

Project Grants - advice to applicants

Purpose

These grants are intended to support research projects led by clinicians and scientists

Scope

- Projects that answer a stand-alone research question
- Projects that leverage a larger project by answering a separate and complementary question
- Projects must be based in New Zealand

Who can apply?

- Post-doctoral research fellows
- Clinicians
- Continued academics

What can be funded?

- Salaries for post-doctoral research fellows
- Salaries for named investigators
- Salaries for research assistants and technicians
- Working expenses, including publication costs
- Equipment up to a value of \$15,000
- Recipients are eligible to apply for travel grants of up to \$4,500 towards travelling to conferences and training courses directly related to the project

What will not be funded?

- Completion of existing projects
- Stipends or fees for postgraduate students
- Salaries or institutional overheads for clinicians or scientists with permanent positions

Maximum value

- There is no specific maximum value, please review previous grants awarded on the Foundation's website as a guide

Closing dates

- 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
 - Partial funding and ethics approval letters, as required
 - A cover letter for any resubmissions, addressing previous reviewer comments
- 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

Mission

The Neurological Foundation's mission is "To alleviate suffering from diseases and disorders of the brain and nervous system through research and education".

The Neurological Foundation will accept applications for research aligned with this mission, 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.

Grant writing advice

Two groups of assessors will read your application: external national and international reviewers with expertise in your area, and the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee which is comprised of a diverse range of clinicians and scientists. A clearly written proposal that is accessible to the non-expert will be appreciated by the Committee. Reviewers want a concise application and can be irritated when important details are missing, especially if there is unused space in the application.

Assessment

The Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee will assess your application, along with reports from up to four expert external reviewers. The Committee will make funding recommendations to the National Council of the Foundation.

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 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
- Funded salaries will cease at the grant's end date, and the Foundation will not fund any leave owing at the end of the grant
- 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 at research@neurological.org.nz