Funding Body
NIHR

Overview of fund
The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is funded through the Department of Health to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research.

How are they funded
Government, funded programme

Frequency of calls
There are a variety of calls, including open calls and calls with very specific research targets.

Application Procedure
The application process varies between each type of funding stream. There can be either one or two stages to the process.

Vision
To improve the health and wealth of the nation through research.

Mission
To provide a health research system in which the NHS supports outstanding individuals working in world-class facilities, conducting leading-edge research focused on the needs of patients and the public.

Aims
- Establish the NHS as an internationally recognised centre of research excellence
- Attract, develop and retain the best research professionals to conduct people-based research
- Commission research focused on improving health and social care
- Strengthen and streamline systems for research management and governance
- Increase the opportunities for patients and the public to participate in, and benefit from, research
- Promote and protect the interests of patients and the public in health research
- Drive faster translation of scientific discoveries into tangible benefits for patients
- Maximise the research potential of the NHS to contribute to the economic growth of the country through the life sciences industry
- Act as sound custodians of public money for the public good.

Research Priorities
The NIHR are currently prioritising the following:
Dementia – they are looking to cover the fields of cause, cure and care, including prevention
Anti-microbial Resistance – public health measures, health care interventions to reduce antimicrobial resistance.
They will still fund other research areas as well.
More Details

What they fund
The research programmes fund research using a wide range of study designs, including but not only, evidence synthesis, pilot and feasibility studies, randomised controlled trials and both quantitative and qualitative research.

Applicants should note that most NIHR programmes fund research that is later rather than earlier in the research innovation pathway.

The scale of funding ranges from a project - or an individual study - to a programme of linked studies that are funded together as a programme of research.

Types of funding streams

Training and career development
The NIHR has a research career pathway chart to identify which training or career development award may be right for you. See pages 18 and 19 of the NIHR funding opportunities booklet.

Research
For most NIHR research programmes, the key issue is the whether the question is within the remit of the programme. For a quick overview of each programme see page 12 of the NIHR funding opportunities booklet.

Public health
Research about the evaluation or delivery of interventions intended to improve the health of healthy populations or groups of patients.

Health services and organisation
Research that improves patient safety and service organisation.

Clinical evaluation and translation
Evaluations into the efficacy, effectiveness, costs and broader impact of healthcare interventions.

Technology development
The R&D of any innovative medical technology including medical devices, active implantable devices and in vitro diagnostic devices, and their translation into the clinical environment.

Types of evidence
Evidence synthesis brings together different kinds of evidence, for instance into a systematic review or an economic model. Evidence generation is producing new evidence - known as primary research.

Research Design Service
Our Research Design Service (RDS) provides design and methodological support to health and social care researchers across England to develop grant applications to the NIHR and other open national peer-reviewed funding programmes.

RDS advisers in bases across England offer a unique breadth of experience and a proven track record in improving research applications. Advice is confidential and free of charge. To find out more take a look at their leaflet, or visit their website.

Support
The NIHR are really keen to support people whilst they are developing their bids. They have a local support network to help with them. Our local contact is Roger Beech (see contact details below). Roger is based at Keele University, but supports on bids on behalf of the NIHR.

Further Information

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Service Contact
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