

INSPIRE Research Challenge

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As part of our continued commitment to accelerating progress, World Cancer Research Fund International has launched the INSPIRE Research Challenge, in partnership with American Institute for Cancer Research, World Cancer Research Fund in the UK and Wereld Kanker Onderzoek Fonds in the Netherlands.

[> Grant round now open – submit your application today < https://wcrf.ccgrantracker.com/](https://wcrf.ccgrantracker.com/)

The INSPIRE Research Challenge will prioritise innovative, bold and creative proposals with the potential to catalyse rapid and impactful advances in cancer prevention, treatment and survivorship.

This is a new grant call aimed at early career investigators. It will run in parallel with our [existing grant programmes < https://www.wcrf.org/research-we-fund/grant-programmes/apply-for-a-research-grant/](https://www.wcrf.org/research-we-fund/grant-programmes/apply-for-a-research-grant/) and is open to investigators worldwide.

Application criteria

The programme is open to early career researchers – defined as individuals who are within 2–6 years full-time equivalent (FTE) working in research since the award date of their PhD or equivalent higher research degree.

Eligible applicants must be employed on a research contract within a department at a university-affiliated research institution or a medical school conducting research.

Proposed projects must have direct relevance to cancer prevention, treatment or survivorship and may address any or all stages of the cancer journey.

Proposals should address modifiable factors including both lifestyle – such as diet, nutrition, physical activity – and environmental factors – such as pollution/contaminants and pathogens.

Particular priority will be given to novel exposures including stress, sleep and host factors such as immune function.

Grant application timeline

Call opens (Letter of Intent): 9 September 2024
Deadline for Letter of Intent: 17:00 BST on 1 October 2024
Full application for shortlisted applicants opens: 6 January 2025
Deadline for full applications: 5 February 2025
Funding decisions announced: September 2025

For full details on the challenge and guidance on making an application, please read the following documents carefully:

[INSPIRE research brief and principles < https://www.wcrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/INSPIRE-Brief-2024-25.pdf](https://www.wcrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/INSPIRE-Brief-2024-25.pdf)

(PDF)

[INSPIRE instructions for completing application forms and video interview brief < https://www.wcrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/INSPIRE-Application-Forms-and-Video-Interview-Brief.pdf](https://www.wcrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/INSPIRE-Application-Forms-and-Video-Interview-Brief.pdf)

(PDF)

[INSPIRE Terms and Conditions for grant holders < https://www.wcrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/INSPIRE-TsCs.pdf](https://www.wcrf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/INSPIRE-TsCs.pdf)

(PDF)

How to apply

Applications must be made using our [Grants Management System < https://wcrf.ccgrantracker.com/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f](https://wcrf.ccgrantracker.com/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f). Once registered with the system, you will have access to the application forms for open grant rounds. You will find instructions on how to complete the applications in the instructions PDFs listed above. Ensure you carefully read through the instructions and the guidelines.

For any questions regarding the INSPIRE Research Challenge, please e-mail inspire@wcrf.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility questions

- [Who should apply?](#)
- [How do you calculate the early career researcher timeline?](#)
- [Can a PhD student be the PI?](#)
- [Can a postdoc be the PI?](#)
- [Where do you accept applications from?](#)
- [Which institutions are eligible to apply?](#)
- [Is there a limit to the number of applications that can be submitted?](#)
- [Will a transition from 1 institution to another impact eligibility for the grant? How will the transfer of funds work?](#)
- [Can the project team involve multiple institutions? Can there be co-PIs?](#)