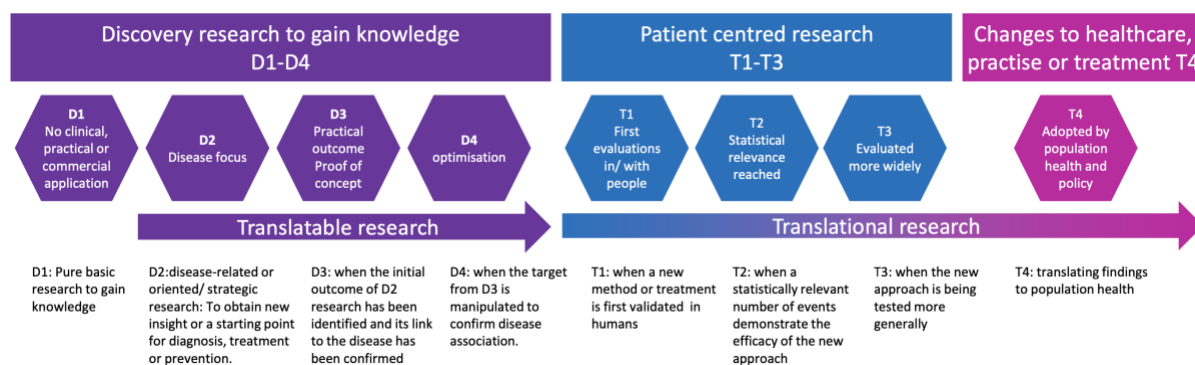# Confidence for Translation (C4T) Award 2025 Application Brief

Who is supporting this call?

The University of Manchester is in receipt of the **Medical Research Council Impact Accelerator Account** (MRC IAA) from UKRI. Translation Manchester manages these funds and utilises them to pump-prime research aimed at translating discoveries into healthcare impact and patient benefit. This is achieved through the **Confidence for Translation** (C4T) scheme.

What research does the C4T fund?

The C4T scheme supports the progression of existing projects along the translational research pipeline but is not intended to fund an entire project. Projects at any stage of the translational pathway are eligible for C4T awards, nevertheless the vision to translation should be clearly stated. Projects must move the research to the next stage of the pipeline (i.e. D2 to D3 or T1 to T2) as a result of the C4T funding. Successful award of C4T should enable the recipient to secure external funding to engage in the next stage of translation. A diagram summarising the translational pathway for therapeutics is provided below and here. For health technologies (medical devices, software as medical devices) refer to the Pankhurst Health Technology Translation Toolkit which we developed alongside our colleagues at the Christabel Pankhurst institute. More information is available in the Frequently Asked Questions document.

Translational research projects should address an area of unmet clinical need, or aim to improve an aspect of healthcare delivery. The funding can be used to tackle a **specific bottleneck or hurdle** within a wider project and will typically be seeking to develop a specific concept within the areas of therapeutics, diagnostics, devices, and digital healthcare technologies. Examples of research supporting such projects include:

- **Method development**: adapting methods to meet regulatory requirements, scaling up production, prototype manufacturing, assay development, biomarker validation, developing a manufacturing process for a biological agent.

1

- **Translatable discovery research**: genomics, epidemiological studies, image analysis studies, proteomics, drug discovery, app or software development, toxicity studies, proof-of-principle in vivo studies.

- **Patient centred translational research**: public and patient engagement, testing a medical device, validating software in a clinical study, clinical trials, focus groups, field testing and survey data.

- **Collaborating with industry partners to progress translation:** working with an industry partner to move the research along the translation pathway. The collaboration must involve both the academic and industry partner contributing to the project and there must be no ownership-related hurdles to downstream translation, demonstrated through clearly defined freedom to operate and/or the ability to develop IP developed within the project with multiple partners. It is expected that this will be regulated by a collaboration agreement before the project can start.

- **Accessing External Technical Expertise to unlock translational bottlenecks**: C4T can also be used to access technical expertise where a project partner (industry or academic or clinical) is providing their expertise to unlock translational bottlenecks as a service, rather than a collaboration. This is similar to our Access to Expertise Scheme which is currently closed for applications.

Priority Areas

We encourage applications from **ALL areas of translational research focusing on addressing any unmet clinical need.**

Multidisciplinary Collaborations

One of our aims is to build better links between science, technology, and innovation by supporting commercialisation and collaboration with industry and by removing barriers between disciplines. We encourage interdisciplinary proposals, including collaborations across faculties and with associated NHS Trust partners. Investigators are also strongly advised to consult with a clinician on the area of unmet need that their project is addressing. Although collaborating with industry is not essential, one of our goals is to promote academic-industry engagement, applicants are therefore encouraged to explore how the C4T could be used to develop these interactions. We advise applicants to discuss their industry interactions with their Faculty's Business Engagement Team and, if contracts are likely to be needed in the C4T application, to discuss this with Seamus Byers in the Contracts team.

The C4T will not support:
- Fundamental or basic research that is not translational
- Entire translational projects
- Projects with no clear translational agenda or applied outcomes
- Staff between posts/funding (i.e. as "bridging" funds)
- PhD studentships
- Continuation or extension of existing research grants
- Administration costs and/or conference travel
- Industrial partner costs
- Costs relating to protection of Intellectual Property

What funding is available and what is the project duration?

Costs will be provided for 100% of directly incurred costs only, **up to £75,000**. The C4T award will fund projects with a duration of 6-9 months (but will exceptionally consider projects up to 10 months). Projects will be funded by the **UKRI MRC IAA** with terms and conditions set within the award letters. Due to the short timeframe, projects should have the necessary resources readily available and in place to start by the end of **February 2026**. If recruitment, ethics approvals or external contract agreements are necessary, this will need to be taken into account in the project plan and timelines. Applications will, in part, be judged on their <u>feasibility and deliverability within timeframe</u>. Strict adherence to the relevant spending regulations will be mandatory for successful applicants. Expenditure will be permitted to the end of the agreed timeframe for the project; no spending will be permitted after this date, unless approved. Clearance of invoices will be permitted for 3 months after the project end date. If a successful project necessitates **contracts**—common in nearly all third-party collaborations—the researcher is responsible for ensuring that all contracts are signed promptly after the award is made and prior to the project's commencement. Failure to meet this requirement may result in the withdrawal of funding, which will then be reallocated to other projects. Projects will need to end by **1st March 2027** and no extensions will be possible beyond this date.

Who is eligible to apply?

The scheme is open to applicants from FBMH, FSE and FH undertaking health related translational research. The lead applicant's contract of employment should exceed the duration of the proposed project and cover the duration of a potential follow-on project. Applications are welcomed from both UoM researchers and partner NHS Trust clinicians with (or in the process of obtaining) honorary contracts at the University of Manchester. For a list of partner NHS trusts see [FAQs document](). If the project is to be led by a clinician PI with honorary contract yet to be obtained, a UoM Co-I should be identified and will be the main post award contact until honorary status is achieved by the lead applicant.

Post-doctoral researchers are also encouraged to apply with a senior academic as co-PI or co-I. For post-doctoral researchers, their current contract of employment with the university must cover the duration of the proposed project. The senior academic will be considered as a guarantor on applications made by post-doctoral researchers and will be expected to oversee completion of the project and potential follow-on projects. If the post-doc is the PI, their salary costs **cannot** be included in the requested budget. Awardees from the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 calls are not eligible to apply unless their project is completed, refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions]() for further details.

How do I apply?

The application form can be downloaded from our [website](). Please note that in contrast to previous MRC CiC and C4T calls we are running a **single-stage application** in this call. We therefore strongly suggest you discuss the remit and aims of your proposal with the Translation Manchester team and, if possible, attend the C4T workshop on **29th September 2025** to obtain further advice on key aspects of your application (see table below for key dates and details on how to join the workshop).

How do I cost the application?

For this call costings must be calculated by Research Services. If you decide to apply, Research Support Managers (RSMs) and Research Support Officers (RSOs) **must be contacted** as soon as possible and no later than **Monday 6th October 2025**. When contacting your RSO/RSM, please send a completed

[Costing Request Form](#). Applications might not be accepted for processing if RSMs/RSOs have not been notified by **Monday 6ᵗʰ October 2025**. All projects should be costed (100% fEC). Contact details for the RSMs/RSOs in your faculty can be found [here](#). Please note that Head of School Department approval is required before submission so ensure you allow enough time for this prior to the deadline.

I still need help with my application, who do I contact?

Should you need any advice, or if you would like any further information on remit and/or eligibility, you can contact Translation Manchester at translation@manchester.ac.uk, ideally including the following information to speed up the response.

- Name(s) of the applicant and co-PI/co-I(s), faculty, school/department
- Project title
- Brief overview of the unmet clinical need addressed by the research
- Where on the translational research pipeline your current project sits and where it aims to go (e.g. D1 to D2, or T2 to T3)
- What is the specific hurdle or bottleneck that you will overcome with the funding

What are the key dates of the call?

Funding call opens	15ᵗʰ September 2025
Informal Information Workshops Attendance is not compulsory but encouraged	29ᵗʰ September 1pm-2pm [Zoom Link Workshop](#)
Deadline to contact RSM/RSO for costings*	6ᵗʰ October 2026
Deadline for applications	5ᵗʰ November 2025, 12 noon
Notification of outcomes	w/c 2ⁿᵈ February 2026
Projects start	End of February onwards

*Applications might not be accepted for processing if RSMs/RSOs have not been notified by Friday 26th May 2023.

Additional Information

Working with external collaborators

For any applications that involves an external partner, an additional form is required to facilitate setup of contracts in case the application is successful. The [C4T Subcontracting & Collaboration Information form](#) should be downloaded and submitted alongside the C4T application. This is an essential requirement to prevent any delays due to contracts, if awarded. Excessive delays in finalising contracts will result in funding being withdrawn and reallocated to other projects. For any queries about contracts you should get in touch with [Seamus Byers](#) from the [contracts](#) team.

Intellectual Property

Unless otherwise agreed, all intellectual property shall belong to the party that generates them. Where the Grant is associated with more than one Research Organisation and/or other project partners, the basis of collaboration between the organisations including ownership of intellectual property and rights to exploitation, must be set out in a formal collaboration agreement in a way that is proportionate to and appropriately reflects the exact nature of the collaboration. You are responsible for ensuring that all parties engaged in the research make every reasonable effort to ensure that the intellectual assets obtained in the course of the research, whether protected by intellectual property rights or not, are used to the benefit of society and the economy. In individual cases, UKRI reserve the right to retain ownership of intellectual assets, including intellectual property (or assign it to a third party under an exploitation agreement) and to arrange for it to be exploited for the national benefit and that of the Research Organisation involved.

Post Award

For successful applicants there will be a requirement to attend a kick-off meeting with Translation Manchester, Dr Sam Butterworth (UKRI MRC IAA lead) and a representative from the University of Manchester Innovation Factory to go through the feedback from the reviewers and the panel meeting, to maximise the project's chances of success. Prior to this meeting you will be asked to complete a Target Product Profile form (TPP) to inform the team on the translational trajectories and specifics of the project. For unsuccessful applicants feedback will be provided from both the reviewers and the panel meeting within 3 weeks of notification of outcomes.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to submit a short interim report halfway through the project and a final report at the end of the project. There will also be a requirement to attend an end of project meeting with Translation Manchester, Dr Sam Butterworth and a representative from the University of Manchester Innovation Factory to go through the final report and discuss the future direction of the project. Applicants may also be contacted for information to be submitted externally (e.g. MRC annual reporting requirements). Applicants will be contacted to report on their post-award progress up to 5 years after the award has been completed. This is **mandatory** to ensure evaluation of the translational impact of this scheme. You will also be required to engage with Translation Manchester activities such as blogs and events

Previous P4T/C4T/CiC awards

Information on projects that have been funded by the P4T and C4T schemes in previous years, including case studies, can be found on our website. For any other query refer to the Frequently Asked Questions for the 2025 call or contact translation@manchester.ac.uk.