



MY NAME'S DODDIE FOUNDATION

## Catalyst Awards

### My Name's Doddie Foundation Catalyst Award Application Terms and Conditions 2026

These application terms and conditions (“Terms and Conditions”) apply to researchers who wish to submit an application for consideration under My Name's Doddie Foundation's (“Foundation”) Catalyst Award grant scheme. These Terms and Conditions cover the application and review process only.

Applicants will be asked to acknowledge that they have read and understood these Terms and Conditions when submitting. Submitting an application under these Terms and Conditions does not guarantee that an application will succeed, even where such application is within scope.

#### 1. Introduction

##### a. Remit and offer of the Foundation grant scheme

As part of our commitment to investing in innovative new approaches, we are launching our Catalyst Awards again for 2026. We're looking for bold, innovative, early-stage ideas that need catalytic funding to get off the ground. We want to fund the kind of exciting research that has the potential to transform the translational pipeline in MND.

We will support researchers to gather proof-of-principle evidence that will bring **innovative and potential high risk ideas to life** and develop new approaches to **accelerate translational research in MND**. Successful applicants will generate the preliminary data that will **unlock further investment opportunities**.

##### b. Project scope

Catalyst Award applications must align to one or more of the priorities outlined in our Research Strategy, **Catalysing a Cure**. Among other criteria (outlined in section 2b), applications will be judged on how well they align to our Research Strategy, so applicants are strongly encouraged to get in touch with the Foundation before submitting an application to discuss your ideas (**please email [research@myname5doddie.co.uk](mailto:research@myname5doddie.co.uk)**).

Applicants should make it clear how, within one year, the project will create a new dataset on an early-stage idea or hypothesis that could open up a **new research avenue**, and have a **clear plan for follow-on funding** if their project is successful.

##### c. Eligibility

- Lead applicants should be based in a UK academic institution.
- Collaborators can be based anywhere worldwide.
- Sub-contracting to contract research organisations is permitted.
- Industry partners are encouraged, but pharmaceutical and biotech companies will not be eligible for grant funding.
- Projects that leverage additional funding sources or in-kind support will be looked upon favourably.
- Early career researchers are encouraged to apply as lead applicants, with written support from their institution.

#### **d. Funding**

- Awards are for a maximum of £100k for up to 1 year, unless otherwise pre-agreed with the Foundation.
- Eligible costs include research staff costs and consumables. Other costs may be considered if the applicant has discussed it with the Foundation prior to the application being made.
- The Foundation does not cover the indirect costs of research.

We are happy to explore co-funding projects with other funders. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that funding for the total cost of the project has been secured.

The total fund available for this grant round is £500k.

### **2. Application process and application review**

#### **a. Application Process and Timeline**

All applications will be made using our online grant management system, [Flexi-grant](#). Key dates are tentatively outlined below:

1. Tuesday 13 January 2026 - applications open
2. Friday 27 February, **midday** - applications close
3. May 2026 - anticipated Award decision
4. Autumn 2026 - anticipated start date of successful projects

The Foundation executive will check applications for eligibility, completeness, quality of uploaded documents, scope, appropriateness of costs, start date and review lay summaries. If a non-scientific audience would not understand lay summaries, the application will be returned to the applicant for resubmission within 1 week before the application is sent for peer review.

#### **b. Assessment Criteria**

Applications will be assessed by our independent [Research Review Committee](#) according to the following criteria:

- Level of scientific innovation
- Potential to open a novel avenue of MND research
- For high-risk projects, appropriate plans are built in to mitigate unnecessary risks e.g. clear decision points with pre-agreed criteria, input from experts who may not be directly involved in the project, etc.
- Alignment to the Foundation's research strategy and potential of the project to lead to follow-on research that will positively impact people living with MND
- Ability of the project to create a solid preliminary data package within a one-year timeframe
- Suitability of the applicant(s) to carry out the research
- If animal use is proposed and justified, the appropriateness of the number of animals and chosen models
- Potential to secure follow-on funding if the project is successful, and for the follow-on research to rapidly translate towards the clinic
- Justification of funds requested and feasibility of the approach within the proposed budget

The Research Review Committee will recommend projects for funding to the Foundation's Board of Trustees, who will make the final decision on which projects should be funded.

#### *Unsuccessful Applications*

If any applications are deemed to be unsuccessful at any stage, the Foundation will provide feedback upon request as to the reasons.

#### **c. Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest**

Subject to these Terms and Conditions, all information shared under the Foundation grant scheme shall be handled as confidential and used only to evaluate the relevant application.

Information provided in application forms will be shared with our Research Review Committee and other independent experts as required, according to the criteria set out in 2b.

Throughout our peer review process, information is kept strictly confidential. All reviewers must accept our conflict of interest policy before they agree to review a grant application. If an individual has a conflict of interest, they are not involved in reviewing that application. We work closely with our Chair and Vice-Chair to ensure funding decisions are fair, objective and transparent.

### **3. Personal Data**

All information, including any personal data, submitted to the Foundation will only be used for the processing of and communication regarding the application, as described in sections 2 and 3 of these Terms and Conditions.

All information, including any personal data, will be processed, stored, shared and retained securely and per the [Foundation's Privacy Policy](#).

Applicants should refer to the Foundation's privacy policy for more details on the processing, storage, sharing and retention of personal data.