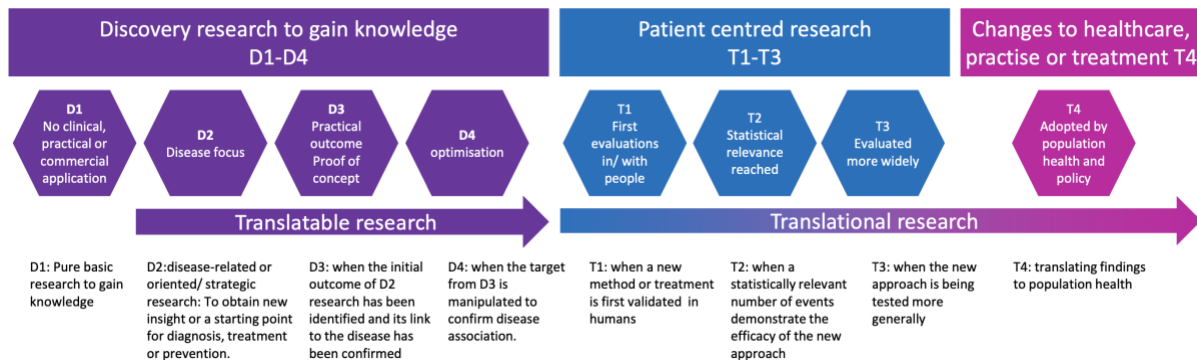# Confidence for Translation (C4T) Award 2024 Application Brief

Who is supporting this call?

The University of Manchester is in receipt of the **Institutional Translational Partnership Award** (TPA) from Wellcome, the **NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)**, and the **Medical Research Council Impact Accelerator Account** (MRC IAA) from URKI. We have combined these institutional awards to pump-prime research aimed at translating discoveries into healthcare impact and patient benefit. The **Confidence for Translation** (C4T) scheme is aimed at streamlining the way we support translational research at the University. This year, projects will be funded primarily from the **UKRI MRC IAA** with contributions from the **Wellcome TPA** and the **NIHR Manchester BRC** budgets at the discretion of the panel.

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.

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.

- **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**: Starting from 2024, 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. 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.**

For operational purposes, in the application form we ask applicants to indicate whether their research fits any of the Wellcome Trust Priority areas and / or the NIHR Manchester BRC themes and clusters, however, this **will not** affect funding decisions.

A more detailed overview of both Wellcome and NIHR Manchester BRC strategic priorities can be found in the 2024 call Frequently Asked Questions and in the funders' priority areas documents.

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

The Manchester NIHR BRC will not fund preclinical experimental work. However, applicants with projects involving preclinical experimental work (which might include the use of animals) are still welcome to apply as they would be eligible for Wellcome TPA and MRC IAA funding.

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 12 months). Due to the short timeframe, projects should have the necessary resources readily available and in place. Applications will, in part, be judged on their feasibility and deliverability within timeframe.

Projects will be funded primarily from the **UKRI MRC IAA** with contributions from the **Wellcome TPA** and the **NIHR Manchester BRC** budgets at the discretion of the panel. This will be communicated to successful principal investigators within their award letters. 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. Projects funded by the UKRI MRC IAA will need to end by **31st December 2025**. For Wellcome funded projects, we will not accept proposals with an end date beyond **1st July 2025**.

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. If you need help in identifying potential UoM Co-Is, the NIHR Manchester BRC team and Translation Manchester will be able to assist.

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 and 2023 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 recent MRC CiC and C4T calls we are running a **single application stage** 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 a briefing/drop-in session on **12ᵗʰ or 18ᵗʰ June** to obtain further advice on key aspects of your application (see table below for key dates and details on how to join).

How do I cost the application using the BlackDackel Research Costing tool?

Please note that starting from this year **we NO LONGER require** for applications to our internal funding schemes to be costed by Research Support Managers/Officers. Instead, you will need to complete the budget using the University's [Research Costing Tool BlackDackel](). Regular online training courses for BlackDackel are also available, the next session is on 13ᵗʰ June, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm and can be booked through the [BlackDackel Basics booking form](). Please refer to this [guidance document]() for help with costing your proposal with BlackDackel. For further information on this new process, refer to the [C4T call FAQs](). We are also running a **dedicated Costing Workshop** for this call on **25ᵗʰ June 2024, 10:00-11:00**, [join us via Zoom]().

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	24ᵗʰ May 2024
Informal Information Workshops Attendance is not compulsory but encouraged	12ᵗʰ June 11:00am-12:00pm [Zoom Link Workshop 1]() **or** 18ᵗʰ June 10:00am-11:00am [Zoom Link Workshop 2]()
Dedicated Costings Workshop	25ᵗʰ June 2024 10:00-11:00am: [Join via Zoom]()
Deadline for applications	10ᵗʰ July 2024, 12 noon
Notification of outcomes	w/c 7th October
Projects start	End of October onwards

Applicants with projects that will require support from the Contracts team should contact [Seamus Byers]() from the [contracts]() team, to make them aware that support will be needed when the project will start. This is essential to prevent any delays due to contracts, if awarded.

Additional Information

Terms and conditions with regards to Intellectual Property will vary depending on the funder that will support your project.

Intellectual Property: URKI MRC IAA funded projects

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.

Intellectual Property: Wellcome TPA funded projects

If you project is funded by the Wellcome TPA you are not required to seek consent from Wellcome before you make any commercial use of, or grant to any third party any exploitation rights over, any Wellcome-funded intellectual property that arises from the C4T Award. Nevertheless, **you will be required to accept Wellcome's standard revenue-and-equity sharing agreement as set out in Wellcome's grant conditions**. This includes the requirement to report to Wellcome once a year on IP and commercialisation activities; this will be performed by The University of Manchester Innovation Factory.

Intellectual Property: NIHR Manchester BRC funded projects

If your project is funded by the BRC, you will need to comply with NIHR terms and conditions with regards to IP and commercialisation. The Manchester BRC reports on any patents or licence agreements associated with the NIHR BRC funding both during the annual reporting, and within annual NIHR IP visits. The BRC team will liaise with the funded teams to regularly collate this information. Before you commercialise any IP, we need to seek consent from NIHR through their IP unit. This will be done via The University of Manchester Innovation Factory and/or through MFT IP department during the due diligence exercise.

Post Award

Successful projects will be fully costed by Research Services using the BlackDackel information you provided, as well as the other information on the budget sheet. This will determine the Directly Allocated costs associated with your project which will need to be approved by your Head of School before funding is officially released. We will do this as part of our post award management process. For successful applicants there will be a requirement to attend a kick-off meeting with Translation Manchester, Dr Sam Butterworth 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.

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. NIHR and Wellcome 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 2024 call or contact [translation@manchester.ac.uk]().