

Small Project Grants - advice to applicants

Purpose

These grants are intended to encourage clinicians and scientists to undertake small-scale or pilot studies that may lead to a larger project

Scope

- Projects that answer a stand-alone research question
- Projects that leverage a larger project by answering a separate and complementary question
- Equipment that can be used across several projects
- Projects and equipment must be in New Zealand

Who can apply?

- PhD students
- Post-doctoral research fellows
- Clinicians
- Continued academics

What can be funded?

- Working expenses
- Equipment
- Salaries for post-doctoral fellows, research assistants and technicians

What will not be funded?

- Completion of existing projects
- Salaries for clinicians or scientists with continued positions
- Travel

Maximum value

- \$15,000

Closing dates

If the closing date falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be extended to the next working day

- 1 April and 1 September

Process

- Create an application on our online portal at <https://grants.neurological.org.nz/>. You will need to create a new account if you are a first-time user
- Your application will go to your configured research office for review, before being sent on (at the institution's decision) to the Neurological Foundation
- The budget requested should be in NZD. The Neurological Foundation will not award more than is requested in the budget and does not fund institutional overheads
- Supporting documentation:
 - NZ Standard CVs for all named investigators, using the template available on the application form
 - Quotes for any items of equipment
 - A cover letter for any resubmissions, addressing previous reviewer comments
 - Partial funding and ethics approval letters, as required
- Applicants will be advised of the outcome early in July or December
- Successful applicants will be informed of the conditions of the grant and asked for their formal acceptance of the research contract

General Advice

Purpose

The Neurological Foundation's purpose is to "be a catalyst to improve the future quality of life for New Zealanders impacted by neurological conditions".

The Neurological Foundation will accept applications for research aligned with this purpose, including biomedical, bioengineering, clinical, and epidemiological research. The Foundation will accept applications designed to further the knowledge and treatment of primary neuropsychiatric or neuropsychological disorders, as long as the research takes a mechanistic approach to discovering or treating a component of the disorder. Applications that deal only with the clinical management of mental health disorders will not be considered.

Resubmission

The Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee provides constructive feedback to applicants after each grant round. If unsuccessful, applicants can resubmit their proposal in a subsequent grant round. However, the Scientific Advisory Committee believes that a third submission of an unsuccessful project is not appropriate. Therefore, only one resubmission of a Small Project grant application will be accepted. A researcher who has been unsuccessful twice with a particular application is welcome to submit further proposals in their chosen field of research, but these proposals will need to be based on new or substantially revised hypotheses.

Research contracts

Successful applicants will be offered research contracts that outline the conditions of the grant, including the following:

- If required, ethics approval must be obtained prior to commencing the project
- The host institution will administer the grant
- The grant will have a specific start date and end date
- The institution's research programme may be rapidly evolving and the details of the research project may change after the application is made. If the contractual details of the project change a variation request will need to be submitted to the Foundation's Research Manager
- A final report will be required within 12 months of the grant's end date
- Any presentations or publications resulting from the project will acknowledge the Foundation's support

Questions?

If you have any queries please contact the Foundation's Research Manager for advice.
research@neurological.org.nz