

Alzheimer's Research UK Response Mode Grants General Eligibility Criteria

Last Reviewed: December 2020



Eligibility criteria vary between grant schemes; specific details are given below. In general (except where explicitly stated), **lead applicants must be based at a UK Research institution (a university or hospital department, or a Research Council-funded institute)**. Companies, including SMEs, are not eligible to apply as lead applicants, but can be co-applicants.

Applications must fall within Alzheimer's Research UK's funding remit which covers **biomedical research in Alzheimer's disease and other dementias**. ARUK funds research across 4 key goals:



Of particular importance is **research which has translational potential for patient benefit**. This includes basic preclinical as well as clinical research, however **care or service delivery research falls outside of our remit**. Applications that do not satisfy the eligibility criteria will be triaged or withdrawn.

For your convenience, our schemes have been classified into the following categories:

Projects	ARUK offers a number of project-based awards to support the research programmes of UK-based tenured researchers. Funds can be used for researcher & technician salary/stipends, animals, equipment and consumables.
Career Development	We aim to build capacity in dementia research by funding talented researchers to complete PhD Scholarships or Fellowships.
Resources	We place vital equipment in centres of excellence where multiple researchers can benefit and provide conference funding for researchers to present their research findings and foster new collaborations.
Basic & Clinical	Both basic and clinical research can be funded through our response-mode awards, although some Fellowships are tailored exclusively towards basic or clinical researchers.
Drug Discovery	ARUK prefers to invest in drug discovery through our Drug Discovery Alliance or the Dementia Consortium . We do not therefore fund drug discovery through our project grants however, drug discovery projects can be applied for through our career development grants.

Special/one-off calls

From time to time we launch or participate in special/one-off calls, sometimes in partnership with other funders. For these calls, the eligibility criteria may differ and you are advised to consult the individual grant scheme pages for more specific information before starting your application.

If you remain unsure of your eligibility, please email research@alzheimersresearchuk.org to discuss your eligibility further.

Major Project Grant



- This grant scheme is not a funding mechanism for drug discovery or development; these should be applied for through the Dementia Consortium or through ARUK's Drug Discovery Institutes.
- The Lead Applicant and point of contact must be based in a UK academic/research institution. However, the application can include researchers or institutions outside the UK.
- If the project requires Ethics approval (clinical work) and/or Home Office licences (animal work), the award is dependent upon the requisite approvals being granted.
- This grant scheme is not a funding mechanism for clinical trials.
- The Lead Applicant is expected to have a contract (fixed term or tenure) which covers the proposed duration of the grant. If the Lead Applicant does not hold a tenure appointment, the application must include a co-applicant that does.
- If a grant applicant has more than 12 months remaining on an existing award with a significant ARUK contribution (incl. Major project grant holder, DRI-funded PIs, DRI Fellows or DDA-affiliated senior leaders) at the time of application, or is granted such an award during the ARUK review process, they are not eligible to apply for a Major project grant.

Pilot project



- If the project requires ethical approval (clinical work) and/or Home Office licences (animal work), the award is dependent upon the requisite approvals being granted.
- Applicants seeking to obtain preliminary data before a collaboration with one or more of ARUK's Drug Discovery Institutes are required to hold early discussions with one of the DDI Chief Scientific Officers (CSOs) regarding the suitability of the target and the data that is necessary to obtain before further work is initiated. A letter of support for the Pilot Project work plan will be required of the collaborating DDI CSO(s) with the application.
- Applicants aiming to gain preliminary data to support an Expression of Interest submission to the Dementia Consortium are not required to obtain a letter of support from Evotec. However, applicants will be asked to justify how the outcomes of their proposals would fit within the remit of a future Dementia Consortium project.
- This grant scheme is not a funding mechanism for clinical trials.
- The Lead Applicant and point of contact must be based in a UK academic/research institution. However, the application can include researchers or institutions outside the UK.
- The Lead Applicant is expected to have a contract (fixed term or tenure) which covers the proposed duration of the grant. If the Lead Applicant does not hold a tenure appointment, the application must include a co-applicant that does.
- DRI post-docs eligible for funding under the "UK DRI Pilot Studies Programme" are not eligible to apply for ARUK Pilot Project grants.

PhD Scholarship



- The Lead Applicant must be the prospective Lead Supervisor, not the student.
- The Lead Applicant and point of contact must be based in a UK academic/research institution. However, the application can include researchers or institutions outside the UK.
- The Lead Applicant, and thereby Lead Supervisor, is expected to have a contract (fixed term or tenure) which covers the proposed duration of the grant. If the Lead Applicant does not hold a tenure appointment, the application must include a co-applicant, and thereby co-supervisor, that does.
- If the project requires ethical approval and/or Home Office licences, the award is dependent upon the requisite approvals being granted.
- Students can be identified after a funding decision has been made. However, confirmation of an award is dependent upon ARUK approval of the student who will undertake the project. This confirmation will require evidence that the student is of high calibre and strongly motivated. Note that ARUK cannot cover the cost of tuition fees for international students.
- PhD Scholarships are expected to begin at the start of the next academic year, however there is some flexibility with respect to start date.
- The PhD Scholarship scheme covers a full three-year PhD programme. It does not cover funding gaps for PhD students who have already started their studies or have obtained part funding elsewhere.

Research Fellowship

Career Development	For Basic Researchers	Drug Discovery
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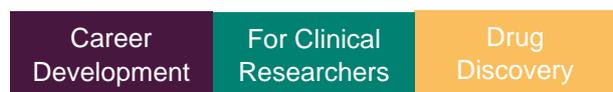
- Prospective Research Fellows must be PhD-qualified non-clinical researchers.
- Prospective Research Fellows should be able to demonstrate:
 - Evidence of previous research project(s) with impactful outputs, such as publications and conference presentations
 - an upward trajectory
 - how they are starting to accumulate a tool-box of new skills that will serve as a strong basis for future independent research activity
 - how they are being increasingly recognised for their specialist expertise
- For a more detailed description of the skills and training a prospective Fellow is expected to demonstrate, please read our Early Career Researcher Framework (Appendix I).
- Fellowships must be applied for by the prospective Fellow, not the Supervisor(s).
- Researchers who hold tenure are not eligible to apply as prospective Fellows.
- The prospective Fellow and Lead Supervisor must be based in a UK academic/research institution. However, the application can include co-applicants or collaborators from outside the UK.
- Fellows are required to have secured a supervisor, a senior established investigator in the institution where the Fellowship is to be held. The Supervisor will provide the facilities required for the research programme, will have oversight of the Fellow and their research programme, and will contribute actively to the further training of the Fellow.
- The Lead Supervisor must have a contract (fixed term or tenure) with the host institution covering the proposed duration of the Fellowship. If the Lead Supervisor does not hold a tenure appointment, the application must include a co-supervisor that does.
- If the project requires ethical approval and/or Home Office licences, the award is dependent upon the requisite approvals being granted.

Senior Research Fellowship



- Prospective Senior Research Fellows must be PhD-qualified clinical or non-clinical researchers on the verge of a “transition to independence”.
- Prospective Senior Research Fellows should be able to demonstrate:
 - a strong track record of original and productive research in their area (as evidenced by senior author publication(s) or other equivalent outputs), which shows productivity and impact across past appointments (typically at least one previous post-doctoral appointment).
 - the progress they have made in moving towards independence through
 - i) diverse collaborations and partnerships independent of their sponsors and past supervisors,
 - ii) receipt of small amounts of independent funding (such as a previous intermediate fellowship) and/or
 - iii) a track record of effective management of a small number of their own laboratory staff.
- For a more detailed description of the skills and training a prospective Fellow is expected to demonstrate, please read our Early Career Researcher Framework (Appendix I).
- Fellowships must be applied for by the prospective Fellow, not the Sponsor(s).
- Senior Fellowship Sponsors are expected to hold tenure or tenure-track appointments.
- The Lead Applicant and point of contact must be based in a UK academic/research institution. However, the application can include researchers or institutions outside the UK.
- Senior Fellowships are intended for outstanding researchers who have already a strong track record in dementia research but have not yet achieved tenure or tenure-track status.
- If the project requires ethical approval (clinical work) and/or Home Office licences (animal work), the award is dependent upon the requisite approvals being granted.
- Senior Fellows are required to have secured the sponsorship of a senior established investigator in the institution where the Fellowship is to be held. The Sponsor will provide the facilities required for the research programme.
- If the project requires ethical approval and/or Home Office licences, the award is dependent upon the requisite approvals being granted.

Clinical Research Training Fellowship



- Prospective Clinical Research Training Fellows must be clinically qualified (including trainee Old Age/General Psychiatrists, Neurologists, Clinical Psychologists and similar specialists), and do not hold a PhD.
- Prospective Clinical Research Training Fellows should be able to demonstrate:
 - Evidence of previous research project(s) with impactful outputs, such as publications and conference presentations
 - an upward trajectory
 - how they are starting to accumulate a tool-box of new skills that will serve as a strong basis for future independent research activity
 - how they are being increasingly recognised for their specialist expertise
- For a more detailed description of the skills and training a prospective Fellow is expected to demonstrate, please read our Early Career Researcher Framework (Appendix I).
- Prospective Fellows that hold tenure are not eligible for funding through this scheme.
- Alzheimer's Research UK prefers that it is the prospective Fellow that applies as Lead Applicant. However, in the absence of one then a prospective supervisor may apply as the Lead Applicant.
- This scheme can be for either clinical or basic research projects. However, the Fellow (either as Lead Applicant or identified subsequently by the Supervisor) must be clinically qualified (such as UK MRCP, MRCPsych, BPS accreditation, or equivalent) with an honorary clinical contract.
- A Fellow is required to have a prospective supervisor. A supervisor is a senior established investigator in the institution where the Fellowship is to be held. They will provide the facilities required for the research programme, will have oversight of the Fellow and their research programme, and will contribute actively to the further training of the Fellow.
- The prospective Fellow and Lead Supervisor must be based in a UK academic/research institution. However, the application can include co-applicants or collaborators from outside the UK.
- The Lead Supervisor must have a contract (fixed term or tenure) with the host institution covering the proposed duration of the Fellowship. If the Lead Supervisor does not hold a tenure appointment, the application must include a co-supervisor that does.
- If the project requires Ethics approval (clinical work) and/or Home Office licences (animal work), the award is dependent upon the requisite approvals being granted.

Clinical Research Fellowship



- Prospective Clinical Research Fellows must be clinically qualified (including trainee Old Age/General Psychiatrists, Neurologists, Clinical Psychologists and similar specialists), and ideally hold a PhD.
- Prospective Clinical Research Fellows should be able to demonstrate:
 - Evidence of previous research project(s) with impactful outputs, such as publications and conference presentations
 - an upward trajectory
 - how they are starting to accumulate a tool-box of new skills that will serve as a strong basis for future independent research activity
 - how they are being increasingly recognised for their specialist expertise
- For a more detailed description of the skills and training a prospective Fellow is expected to demonstrate, please read our Early Career Researcher Framework (Appendix I).
- Prospective Fellows that hold tenure are not eligible for funding through this scheme.
- Alzheimer's Research UK prefers that it is the prospective Fellow that applies as Lead Applicant. However, in the absence of one then a prospective supervisor may apply as the Lead Applicant.
- A Fellow is required to have a prospective supervisor. A supervisor is a senior established investigator in the institution where the Fellowship is to be held. They will provide the facilities required for the research programme, will have oversight of the Fellow and their research programme, and will contribute actively to the further training of the Fellow.
- The prospective Fellow and Lead Supervisor must be based in a UK academic/research institution. However, the application can include co-applicants or collaborators from outside the UK.
- This scheme can be for either clinical or basic research projects. However, the Fellow (either as Lead Applicant or identified subsequently by the Supervisor) must be clinically qualified (such as UK MRCP, MRCPsych, BPS accreditation, or equivalent) with an honorary clinical contract.
- The Lead Supervisor must have a contract (fixed term or tenure) with the host institution covering the proposed duration of the Fellowship. If the Lead Supervisor does not hold a tenure appointment, the application must include a co-supervisor that does.
- If the project requires Ethics approval (clinical work) and/or Home Office licences (animal work), the award is dependent upon the requisite approvals being granted.

Equipment



- If the project requires Ethics approval (clinical work) and/or Home Office licences (animal work), the award is dependent upon the requisite approvals being granted.
- The Lead Applicant and point of contact must be based in a UK academic/research institution. However, the application can include researchers or institutions outside the UK.
- The Lead Applicant is expected to have a contract (fixed term or tenure) which covers the proposed duration of the grant. If the Lead Applicant does not hold a tenure appointment, the application must include a co-applicant that does.
- UK DRI-funded researchers are not eligible for Equipment grant funds as lead applicants.
- Alzheimer's Research UK strongly favours applications that include a supporting statement from the host Institution outlining their contribution towards the equipment. The host Institution's contribution can be financial, in-kind, provision of a support post, service costs or other. Alzheimer's Research UK expects the contribution to be of at least 25%.

Scientific Conference Grant



- Applicants must be organising or hosting the conference.
- If the project requires ethical approval (clinical work) and/or Home Office licences (animal work), the award is dependent upon the requisite approvals being granted.
- The Lead Applicant and point of contact must be based in a UK academic/research institution. However, the conference co-applicants and venue may be international.
- The Lead Applicant is expected to hold tenure or tenure-track appointments.

Dementia Consortium



- Applications are acceptable from applicants based at established research institutions worldwide.
- The Lead Applicant is expected to have a contract (fixed term or tenure) which covers the proposed duration of the grant. If the Lead Applicant does not hold a tenure appointment, the application must include a co-applicant that does.

Appendix I – Alzheimer’s Research UK - Early Career Researcher Framework

Queries should be directed to research@alzheimersresearchuk.org

This framework outlines the skills and training Early Career Researchers are expected to demonstrate in order to win support for their application from our Grant Review Board. The framework was developed in 2017 as a result of Alzheimer’s Research UK’s decision to remove time-bound eligibility criteria from our Fellowship schemes, bringing us in line with the requirements of other funders such as the MRC. We share the belief that [Science doesn’t only need sprinters](#). The framework has been adapted, with thanks, from the MRC’s own [“Skills needed to win support”](#).

Our framework encourages Early Career Researchers to consider the “whole package” early on, which extends beyond a strong scientific track record to attributes such as leadership skills and communication and engagement. During the application process, prospective Fellows will be expected to discuss how they satisfy the criteria outlined in the framework, in addition to detailing plans for continued development during the course of their Fellowship.



ARUK Fellowships are personal awards for excellent Early Career Researchers to support key transition points in their careers and are **available to both non-clinical and clinical researchers**. We continue to be supportive of career breaks and part-time working when assessing research experience and track record to date, and also **encourage applications from researchers from other disciplines** who have expertise and ideas which could benefit dementia research.

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Early Career Researcher Framework			
	Training & Skills Development	Increasing Independence & Recognition	Independence & Leadership
Scheme(s)	PhD Scholarship Clinical Research Training Fellowship	Research Fellowship Clinical Research Fellowship	Senior Research Fellowship
Award(s)	Jean Corsan Prize	Prospective Fellows may be eligible to apply for our David Hague Early Career Investigator of the Year Award (<i>Applicants for the award are not required to hold current funding from Alzheimer's Research UK</i>)	
Key criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of participation in previous research project(s) Clear plans to pursue a career in dementia research Enthusiasm for developing a “tool-box” of skills that will provide the basis for future research activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered previous research projects with evidence of impactful outputs Productivity across past appointments and an upward trajectory Clear plans to establish own research ‘niche’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track record of nationally competitive research Established plans to manage own independent research group and become internationally recognised within the field of biomedical dementia research
Prior to embarking upon the scheme, candidates should:			
1. Research vision	<p>Have an appreciation of how the research will contribute to one or more of Alzheimer's Research UK's Key Goals and the wider biomedical dementia research landscape.</p> <p>Demonstrate an understanding of how the proposed research will address fundamental gaps in our knowledge of disease processes and will translate into improved diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment.</p> <p>Have an awareness of research in other fields and appreciate the importance of collaborative and interdisciplinary working.</p> <p>Show a willingness to embrace the opportunities provided through an integrated training programme that supports career development, in addition to being realistically achievable within the timeframe and relevant for the success of the project.</p>	<p>Have a clear understanding of the contribution of their research to one or more of Alzheimer's Research UK's Key Goals and the wider biomedical dementia research landscape.</p> <p>Demonstrate independent research ideas that address fundamental gaps in our knowledge of disease processes, contribute to improved diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment and have a clear translational path or vision.</p> <p>Have an awareness of research in other fields and embrace opportunities for collaborative and interdisciplinary working.</p> <p>Have credible plans for a coherent and integrated training programme that supports career development, in addition to being realistically achievable within the timeframe and relevant for the success of the project.</p>	<p>Be able to explain how their research plans will contribute to achieving one of more of Alzheimer's Research UK's Key Goals and fit into the global landscape of biomedical dementia research.</p> <p>Have their own ambitious research plans or ideas that address fundamental gaps in our knowledge of disease processes, contribute to improved diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment and have a clear translational path or vision. Plans should not significantly overlap with those of their proposed Sponsor(s).</p> <p>Have an increasing network of research contacts and collaborators, independent of their group leaders, Supervisor(s) and Sponsor(s) to date, including appropriate collaborations nationally, internationally and across disciplines.</p> <p>Have established plans to grow their own research team that will enable them to become an independent and internationally recognised biomedical dementia researcher.</p>
2. Research experience and potential	<p>Have participated in previous research project(s) such as Masters projects, summer placements, work experience or shadowing.</p> <p>Have training relevant to the success of the proposal and its completion within the stated timeframe, such as a good undergraduate and/or Master's degree in a relevant discipline.</p> <p>Be prepared to take a proactive approach to accumulating a “tool-box” of new skills that will serve as a strong basis for future research.</p>	<p>Hold a PhD, if they are a non-clinical researcher or ideally hold a PhD if they are a clinically qualified researcher.</p> <p>Have delivered previous research project(s) and show evidence of impactful outputs, for example, first author publications and conference presentations, as well as demonstrating an upward trajectory.</p> <p>Be enhancing their growing “tool-box” of skills, which will serve as a strong basis for future independent research activity, whilst being increasingly recognised for their specialist expertise.</p>	<p>Have a strong track record of original and productive nationally competitive research in their area (as evidenced by senior author publication(s) or other equivalent outputs), which shows productivity and impact across past appointments (typically including post-doctoral appointments and a junior Fellowship).</p> <p>Demonstrate potential to lead independent research, for example by having:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> formed new collaborations with teams in other departments, research organisations and/or other disciplines

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		Be establishing their own network(s) of research contacts independent of the current group leader/supervisor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - secured small amounts of independent funding, such as a previous intermediate fellowship - a proven track record of effective management of a small number of their own laboratory staff <p>Be starting to show evidence of recognition and leadership in the community on an international scale, e.g. through citations to their publications, invitations to seminar/conferences.</p>
3. Personal development	<p>Understand how the proposal has been designed to include research and training that will enable them to gain the specific skills needed to deliver future research.</p> <p>Be <i>starting</i> to identify and pursue opportunities to access career development support, e.g. mentoring, learning new skills, and spending time in other research groups or settings, either within the UK or overseas.</p>	<p>Describe how they have designed their proposal to include research and training that will enable them to gain the specific skills needed to deliver their future research plans.</p> <p>Have identified and be pursuing opportunities to access career development support, e.g. mentoring, learning new skills, and spending time in other research groups or settings, either within the UK or overseas.</p>	<p>Have undertaken and be actively pursuing research training opportunities to broaden their development, such as time in a second research centre or in industry.</p> <p>Be able to outline how they will use the fellowship to seek opportunities to develop their career, e.g. through mentoring and professional training development such as management and leadership training.</p>
4. Leadership	<p>Show potential to lead and inspire, for example through organisation of peer activities, workshops, journal clubs or supporting individuals at earlier career stages such as Masters or short-project students.</p>	<p>Show evidence of leading and inspiring, for example through organisation of peer activities, workshops, journal clubs or supporting individuals at earlier career stages such as Masters and PhD level students.</p>	<p>Have a track record of identifying and maximising potential in others. For example, through the management and mentoring of some of their own staff and early career researchers, and/or as the primary supervisor to PhD students.</p>
5. Communication and engagement skills	<p>Have excellent communication and interpersonal skills across a variety of audiences, for example academic and public.</p> <p>Show how their research outcomes will be communicated and disseminated within and outside the research community.</p> <p>Be prepared to demonstrate how their research aligns with Alzheimer’s Research UK’s vision and our promise to supporters.</p>	<p>Have excellent communication and interpersonal skills across different audiences, including academic and public, demonstrated, for example, through presentations at scientific conferences and involvement in public meetings (for example, those held by Alzheimer’s Research UK’s Network Centres).</p> <p>Show how their research outcomes will be communicated and disseminated within and outside the research community.</p> <p>Be prepared to demonstrate how their research aligns with Alzheimer’s Research UK’s vision and our promise to supporters.</p>	<p>Have excellent communication and interpersonal skills across diverse audiences, demonstrated, for example, through interactions with academia, the general public, policy stakeholders and the media.</p> <p>Show how their research outcomes will be communicated and disseminated within and outside the research community.</p> <p>Be prepared to act an ambassador for Alzheimer’s Research UK by showing how their research and future plans align with our vision and our promise to supporters.</p>
6. Profile and influence	<p>Have a strong sense of the pathway towards an independent career in dementia research.</p> <p>Be supportive of the wider research agenda through, for example, providing lectures/seminars and undertaking teaching/clinical duties.</p>	<p>Have a strong, practical sense of how they will develop their careers to become leading independent researchers.</p> <p>Be supportive the wider research agenda through, for example, peer review activity, providing lectures/seminars, teaching/clinical duties and participation in internal committees.</p>	<p>Show evidence of their support of the wider research agenda, through peer review activity, invited lectures/seminars, teaching or clinical duties and participation in internal and external committees.</p> <p>Show increasing influence and contribution to the wider research agenda. For example, through development of research standards or guidelines, committee membership, research strategy at organisational/national/international level.</p>