

RSTMH Smalls Grants – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of RSTMH Small Grants?

To enable early career researchers and global health professionals based anywhere in the world to apply for funding on a topic related to tropical medicine and global health, either as stand-alone projects or distinct elements within a larger project. The aim of the programme is to further careers and to encourage the next generation of global health leaders and innovators by providing seed funding to explore their ideas.

How do I apply for an RSTMH Small Grant?

You must submit your application through our online grants submission platform, Submittable. Details of how to create a Submittable account and submit their application can be found on our [website](#).

What should my application focus on?

We welcome applications on any area of tropical medicine and global health. 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.

How much can I apply for?

The maximum amount you can request from RSTMH for a Small Grant is GBP £5,000 including VAT. Your costs should be justified and appropriate for your proposed activities. The maximum duration of your project is 1 year.

Do I have to have a bank account to apply for a small grant?

Small grants are awarded to individuals as career development support, and therefore payments are made directly to personal bank accounts. You need to have a personal bank account in order to apply and receive a small grant. In exceptional circumstances, to meet legal requirements, we may be able to pay awardees through an institution.

When is the deadline date?

The deadline is 5pm BST on the advertised date on our [website](#).

Do the applications have to be in English?

Yes, all applications must be in English. We regret that applications in other languages cannot be accepted.

I've already received a small grant from RSTMH, can I re-apply?

You are not eligible for an RSTMH small grant if you received one in the past.

What are the timings of the grant programme?

Open for applications	1 February 2021
Deadline for applications	29 April 2021
Funding payments made	August 2021
Projects start	August-December 2021
Projects finish	By December 2022
Reports due	By March 2023

What can the grant be used for? What are the timings of the grant programme?

The Programme funds research projects across the research spectrum, including lab-based, clinical, implementation and policy-related research. Eligible costs include:

- Consumables
- Fieldwork expenses, including per diems for staff, standard class (OR domestic or international) travel to, from and within site(s) and accommodation
- Items of equipment or software. The grant costs cannot be solely used to fund equipment
- Research involving animals. Grantholders must abide by the local laws regarding the use of animals in research
- Computers or tablets (up to 10% of the budget)
- Personal allowances
- Training course, tuition or bench fees that are related to and directly relevant to the project (up to 20% of the budget)

Can I use a small grant to pay for the cost a course of study?

No. Although training courses, tuition or bench fees that are related to and directly relevant to the project (up to 20% of the budget) can be included.

Can I use a small grant to pay to attend a meeting or event?

No.

Can I submit more than one application?

No.

Who is eligible to apply?

Anyone in their early career (guidance provided below), from any nationality based anywhere in the world can apply. However, only RSTMH's members can be awarded a grant. If successful, applicants who are not already members will be asked to join the Society.

What do you define as "early career"?

We would like to ensure that 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 get involved. With such a range of sectors we cannot easily define early career in terms of specific qualifications or roles. We also understand that career changes and career breaks mean age is also a poor guide to career stage.

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

Applicants should meet this profile and should not have received funding in their own name already. The applicant's supervisor must verify this as part of the reference and the 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
- Not be in a position to, or have lead an independent research programme

Do I need referees to support my application?

Yes, your application must be supported by two referees, one of which should be a senior member of the employing organisation. The other should be your direct supervisor.

The supervisor should assess and clearly comment on:

- The feasibility of achieving the project's aims with the resources defined in the application
- The relevance of the project to your research
- 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
- The mentorship and support available to the applicant

The senior member from the employing or affiliated organisation should comment on:

- The training and career development opportunities available to the applicant
- The availability and use of relevant institutional resources
- The mentorship and support available to the applicant

How do referees submit their references?

Referees receive an email from Submittable and submit their references via Submittable. However, the referees will NOT be emailed until you click the "Apply" button at the bottom of the application form to complete the application process and submit your application. Therefore, you must submit your application before the deadline date with sufficient time to allow your referees to submit their references by the deadline date.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring their referees submit references directly to Submittable by the deadline date and follow the small grant conditions.

Applications without two complete references submitted by the deadline date will not be considered.

Please note, you need your application and your two references to be submitted by the deadline.

How are applications assessed?

Applications are reviewed by our Global Assessors and our Grants and Awards Committee who make the final recommendations. The criteria used to assess applications for small grants are:

- Importance of the proposed research
- Quality of the project design and methodology
- Feasibility of the project

- Impact
- Environment, mentoring, support
- Value for money

Can I submit the same or very similar application to another funder?

Yes. However, you must state this on the application form and let us know immediately of the outcome of the other applications. If you are awarded an RSTMH grant and the other grant and you wish to accept RSTMH's, you will have to withdraw or decline your other application/grant.

When does the research project need to start if I get awarded a grant?

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. (See answer above).

When are the funds disbursed?

We expect this to be from four months after the deadline, if successful, but it does depend on how many applications we receive.

Are there any grant reporting requirements?

A report (minimum 1,000 words) must be submitted to 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

When preparing your RSTMH Small Grant final report, you must include your project budget and budget expenditure. The expenditure should include a brief breakdown of what was spent. The amounts should be in British pounds (GBP).

If a grant is co-funded with a partner, there may be additional reporting requirements. You must keep all receipts related to send on your project for a period of 7 years as they may be needed for audit purposes.

Who should I contact if I have a query?

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 gil.shalom@rstmh.org