benefit.

Your plan should include how data resulting from this project will be made available as widely and freely as possible to the academic scientific community at the earliest opportunity, and to additional potential commercial partners through a controlled access mechanism, considering patient privacy, intellectual property rights and other applicable laws.

- Detail the steps that will be taken to ensure that the data resulting from this project will adopt the FAIR principles of findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable data.
- Provide details for when data collected and generated by the project will be made available: 1) how and when after generation will raw data be made available for research purposes; 2) how and when after analysis will processed data be made available for research purposes; 3) how and when after journal publication will analysed data and methods be made available for secondary research
- Broadly describe the proposed ethics and patient consent statement (if relevant) for sharing and release (and withdrawal) of (de-identified) data that will align with the FAIR principles, including the potential future sharing for commercial use.
- Describe how sharing of the data collected or generated under this project with commercial entities will be approached.
- Define the planned process for enabling international data sharing (both within the investigator team, if relevant, and external to the team) and list the necessary contractual agreements that will need to be executed to deliver the proposed data sharing platform.
- Describe the data standards and definitions that the investigator team plan to use for the project including how these align with existing data standards in the

research community and how the investigator team will ensure that the standards are consistent to facilitate ease of sharing.

- Describe the data governance and data architecture model (including diagrams as relevant).
- Describe the future ambitions and processes for granting access to the data beyond the initial research team and research questions proposed in this application. Include how infrastructure will be created during the project to enable these ambitions and what the anticipated timeline is for broader access.

[Learn more about the FAIR principles](#)

Costs

You should provide the costs that you're requesting from us as part of your award. Add these costs under the relevant headings and justify them in your justification appendix.

Note that we will apply indexation to your application costs according to our policy. In addition, any ineligible costs will be removed. If this is relevant, we will contact you. As a result, the final costs awarded through an official grant award letter may differ from those of the original costs requested.

[View our costs guidance](#)

Other funding

In this section, you should list all non-Cancer Research UK current and pending research applications or awards held or jointly held by yourself.

Please include the principal investigator, title, start and end dates, funding amount, funding body, type of award and whether it is current or pending. Also include a brief explanation of how this application will fit in with any current awards from us or other organisations that you hold.

This helps the committee to understand the time commitment and scientific overlap with your other award(s) and the feasibility of holding our fellowship alongside.

You are permitted to submit parallel funding applications but must highlight this in your application.

Association of Medical Research Charities Full Economic Costing

As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), we monitor the full economic costs of the research we support. This means, you will need to complete an AMRC full economic costing information form as part of your application package.

- full economics cost: please enter the total cost of your proposed research
- charity contribution: please enter the total amount you're requesting from us

Note that this information will not be reviewed as part of your final application.

[**View AMRC's position on funding universities**](#)

Registered Reports

When applying, you will be invited to join to our multi-journal pilot project on Registered Reports. If you opt-in to this pilot and your grant application is successful, you will have the opportunity to submit registered reports to your choice of participating journals for peer review.

By receiving peer review feedback before you start your research project, you'll have the chance to refine your methods. This can help reduce publication bias and improve reproducibility of your research.

Once the research project concludes, you can then submit a second publication with results and discussion. We'll provide more details about this process once you receive an award.

Your decision to take part in this pilot, and any anonymised data collected will not influence our decision-making process and will only be used for this pilot programme and its evaluation. We will store your information securely in accordance with UK law and our privacy policy.

[**Learn more about our registered reports pilot**](#)

Applications including elements of AI/machine learning

If your application includes elements of AI or machine learning, you should ensure appropriate justification and detail is given.

- Include a size and power analysis where possible or describe how these will be assessed after data collection.
- Provide the list of features used for model training and outline a feature reduction strategy, if applicable.
- Identify and address potential data biases where possible.
- Describe any independent validation set you plan to use or provide a justification if one will not be used.
- If using artificial neural networks, discuss their rationale and architecture; if not, outline alternative methods being considered and the criteria for their selection.
- Describe how you split data for training and validation, and address any potential data imbalances, if applicable.
- Outline your plans to assess and correct overfitting or underfitting and define the metrics and criteria for evaluating performance.

Intellectual property and commercial collaboration

We encourage collaboration between academia and industry through our awards. Most UK host institutions will already have a Technology Transfer Agreement in place with our commercial arm, Cancer Research Horizons.

If not, our standard funding terms and conditions would apply. If you are working with a commercial collaborator, please contact the Cancer Research Horizons team before applying for a confidential discussion around intellectual property and technology transfer.

A formal agreement between academic and industrial partners is not needed to apply, but a letter of support from a relevant individual at the industrial partner organisation is.

This letter should describe the nature of the collaboration and the industrial partner's contribution, including funding and/or in-kind support such as data, samples, reagents, technology or expertise. If the grant is awarded, you will need to share an outline of the agreement between academic and industrial partners with our Cancer Research Horizons Team to receive funding.