2026 Cystic Fibrosis Trust/Guts UK
Pancreatitis Research Grant Application Guidelines

It is important that all those involved with the grant application take time to read these guidelines and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust/Guts UK Research Grants Terms and Conditions before completing the application form. The information and guidance provided are designed to help you meet the requirements of the funding call.

Applications will be rejected if they fall outside the scope of the grant call, do not meet the eligibility criteria, seek more funding than is offered or are not submitted by the deadline of **Thursday 30 July 2026, 12 noon**.

Grant details and eligibility criteria

1. Purpose and scope

We welcome proposals for pancreatitis research that is directly relevant to, and has potential benefit for, people with cystic fibrosis with a complication of pancreatitis. We particularly encourage applications that will accelerate progress against the research priorities for pancreatitis identified by the Pancreatitis Priority Setting Partnership.

2. Eligibility

All lead applicants must be based at a recognised academic or clinical institution in the UK. They must have a permanent position or hold a contract with the administering institution that extends beyond the duration of the grant.

Early career researchers who are not yet independent researchers and wish to apply as lead applicant must name their mentor as co-applicant on the application form. They must also provide a letter of support from their mentor confirming that they are capable of running the project and will receive the necessary support.

Lead applicants may only apply for one grant from the Pancreatitis Research Funding Call and a project can only be submitted once.

3. Budget and grant duration

The maximum allowed budget is £60,000. Awards are provided for up to 24 months.

Permitted costs: Only the direct costs associated with the project will be funded. This includes research consumables, animal costs, PPIE costs and other essential project running costs such as essential project specific computing equipment and software.

Non-permitted costs: Overhead allocation, other indirect costs and capital costs will not be funded. (Please contact research@gutsukcharity.org.uk for any queries about this and for information about the Charity Research Support Fund (or equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Ireland) which helps universities pay the indirect costs).

This award does not cover salary costs for Lead Applicants or senior supervisory roles. Costs related to publications, open access and other external communications are also not eligible.

It should also be noted that this grant is not intended to be used as 'top-up' funds to meet a shortfall in funding from another organisation.

4. Assessment process

Stage	Action
1. Application deadline	All applications must be submitted by **Thursday 30 July 2026 at 12 noon.**
2. Validation	Administrative checks will be carried out to ensure applications meet purpose and scope and eligibility criteria of the grant.
3. In-depth review	All applications will be reviewed by two scientific/clinical expert reviewers. At the same time, a Cystic Fibrosis Trust community representative and the Guts UK Experts by Experience (EBEs) panel will also review and score the applications' Plain English summaries and PPIE information.

4. Review panel meeting	All applications scored above the funding threshold by the expert reviewers will be assessed at the review panel meeting in **November 2026.** The panel will consist of representatives from Cystic Fibrosis Trust's Research Grant Review Committee and Guts UK's Research Awards Committee and EBEs panel. The panel's recommendations for funding will then be taken to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Guts UK's Board of Trustees for ratification.
5. Notification of outcome	All applicants will be notified of outcomes by **early December 2026.**

5. Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed by the scientific/clinical expert reviewers, Guts UK's EBE's panel and the review panel using the following criteria:

- Originality of the research question.
- Scientific merit of the approach:
  - quality of the supporting evidence
  - plausibility of the hypothesis
  - clarity of the research objectives
  - suitability and viability of the project design and of the research population and/or model.
- Appropriateness of the proposed timeline and budget. Consideration of the NC3Rs 'Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research'
- Strength of the research team and access to relevant expertise.
- Meaningful patient and public involvement.
- Potential impact on people with cystic fibrosis with a complication of pancreatitis.
- Capacity to accelerate progress against the research priorities for pancreatitis identified by the Pancreatitis Priority Setting Partnership.
- Potential to generate useful results to help secure larger follow-on grants.
- Alignment with Guts UK's research strategy

6. Other considerations

Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Guts UK are keen that funded research starts as soon as possible after the grant is awarded. Ethical approval, along with any licenses required for animal research, must be obtained before the research grant begins.

Provided the project meets the NIHR definition of a research study, funded projects will be eligible for adoption onto the NIHR Research Delivery Network (RDN) Portfolio and therefore eligible for NIHR support (or equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Ireland). For clinical research projects, applicants are encouraged to contact their local NIHR RDN at an early stage for advice.

Completing the application form

- Please ensure all information provided is clear and avoid abbreviations unless fully explained.
- Please adhere to the stated word limits (text on diagrams/images is not included in the word count). Text boxes can be adjusted to accommodate all required text and any diagrams/images.
- To use the check boxes, double click on each tick box to open the dialogue box and select the option to mark it as checked (the default setting is unchecked). You may need to activate the Forms Toolbar, depending on your version of Microsoft Word. Email your completed application to research@gutscharity.org.uk (including any copies of supporting letters/emails).

All Lead Applicants are required to complete the 'Pancreatitis Research Funding Call - Diversity Survey'. This is hyperlinked at the beginning of the application form. Data provided will be analysed and used to help ensure our funding processes are as inclusive as possible.

1. About the Project

Project title

Please provide a title that accurately describes the proposed project. Symbols and Greek characters must be written out in full.

Proposed start date and project duration (in months)

The proposed start date is not binding but needs to be as realistic as possible. The actual start date must be within 6 months of the award date. Please inform Guts UK immediately if you become aware of any potential delays to the start date after you have submitted your application. Projects may be up to 24 months in duration.

Please state type of project – discovery, translational or clinical?

Please indicate the type of project to assist internal classification and monitoring.

2. Research Priorities

Please list the Research Priorities identified by the Pancreatitis Priority Setting Partnership that will be addressed by this research project. Provide the Research Priority ranking and the themed question.

3. Plain English Description

Please describe the research and objectives in easy to understand terms that are accessible to a general audience. If awarded this information will be the basis of content for the Guts UK website and other communications (Max. 500 words)

Plain English title: Please provide a short and easy to understand title describing the proposed research.

Plain English summary: This section – and section 4 - are extremely important and will be reviewed and scored by a Cystic Fibrosis Trust community representative and Guts UK EBEs panel. Representatives from the Guts UK EBEs panel will also attend the review panel meeting to feedback the Guts UK EBEs panel's comments and scores.

Please provide a brief explanation of the research questions you are seeking to answer, a description of the methods you will use, and the main objectives of the work proposed. Clearly demonstrate how the project responds to a genuine patient need and provide details of how the proposed research could lead to patient benefit and the anticipated impact of this.

Ensure to write in a clear, accessible manner, without use of jargon, abbreviations, scientific references or puns/plays on words. To check the readability score of the Plain English Description section, visit the Hemingway App website. A grade 9 and below is recommended for better public understanding.

4. Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)

Describe how patients, carers or members of the public have been involved with the development and design of this application and if awarded, how they will be involved at each stage of the research project. (Max. 500 words)

Consulting with people affected by cystic fibrosis and pancreatitis can better inform research design, identify areas of importance for those affected and ensure that anticipated outcomes are relevant. We expect researchers to involve people living with and affected by pancreatitis/cystic fibrosis while designing their project, including consideration of reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can take part.

Please explain how you have involved people with pancreatitis and cystic fibrosis in developing your application and highlight any changes that have been made because of their involvement. State plans for public involvement, and if your proposed research has several stages, demonstrate how PPIE will be meaningfully considered at each stage of the research.

Please budget for the participation of individuals at different stages of your project. Use the National Institute for Health and Care Research's 'Payment guidance for researchers and professionals involving people in research' webpage for guidance around costings.

For support with PPIE, please contact the research team at research@gutscharity.org.uk

5. Technical Summary

Describe the research and objectives in a manner suitable for a specialist reader (Max. 500 words)

Please provide a detailed summary of the proposed research and its intended objectives, written for expert reviewers who have some knowledge of the scientific/clinical areas involved.

6. Beneficiaries

Describe who will benefit from the research in addition to patients and carers (Max. 500 words)

Please outline how the proposed research will benefit stakeholders other than patients and carers. For example, how will the work benefit other researchers in the field and other disciplines? Describe the actions you will take to ensure these groups are able to benefit from the findings?

7. Communications Plan

Please outline your plans for engagement, communication and dissemination of your research and its outcomes including, where appropriate, with patients, carers and the general public. (Max. 500 words)

Please outline how you will communicate your research to clinical, academic and non-academic audiences; stating any reasonable adjustments that will be made to ensure communications are accessible to disabled people.

8. Project Description

(Max. 4 pages including figures)

Please provide a self-contained description of the proposed research project including sections covering background, hypothesis and specific objectives, preliminary results (if appropriate),

project plan and methodology, timescales and milestones, potential risks and challenges, future plans beyond grant period and references.

As research projects vary in complexity and scope, it is the Lead Applicants' responsibility to provide sufficient detail to allow the review panel to make a well-informed assessment of the proposal.

Please do not include URLs to external weblinks to extend this section.

9. Research involving Human Participation

9a. Ethical Approval

Please indicate whether the proposed research requires ethical approval as a result of the involvement of people, human samples or personal data. Please describe the issues and the actions that will be taken to mitigate risk.

Please give the current status of ethical approval (if relevant).

Please indicate whether the proposed research involves the collection and/or processing of personal data from project participants, please outline the safeguards in place/or that will be implemented to ensure compliance with UK data protection legislation.

Please indicate whether you plan to share your research data and/or disseminate research outputs and describe the safeguards in place/or that will be implemented to ensure compliance with current UK data protection legislation.

9b. Justification of Human Participation

Justify the use of human participants, human tissue and/or biological samples. Please include information on the numbers (and sexes) involved and/or the nature and quantity of human material to be used, where appropriate. (Max. 500 words)

Please provide a justification for the use of human participants, human tissue and/or biological samples and outline why an alternative cannot be used.

10. Research Involving the Use of Animals

10a. Animal Licenses and Approvals

All relevant licenses and approvals must be obtained before the research grant begins. If experiments are to be carried out on animals outside the UK, they must be carried out to standards that align with the principles of UK Home Office legislation. The housing and care of animals must also meet standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation.

10b. Justification for Research Involving the Use of Animals

Justify your use of the species proposed and outline any proposed procedures which fall under the Animals Scientific Procedures Act, including *the severity level. Explain why no realistic non-animal alternatives exist. This should be in line with the principles in the NC3Rs 'Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research' (Max. 500 words)*

Please make sure that you have considered alternatives to the use of animals when designing your project. Please offer explanation as to i) why animal use over other approaches is necessary ii) the species to be used is the most appropriate. This is especially important when an animal is being used as a model for a human physiological or pathological condition.

This section should include the case for the number of animals required to achieve significance and the factors that might affect this. The sample size calculations used to estimate the number of animals required in the proposed experimental design should be stated where appropriate

11. Reproducibility and Statistical Design

Please explain the actions taken to ensure the reliability and robustness of the chosen methodology and experimental design. (Max. 500 words)

Please provide additional information on reproducibility and explain the steps taken to ensure the reliability and robustness of the chosen methodology and experimental design, including justification of any sample size/s, plans to reduce potential biases and the planned statistical analyses.

12. Narrative Résumé

Lead *Applicant and Co-Applicant details. Table not counted in total. (Max. 500 words)*

The Narrative Résumé should focus on evidencing your (and any Co-Applicants or collaborators) ability and potential to carry out the proposed research. Please refer to the UK Research and Innovation's 'Resume for Research and Guidance' for further information on what to cover in each section.

13. Budget Requested

Only the direct costs associated with the research project will be funded.

All costs should be clearly listed and rounded to the nearest whole pound. If no costs have been requested for a specific budget category, please put "n/a" in the total column.

This award does not cover salary costs for Lead Applicants or senior supervisory roles. Overhead allocation, other indirect costs and capital costs will not be funded. Costs related to publications, open access and other external communications are also not eligible.

It should also be noted that this grant is not intended to be used as 'top-up' funds to meet a shortfall in funding from another organisation.

13a. Budget Breakdown

i) Materials and consumables

Please provide a breakdown under clear headings, describing each item as it will be invoiced. Please provide a subtotal of all materials costs per year.

ii) Animals

Please include species, number of animals to be used and cost category (purchase, transportation, maintenance, experimental costs). Please provide a subtotal of all animal costs per year.

iii) Other costs

Please detail any other allowed costs under this heading, e.g. access charges for use of equipment and facilities essential to the proposed project, patient and public involvement expenses. Please provide a subtotal of all other costs per year.

Computing equipment and software that is essential and specific for the proposed project may be requested.

13b. Justification of Budget Requested

Outline rationale for the budget requested (Max. 500 words)

Please explain and justify why the requested budget is essential for the delivery of the proposed research.

It is not acceptable to state that costs are based on the average consumable expenses for a researcher in the host laboratory; the costs requested must be directly related to the proposed project.

14. Other Funding

Please declare (and give details) of any identical or similar application that has been submitted to another funder or is likely to be submitted elsewhere. Please provide details including funding body name and date of expected decision.

Please outline all current research funding held by the Lead Applicant, or Co-Applicants, including funding that has been awarded but has not yet started. We use this section to confirm that the proposed research in your grant application has not already been funded.

15. NHS Costs

If your project involves clinical research in the NHS, it is a mandatory requirement to complete a Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Template (SoECAT).

Clinical research should be costed using AcoRD (or equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Ireland) (refer to the Department of Health guidelines for Attributing the cost of health and social care Research and Development). Please contact your local NIHR Clinical Research Delivery Network (or equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Ireland) as soon as possible for help with costing the research.

16. Intellectual Property

Please outline if any applicants/supervisors have consultancies, or any equity holdings in, or directorships of companies or other organisation that might have an interest in the results of the proposed research. Refer to Cystic Fibrosis Trust/Guts UK Research Grants Terms and Conditions for more information.

Please address if:

- the research will use technology, materials or other inventions subject to patent or other intellectual property protection.
- the research is in whole, or partly, subject to agreement with a third party.
- the proposed research is likely to generate commercially exploitable results.
- consent has been gained where tissue derived from human participants may lead to potentially commercially exploitable results.

17. Data Protection Statement

Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Guts UK may contact Lead Applicants, Co-Applicants and their institutions by email, telephone or post about their applications or other related matters.

Personal and other data on grant applications will be stored by Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Guts UK and used to process and administer the application, and for auditing, review, and evaluation purposes.

Summary information about successful grant applications, including the Project Title, the Lead Applicant's name and institution, the Plain English Description, the Technical Summary, and

the value of the grant, may be published on Cystic Fibrosis Trust's and Guts UK's websites and into the public domain (e.g. publicly accessible databases).

All personal data will be stored and processed in accordance with UK data protection legislation (including the Data Protection Act 1998 (and any subsequent legislation and guidance relating to data protection, in particular the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 and the Data Protection Act 2018)).

All parties with whom this information is shared with (e.g. expert reviewers, potential co-funding partners and the Association of Medical Research Charities). will be required to keep it securely and in confidence.

Processing of personal data is necessary for the legitimate interests pursued by Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Guts UK and with other third parties as set out above and will be limited to that which is proportionate to those interests.

Further information as to how Guts UK uses and protects personal data is available in Guts UK's Privacy Policy.

18. Declaration and Signatories

All applications must be electronically signed by the Lead Applicant, the appropriate Head of Department of the prospective Administering Institution, and the Administering Authority (e.g., the institution's finance officer). In signing, the officials are indicating their formal approval of the application, their confirmation that the Lead Applicant has a permanent appointment or a contract that extends beyond the duration of the grant, their approval of the salaries sought (if appropriate), and the acceptance of Cystic Fibrosis Trust/Guts UK Research Grants Terms and Conditions.

19. Suggested Reviewers

Please include the details of up to 3 appropriate people qualified to assess the grant application. Please ensure all suggestions are in line with the Guts UK Conflict of Interest Policy.

20. Excluded Reviewers

Please provide details of anyone you WOULD NOT like to assess the application and explain why.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact research@gutscharity.org.uk