



# Discovery Research: new open funding schemes

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# Mission

**We improve health for everyone by funding research, leading policy and advocacy campaigns, and building global partnerships.**

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## **We fund discovery research**

We fund research across a wide range of disciplines that have the potential to make important discoveries about life, health and wellbeing.

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## **We take on worldwide health challenges**

We want to find solutions to three of the most urgent health challenges (mental health, infectious disease and climate). The best solutions will come through partnerships across science and society, and will be developed together with the people most affected.

# New structure

## Research Programmes

- **Discovery Research**: research in any discipline that has the potential to lead to significant shifts in the understanding of life, health and wellbeing
- **Health Challenges**: mental health, infectious disease and climate
- **Data for Science and Health**
- **Research Environment**: will address research culture, ethics and researcher-led engagement

**Research Funding**: manage funding operations



# Discovery Research





# Discovery Research: remit

- fundamental processes that underpin biology, to understand more about how life works
- complexities of human health and disease, including clinical and population-based approaches
- development of methodologies, conceptual frameworks, technologies, tools or techniques that could benefit health-related research

This includes research into the:

- needs, values and priorities of the people and communities affected by disease and health disparities
- social, cultural, political and historical contexts of human health and disease.



# Discovery Research: Open funding schemes

**Early  
Career  
Awards**

**Career  
Development  
Awards**

**Discovery  
Awards**

## Early Career Awards

- **Eligibility: early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity. By the end of the award, they will be ready to lead their own independent research programme.**
  - must have completed a substantive period of research training
  - completed a PhD (for example, in the life/physical sciences) or at least four years' equivalent research experience (for example, in the humanities and social sciences).
  - You may also have some postdoctoral experience in your proposed field of study, but generally no more than three years.
- **Level of funding: Salary and up to £400,000 for research expenses**
- **Duration of funding: Usually 5 years, but may be less for some disciplines, and longer if held on a part-time basis**



# Career Development Awards

- **Eligibility: you will already be driving your own research.**
  - Must have completed one or two substantial periods of research after your initial training
  - Must have made important contributions to your area of research
  - Probably have experience of working collaboratively. You may have directed, or closely guided, the work of others.
  - At the point of application, you may also have been appointed to your first permanent, open-ended or long-term rolling contract. You generally must have been appointed within the last three years.
- **Level of funding: Salary (if required) and the resources you need for your research programme**
- **Duration of funding: Usually 8 years, but may be less for some disciplines, and longer if held on a part-time basis**



# Discovery Awards

- **Eligibility: established researchers and teams from any discipline who aim to make major contributions to their research field by**
  - generating significant shifts in understanding
  - developing methodologies, conceptual frameworks, tools or techniques that could benefit health-related research.
  - You will be expected to actively promote a diverse, inclusive and supportive research environment within your team and across your organisation.
- **Level of funding: resources needed for your research programme**
- **Duration of funding: Usually 8 years, but may be less for some disciplines, and longer if held on a part-time basis**

# Assessment

## Two-stage process

1. written application
2. interview for shortlisted applicants

## We will review

1. your proposal
2. your skills and experience
3. your research environment

# To be competitive

## Bold

- aims to deliver a significant shift in understanding
- provides a significant advance over existing methodologies or conceptual frameworks
- has the potential to stimulate new and innovative research

## Creative

- novel approach
- it develops and tests new concepts, methods or technologies, or
- combines existing ideas and approaches in a new way

## High quality

- well-designed
- Clear
- supported by evidence
- Proposed outcomes/outputs are feasible



# Questions

You can also email  
[grantenquiries@wellcome.org](mailto:grantenquiries@wellcome.org)