

RSTMH Small Grants 2020: Eligibility, Suitability and Conditions

Purpose of small grants

To enable early career researchers and global health professionals in the field of tropical medicine or global health to undertake clinical or scientific research and/or fieldwork, either as stand-alone projects or distinct elements within a larger project. They are ideally for those who have not received funding in their own name before.

Thematic priorities

Applications focused on the thematic areas listed in RSTMH's five-year strategy are encouraged. These are listed below:

- Neglected tropical diseases, with a particular focus on their overlap with non-communicable diseases and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Malaria, with a particular focus on drug resistance
- One Health and wider planetary health. The consideration of human health alongside animal health and the environment, in the context of social, economic and political factors
- Topical issues including, but not limited to, emerging diseases
- Drug resistant infections

We are also interested to see applications related to snakebite, mycetoma and other skin NTDs and other deep mycoses, co-morbidity and NCDs, coronavirus and emerging diseases. Email tamar.ghosh@rstmh.org for further areas of interest.

Small grant value and timescale

The maximum RSTMH small grant awarded is £5,000 (including VAT).

One or more of our successful grant winners may be funded or part-funded by one of the specific funds listed below. If this is the case, we may ask you to participate in separate award activities.

- Sir Leonard Rogers Fund
- Denis Burkitt Fellowship Fund
- Garnham Fund
- Centenary fellowship Appeal Fund

The project should start no earlier than four months after the closing date for applications. It should be completed within a year of receiving funding from us. Please indicate on the application form if you expect the project to finish after this time.

Small grant permitted use

Small grants can be used for the following expenditure:

- Consumables
- Field expenses, including salaries or per diems
- Field transport
- Travel
- Accommodation
- Items of equipment or software

Application criteria

Applicants for a small grant can be based anywhere in the world and can be of any nationality.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be early in their career. *Guidance for this is below, we do not define this in terms of years of work or study*
- Have a clear research plan for which they are seeking support
- Ideally be employed by, or affiliated to an organisation, though we will consider applications from those not affiliated or employed
- Demonstrate limited alternative sources of funding
- Have access to adequate supervision
- Have the appropriate insurance to carry out the research
- Hold a registered bank account, ideally not using a third party
- Be a RSTMH member. *Applications can be submitted from non-members but, if successful, winners must join RSTMH before funding will be supplied.*
- Have not received a RSTMH small grant in the last two years
- Submit only one application for a small grant per year
- Grants awarded cannot be transferred to other individuals or institutions
- Be able to start the project within 4 months of receiving the award
- Agree to non-personal information about their application being used for marketing and analysis by RSTMH, our volunteers and relevant partners

Applications must meet the following criteria:

- Be full and complete
- Be submitted through our online system by the deadline of 5pm GMT on 27 April 2020
- Not be for retrospective work

References

The application must be supported by two referees, one of which should be a senior member of the employing organisation. The other should be the applicant's direct supervisor or mentor. References must be on headed paper. References must be complete and uploaded to Submittable by the deadline. Applications without completed and submitted references from the relevant referees will be deemed incomplete and not assessed.

Referees should assess and clearly comment on:

- The feasibility of achieving the projects aims with the resources defined in the application
- The relevance of the project to your research and/or career development
- The benefit of the project to the wider community
- Verify that to the best of their knowledge the applicant meets the guidance for being early in their career

Guidance on 'early career' eligibility

We would like to ensure as many early career researchers and professionals can apply for a small grant as possible, and we encourage people from a range of disciplines and sectors to apply.

To ensure equity and fairness of opportunity, RSTMH prefer to be as inclusive as possible in regard to suitable applicants. Rather than a definition focused on specific roles or qualifications held, we choose to supply guidance around the profile of applicant that may be suitable for a small grant.

Applicants should meet this profile and should not have received funding for this field of study already. The applicant's supervisor must verify this as part of the reference and application process.

We expect candidates to be able to:

- Carry out research under supervision
- Have the ambition to develop knowledge of research methodologies and discipline
- Have demonstrated a good understanding of a field of study
- Demonstrate the ability to produce data under supervision
- Use critical analysis, evaluation and be able to synthesise new and complex ideas
- Competently explain the outcome of their research and value thereof to colleagues

Criteria used to assess applications for small grants:

- Originality and potential to contribute to this area of work
- Feasibility of project design and methodology
- Resource and cost effectiveness
- Potential to provide career progression to applicant

Requirements of grant winners

The grant awarded by RSTMH may only be used for the project described in the original application. Any funds not used for that specific purpose must be returned.

A report (minimum 1,000 words) must be submitted to RSTMH for formal review by the Grants and Awards Committee and for potential promotion by RSTMH within three months of the project being completed.

The report should contain the following elements:

- Result of the project
- Outcomes of the project
- Information about any leverage or impact of the project on 1) your career 2) your ongoing research 3) the field of tropical medicine or global health 4) details of other ways the grant has helped you
- Any images that help to illustrate your research and outcomes
- How you plan to disseminate the results of your project

Failure to submit the report within this timeframe will result in the grant winner having to reimburse the full value of the grant to RSTMH. In such cases, future applications for funding will not be considered.

RSTMH's support must be acknowledged in all written publications and oral presentations arising from the project. The RSTMH logo will be supplied for this purpose, and other materials can be provided on request.

Failure to disseminate results and to acknowledge the support of RSTMH will result in monies being recovered and future grant applications being disregarded.

For transparency we would like to announce our 2020 small grant recipients on our website, social media channels and through our communications. If you have any concerns about this, please let us know.

Once the reports about your proposal are received, we would like to talk to you about how we can showcase this work in our journals, at our meetings and through our communications channels. It is your responsibility to let us know of any information in your application form that is sensitive. Please let us know if you would like us to help promote your work.

Withdrawal of small grants

RSTMH reserves the right at any time and without notice to withdraw a small grant, either in full or in part, if the grant holder fails materially to comply with these conditions.

Modification or variation of conditions

RSTMH reserves the right to modify, add to, or vary these conditions, as it sees fit. It will give prior notice to the grant winners of any changes. RSTMH will seek to ensure that the grant winner is not disadvantaged by such changes.

Timetable

Applications for small grants open on Tuesday 4 February 2020 and close on Monday 27 April 2020 at 5pm GMT, with disbursements from July 2020.

Due to the large number of expected applications, RSTMH regrets it may not be able to provide detailed feedback if unsuccessful.

By applying for an RSTMH small grant you are agreeing to share the details of your application with RSTMH and with our selected partners and assessors for the purpose of assessing and managing your application, and if your application is successful, of supporting your research.

The decision of the Grants and Awards Committee is final.

If you have any technical problems with filling out an application form, please email support@submittable.com

If you have a question about the scope and content of your proposal, please email tamar.ghosh@rstmh.org

RSTMH

March 2020