

Frequently asked Questions C4T 2024 Call

Supported by **Wellcome's Institutional Translational Partnership Award (TPA)** the **NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)** and the **Medical Research Council Impact Accelerator Account (MRC IAA)**, the Confidence for Translation (C4T) scheme merges the former Projects for Translation (P4T) and Confidence in Concept (CiC) awards.

This scheme is aimed at accelerating translational research projects leading to healthcare impact. 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.

FAQ Categories

Click on the links below to read frequently asked questions from each category:

Who is eligible to apply?

What do we fund?

How do I cost the proposal and what are the eligible costs?

How and when do we choose what to fund?

General Questions

Who is eligible to apply?

1. Can I apply for C4T if I have already been awarded funding from Translation Manchester or MRC CiC in the past?

Current and previous recipients of a Translation Manchester award are not eligible to apply as PIs, unless their project is completed, and the final report has been submitted by the time the call closes, however, they can collaborate on projects led by a different investigator.

2. Can I submit multiple applications within this call?

You can only submit one application as a PI, however you can be named as a collaborator on more than one project.

3. Can I apply as a post-doctoral researcher?

Yes, post-doctoral researchers are encouraged to apply with a senior academic as guarantor. For post-doctoral researchers, their current contract of employment with the university must cover the duration of the proposed project. The senior academic will need to be named 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 cannot be requested as part of a C4T application.

4. Can I apply as clinician with no honorary contract at UoM?

Clinicians within NIHR BRC partner organisations (**see Q8**) are welcome to apply as lead applicants if they hold an honorary position at UoM. If they are still in process of obtaining honorary status they can still apply, but would need to provide the following information in the application form: **a)** details on timelines for obtaining honorary status **b)** contact details of a UoM staff Co-I. The UoM Co-I will be the main point of contact during post award management until honorary status of the lead applicant is finalised.

What do we fund?

5. Do you exclusively fund projects that are at later translational stages?

No, projects at all stages of the [translational pathway](#) are eligible to apply. However, projects need to demonstrate translational vision and clear line of sight to patient benefit.

Projects funded by the NIHR BRC will need to focus on T1-T4 and not include any animal work. However, C4T also includes funding from Wellcome and MRC IAA, thus applications at any stages are welcomed, and these can include preclinical animal work. Decision on what funding stream will support each project will be at panel discretion depending on remit, eligibility and timelines. Successful applicants will be notified on which funder will support their work within the award letters. This call is mainly supported by the MRC IAA award, with contributions from Wellcome and the NIHR Manchester BRC.

6. Does my project need to fit within the remit of either the Wellcome Trust Priority areas or the NIHR Manchester BRC areas?

We encourage applications from **ALL areas of translational research that focus on addressing an unmet clinical need**. For operational purposes, we ask applicants to indicate whether their research fits within the Wellcome Trust Priority areas and / or within the NIHR Manchester BRC themes and clusters, this will not affect funding decisions. For more information on the Wellcome priority areas and NIHR Manchester BRC themes and cluster refer to [this document](#).

7. Can I choose the funder I would like my project to be funded from (e.g. Wellcome, UKRI MRC IAA, NIHR Manchester BRC)?

No. You can indicate if your project aligns with any of the priority areas of a specific funding body, however, the final decision on which funder will support successful proposals is made by the panel and the operational groups within Translation Manchester and the BRC. The decision will be made depending on project timelines as well as fit within the remit of the funder. Alignment with funders' priority areas will not affect how your project is evaluated. Moreover, your project does not necessarily need to align with any of the funders' priority areas to be considered for funding.

8. Do the projects need to include NHS or Industry collaboration?

Collaborations with industry partners and with clinicians in local NHS trusts are strongly encouraged but not required. Clinical input is particularly important when defining the unmet clinical need so applicants should consider discussing this with relevant clinicians or have clinical collaborators included in the proposal. Via the BRC, we can help you make connections with the following NHS partners:

- Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
- The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
- Northern Care Alliance
- Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

9. Can I use C4T funding to access technical expertise to unlock translational bottlenecks?

Yes, from 2024 we accept C4T proposals which seek to access expertise to unlock translational bottlenecks, similar to our former Access to Expertise Scheme. In this case, the expert can be another UoM researcher with expertise external to your research group (e.g. bioinformaticians, health economist, etc). If your expert is an external consultant and/or company, please consider the time required to set up a contract and inform [Seamus Byers](#) in the [Contracts team](#) of your intention to do.

How do I cost the proposal and what are the eligible costs?

10. Why do I need to cost the proposal myself?

The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health is trialling a new process whereby internal funding schemes do not require full economic costing prior to confirmation of awards. Only Directly Incurred costs need to be included, together with the information needed to calculate full economic cost for successful projects. As a result, the costing process **will not be undertaken** by research services, but instead, all applicants will be able to cost the applications themselves using the University Research Costing Tool (BlackDackel, see Q11). This significantly shortens the time required to complete the application, as applicants do not require to allow up to 4 weeks for research services to fully cost the proposals. It also reduces unnecessary administrative burden for professional services, enabling them to more effectively support academics with other administrative needs. Only successfully awarded projects will be fully costed by research services during the post award phase.

11. How do I cost my proposal?

Starting from this year **we NO LONGER require** for applications to our internal funding schemes to be costed by Research Support Managers/Officers. However, you will need to complete the budget sheet **in the template provided**, outlining your proposed expenditures. In order to do this, you **will need** to use the University's [Research Costing Tool BlackDackel](#). Please refer to [this guidance document](#) for help with this. If you do not have access to BlackDackel, access requests can be made by emailing researchcostingtool@manchester.ac.uk. Access will be usually granted on the same or next day. If your proposal is successful, the information provided on BlackDackel and on the budget sheet will be used by Research Services to fully cost your proposal prior to allocation of funding.

12. Is there any guidance or training on how to use BlackDackel to cost my research proposal for internal funding calls?

A useful guide on how to cost internal funding applications is [available here](#). Regular online training courses are also available. The next online training course 'BlackDackel Basics' for Academics is taking place on 13th June, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm and can be booked by completing the [BlackDackel Basics booking form](#). Further guidance and training materials for academics and project managers can be found [here](#). In addition, a **dedicated costing workshop** for this call will take place on **25th June 2024, 10:00-11:00**, [join us via Zoom](#).

13. Are conference/travel and publications costs eligible for funding?

Conference and publication costs are usually **not eligible** for this funding. Travel costs can be considered if essential for the project. Final decisions are made by the peer review panels.

14. What costs are covered by the C4T?

We provide 100% of directly incurred costs only.

15. As a PDRA PI, can I include my own salary as eligible cost?

No, as we only fund DI costs, you are not allowed to claim your salary costs if you are lead PI on the application. However, PDRA salary can be requested if the PDRA is a named post doc or a collaborator in the proposal.

[How and when do we choose what to fund?](#)

16. What is the selection process for these awards?

All applications will be reviewed and scored by three or more independent referees. Panel members will consist of senior academics and external experts with a track record in translational research. Projects will be scored for scientific quality, feasibility, potential impact, and alignment with the Translation Manchester remit. Particular attention will be given on how the researchers aim to tackle a specific bottleneck that is stopping the project to progress along the [translational pathway](#), and the likelihood that the award will help them overcome the bottleneck. This year the C4T scheme has a single stage application process.

17. When can I expect to be notified of a decision?

Applicants will be notified of the outcome the week commencing the 7th of October 2024. Projects are expected to start at the end of October 2024 or shortly after and finish by the end of December 2025.

General Questions

18. Do I need to identify the staff (e.g. PDRA) needed to carry out the work on the C4T project before applying?

Since these are short awards (6-9 months) the time required to advertise and recruit staff could affect the timelines required for the completion of milestones, thus this should be taken into account when preparing the project plan. If staff have already been identified, they can be named on the application form.

19. Do I need to seek approval from my Head of School/Department before I apply?

No, for this year's call, Head of School sign off is no longer required at the application stage. Should your project be successful, it 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.