

Translational Research Grants Call and guidelines – 2025 scheme

Our Translational Research Grants aim to support and accelerate the development of research discoveries into potential new treatments to protect and restore hearing and /or silence tinnitus. **It funds projects at both academic institutions and small/medium enterprises in any country.**

Call for Proposals

We request translational research proposals that will advance the development of novel therapeutics (excluding medical devices) for the treatment of hearing disorders, including tinnitus.

We want to support:

- Research focused on the development of a specific novel therapeutic for the treatment of hearing loss and/or tinnitus.
- Clearly defined experimental plans supported by relevant preliminary and/or proof-of-concept data
- Proposals that clearly outline the commercial potential of the therapeutic and describe how work undertaken during the Translational Research Grant will enable the innovation to attract follow-on funding for subsequent developmental steps

Applications can include:

- Studies which will enable lead optimisation and/or candidate selection.
- Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics (PKPD) studies.
- Safety/toxicology studies.
- Drug repositioning/repurposing.
- Validation of therapeutic targets for the treatment of hearing loss or tinnitus.

- Studies to strengthen confidence that a target or therapeutic approach will be applicable to human hearing loss or tinnitus.

All applications need to be supported by and contain clear descriptions of the preliminary data supporting the proposed approach.

Applications will not be accepted in the following areas:

- Basic research into the causes and underpinning biology of hearing loss and tinnitus.
- The development of devices or software.
- The optimization of current clinical protocols.
- Health service studies.
- Identification/validation of methods or outcomes not aligned to a specific therapeutic.

Co-funding opportunity

This year we are partnering with the [Dunhill Medical Trust](#) to co-fund research focused on advancing therapeutics for the treatment of age-related hearing disorders that have the potential to benefit older people in the UK. We particularly encourage applications that will address this large unmet clinical need. Projects in this area with lead applicants based at UK organisations will be considered for joint funding with the Dunhill Medical Trust.

Summary of grant

- Duration:** Up to three years
- Eligibility:** Applicants may be from any country and may be from academic institutions and small/medium enterprises (SME)
- Value:** Up to £300K in total, funding will not exceed £100,000 in any one year

Application and selection procedure

There is a two-stage application process for the Translational Research Grant (an overview of the process, and timings, is shown at the end).

Preliminary application

All applicants are required to submit a preliminary application. Preliminary applications will be considered by our Translational Grant review panel, who will determine which applications to take forward to the full application stage.

They are asked to rate the proposals on the following criteria:

- Clarity of the research proposal and relevance to the aims of the scheme
- Translational and/or commercial potential of the proposal
- Feasibility and design of the project – its likelihood of success in answering the research question
- Potential benefit and relevance of the research outcomes to people with hearing loss and/or tinnitus

The process of selecting preliminary applications to move forward to the full application stage is competitive, and we therefore ask that you do not submit speculative applications. It is important for this process to work and to be fair to other applicants that preliminary outlines accurately reflect any later invited applications. As such, all full applications will be checked against preliminary applications.

Full application

Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

Full applications will be sent to at least two (ideally three) external referees in the field, who are asked to evaluate the scientific approach and translational/commercial potential of the project. They are asked to assess the proposal against the following criteria:

- Relevance to people with hearing loss or tinnitus
- Novelty and originality

- Appropriate project design, methodology, analysis and ethical considerations (for research involving people or animals)
- Quality of supporting background or preliminary data provided
- Feasibility of timescale and budget (adequate justification of costs)
- Likelihood of the project advancing the development of a novel therapeutic for hearing loss or tinnitus
- Likelihood of the project attracting follow-on funding post award

Applicants will be given the opportunity to respond to external peer review feedback in advance of the final review panel meeting. Proposals, reviews and rebuttals will then be considered and rated by members of our Translational Research Grant review panel.

The top-rated applications will be funded. Applicants will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible following the final decision and feedback from the panel meeting will be provided.

Additional notes for applicants

How to apply: Preliminary and full applications must be submitted through our online grants management system, [Flexi-Grant](#), before the deadline. There is further guidance on Flexi-Grant about how to complete your application. Please contact us with any queries about the scheme at least three working days before the deadline.

Resubmissions: we accept resubmissions of related, previously unfunded projects through this scheme. The resubmission must be updated to take into account any feedback given (or to provide any additional data).

Please note that your application will have to be approved by an authorised representative from your institution before you can submit it – ensure you allow enough time for this before the deadline.

**All preliminary applications must be received on or before Monday
7 April 2025 (5pm UK time).**



A summary of our current terms and conditions is included on our website for your reference – please note that these are subject to change.

Deadlines

Preliminary applications: **7 April 2025 (5pm UK time)**

Full applications: **11 July 2025 (5pm UK time)**

Final decision: **February 2026**

For further details

E-mail: trg@rnid.org.uk

Web: www.rnid.org.uk/researchfunding