

## RSTMH Early Career Grants – Frequently Asked Questions

### Am I eligible to apply for the RSTMH Early Career Grants?

You are eligible to apply if you are an early career researcher and/or global health professional working in or interested in the field of tropical medicine or global health. The Early Career Grant is for those who have not received a research grant in their own name before. Anyone in the early stages of their research career (guidance provided below) is eligible for this grant. Applicants can be of any nationality and based anywhere in the world.

The overall aim of the programme is to encourage the next generation of global health leaders and innovators explore their ideas.

### How do you define “early career”?

To ensure equity and fairness of opportunity, RSTMH does not use a definition focused on specific roles, qualifications held, or age, instead it chooses to supply guidance around the profile of applicant that may be suitable for an Early Career Grant.

We expect candidates not to have received a research grant in their own name before. They should 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

Applicants should meet the profile listed above. The applicant’s supervisor must verify this as part of the reference and application process.

### I am an experienced professional in the field of tropical medicine or global health, can I still apply for an Early Career Grant?

Although, RSTMH anticipate that most applicants will be at the start of their careers, we recognise that some more experienced professionals may be new to research. If you have not conducted research before, you are eligible to apply for an Early Career Grant.

### What kind of projects can I do?

The programme funds projects across the research spectrum, including lab-based, clinical, implementation and policy-related research, either as stand-alone projects or distinct elements within a larger project.

The Early Career Grants also fund projects linked to your PhD, but do not fund the tuition fees for your PhD or MSC degrees.

### How do I apply for an RSTMH Early Career 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?

Your applications can be on any area of tropical medicine or global health. Our thematic priorities in our current strategy, plus other areas of health that are less well known are encouraged. They are listed below:

- Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), with a particular focus on their overlap with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) 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
- Snakebite
- Mycetoma and other skin NTDs
- Co-morbidity and NCDs
- Coronavirus
- Climate change

### How much funding can I apply for?

The maximum amount you can request from RSTMH for an Early Career Grant is GBP £5,000 (including any relevant tax you pay on purchases). Your costs should be justified and appropriate for your proposed activities.

### When do I have to submit my application?

The deadline for application submission is **5pm BST on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022** as advertised on our [website](#).

### What languages can I write my application in?

All applications must be in English. We regret that applications in other languages cannot be accepted at this time.

### I've already received an Early Career Grant from RSTMH, can I re-apply?

Unfortunately, you are not eligible for an RSTMH Early Career Grant if you have already received one in the past.

### Can I submit more than one application?

Unfortunately, you can only submit one application per year.

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

Yes, you can. 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 both a RSTMH Grant and the other Grant and you wish to accept RSTMH's, you will have to withdraw or decline your other grant application.

### What are the timings of the Grant programme?

The key dates for the programme are as follows:

Open for applications	1 February 2022
Deadline for applications	29 April 2022
Funding payments made	September 2022
Projects start	By December 2022
Projects finish	By December 2023
Reports due	By March 2024

If you are not able to deliver your project or report to these timings (notwithstanding unexpected changes) then please consider whether you should apply this year.

### What can I use the funds for?

The list below details the eligible costs under our Early Career Grants Programme. We do understand there may be exceptions to this guidance and would ask

applicants to demonstrate and evidence the need for higher costs as part of their budget description/table. The eligible costs are as follows:

- Consumables
- Fieldwork expenses, including reasonable per diems for staff standard class travel to, from and within site(s) and accommodation
- International travel to carry out the research, total costs up to 50% of the overall budget
- The grant costs cannot be solely used for equipment, the total cost allowed is up to 50% of the overall budget
- Computers, tablets, and phones, up to 20% of the overall budget
- Training course, tuition or bench fees that are related to and directly relevant to the project, up to 20% of the overall budget
- Local dissemination costs, up to 20% of the overall budget
- Ethics approval costs, up to 10% of the overall budget
- Reasonable contingency costs
- Tax on purchases where relevant

#### Do I need referees to support my application?

Yes, your application must be supported by two referees. One of your supervisors should be a senior member of the employing or affiliated organisation. The other should be the applicant's direct supervisor for this project.

#### How do my 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 "Submit" 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 before the deadline date and follow the Early Career Grant conditions. Applications without two complete references submitted before the deadline date will not be considered.

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

#### How is my application assessed?

Applications are reviewed by our Global Assessors and our Grants and Awards Committee who make the final decisions. The criteria used to assess applications for Early Career Grant applications are:

- Importance of the proposed research
- Quality of the project design and methodology
- Feasibility of the project
- Impact of your research project
- Environment, mentoring, support  
Value for money

#### How are the Early Career Grants paid?

The Early Career Grants are awarded to individuals as career development support, and therefore awardees must hold a personal bank account which must accept a payment in GBP. RSTMH can pay awards to institutions in exceptional circumstances, with justification. You should inform us immediately if you are not able to accept the award into your own personal account.

#### When are the funds disbursed?

The funding payments are currently planned to be made in September 2022. Although, this may change because of the number of applications. Please indicate on the application form if you expect the project to finish after December 2023.

#### When does the research project need to start if I am awarded a Grant?

The project should start between September and December 2022. It should be completed within a year of it starting. (See answer above)

Please note only RSTMH's members can be awarded a grant. Therefore, if successful, applicants who are not yet members will be asked to join the Society. Their membership fees will either be paid by one of our partners or will be deducted from the award itself.

#### 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:
  - Your career

- Your ongoing research
  - The field of tropical medicine or global health
  - 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

Additionally, we will also be checking in with you every three months from March 2023 to December 2023 to track progress of your research project. If the Grant is co-funded with a partner, there may be additional reporting requirements.

When preparing your RSTMH Early Career 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). You must keep all receipts related to the spend 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](mailto:support@submittable.com)

If you have a question about the scope and content of your proposal, please email [amelia.fincham@rstmh.org](mailto:amelia.fincham@rstmh.org) and [tamar.ghosh@rstmh.org](mailto:tamar.ghosh@rstmh.org).