

## Frequently asked Questions C4T 2025 Call

Supported by the **Medical Research Council Impact Accelerator Account** (MRC IAA), the Confidence for Translation (C4T) scheme is aimed at accelerating translational research projects leading to healthcare impact.

### 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 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. What type of projects 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 [here](#). For health technologies (medical devices, software as medical devices) refer to the [Pankhurst Health Technology Translation Toolkit](#) we developed alongside our colleagues at the Christabel Pankhurst institute. A brief instructional video demonstrating how to utilise the toolkit to determine your project's current stage within the roadmap is available [here](#).

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

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

### 7. Does my project need to fit within MRC remit and priorities?

We encourage applications from ALL areas of translational research that focus on addressing an unmet clinical need.

### 8. What is the project's allowed duration?

In this call, the C4T award will fund projects with a duration of **6-9 months** (but will exceptionally consider projects up to 10 months). Due to the short timeframe, projects should have the necessary resources readily available and in place to start by the end of **February 2026, including staff**. If recruitment is necessary, this will need to be taken into account in the project plan and timelines. Applications will, in part, be judged on their feasibility and deliverability within timeframe. 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 **1<sup>st</sup> March 2027** and no extensions will be possible beyond this date.

#### **9. 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. Our colleagues at the BRC might be able to 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

#### **10. Can I use C4T funding to access technical expertise to unlock translational bottlenecks?**

Yes, since 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. Accessing external expertise typically occurs on a service basis, with any resulting foreground intellectual property retained by the University of Manchester.

#### **11. How can I find collaborators for my project?**

If you are looking for collaborators with specific expertise within the University or in external organisations, we strongly encourage you to join our [Research Connections](#) portal. You can create an account and setup a profile within a few minutes, search and connect with experts that can help you unlock bottlenecks in your translational research.

Members of the Translation Manchester Research Network (our translational research support infrastructure) are also on the portal with full descriptions of the support and services they can offer.

## **12. Can I use C4T funding for a collaborative project with an external party?**

Yes, you can collaborate with external parties during your C4T project, including NHS trusts and private companies. Costs can also be subcontracted to these organisations; however, careful considerations should be made on any foreground IP ownership. If an external part is involved, even if funds are not transferred between organisations, a research collaboration agreement (contract) will be needed. In order to facilitate and speed up contract signature we require you to submit [an additional form](#) for any project involving a third party. This will help the contracts team to promptly draft a contract should your application be successful. See **Q13** for further details.

## **13. Are there any additional requirements for projects involving an external collaborator / partner?**

Yes. For any applications that involves an external partner, an additional form is required to facilitate setup of contracts in case the application is successful. This applies also to collaborations that do not involve transfer of funds between organisations. 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.

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

### **14. How do I cost my proposal?**

For this call costings must be calculated by Research Services. If you decide to apply to C4T, Research Support Managers (RSMs) and Research Support Officers (RSOs) **must be contacted** as soon as possible and no later than **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 (see next question) so ensure you allow enough time for this prior to the deadline.

**15. Do I need Head of School / Department sign off at the submission stage?**

Head of School/Department signature is **required** at the submission stage. Please ensure that you allow sufficient time for sign off before submission. The Full economic cost of the project will be calculated by Research Services and should be shown on the budget page of the application form. However, please note that C4T only covers DI costs and as it is an internal scheme it does not attract overheads. For this reason, the non-recovery of DA costs will need to be signed off locally by your Head of School/Department before the application is submitted.

**16. 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. Please provide full details in the application form. Final decisions are made by the peer review panels.

**17. What costs are covered by the C4T?**

We provide 100% of directly incurred costs only.

**18. 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?

**19. 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. Due to the brief duration of the projects and the timelines set by UKRI MRC IAA, feasibility of projects and readiness to start will be carefully considered. This year the C4T scheme has a single stage application process.

## **20. When can I expect to be notified of a decision?**

Applicants will be notified of the outcome the week commencing the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2026. Projects are expected to start at the end of **February 2026** or shortly after. We fund projects up to 9 months in duration (10 in exceptional circumstances). Extension request can be considered but all projects must end before the **1<sup>st</sup> March 2027**, when the UKRI MRC IAA ends.

## General Questions

### **21. 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. Feasibility of projects and readiness to start will be carefully considered by the panel.