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How many Innovator Awards does the Wellcome Trust expect to support?

This depends on the nature, quality and cost of the applications received in a given year. In 2018, we expect to provide approximately 10-15 Innovator Awards.

How do I apply for an Innovator Award?

You must submit your application through [Wellcome Trust Grant Tracker](#). If you have not previously applied for funding using this online system then please register as soon as possible.

Is there a preliminary application stage of this process?

No, the application form submitted via [Wellcome Trust Grant Tracker](#) will be the only form assessed to make a funding decision. Applicants are advised to include as much relevant detail as possible.

Can I make multiple applications for Innovator Awards?

Yes. Each of the applications will be considered on its own merit. Principal investigators

seeking support will, however, be expected to demonstrate that they can commit the time and attention needed to bring each project to a satisfactory conclusion.

Are applications from companies allowed?

Yes, applications from spin-outs, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and listed companies can be considered. However, we will need to understand why commercial support for the project is not available. Companies will be expected to sign up to the terms of our funding agreement (see the Template award letter for companies in the 'How to apply' section on the scheme page). Please note we can offer companies a convertible loan agreement instead of a revenue share. Please [contact us](#) to find out more.

What is meant by 'not-for-profit' organisation?

Examples of not-for-profit organisations include universities, research institutions and product development partnerships such as the Medicines for Malaria Venture. If you have a question about your organisation's eligibility please contact our helpdesk at grantenquiries@wellcome.ac.uk.

How can I increase my likelihood of success of obtaining an Innovator Award?

Each application will be considered on its own merit. The work plan that you propose must be essential for developing your healthcare innovation. It will be important to include all of the key data to support the validation of your approach and to make the case for how your innovation has the potential for a significant and measurable impact on human health.

What do you mean by 'significant impact on human health'?

We care about impact and expect that by 2022, we will have supported interventions that improve the lives of at least 1 million people per annum. We hope that our Innovator Award holders will help us to meet this goal, as well as contribute to a portfolio of projects that will improve the lives of many more people over a longer-time frame.

What is the maximum amount I can apply for?

The maximum amount you can request from Wellcome for an Innovator Award is £500,000 or £750,000 for a multidisciplinary collaboration, or equivalent in relevant currency. Your costs should be justified and appropriate for your proposed activities.

What is the average Innovator Award amount and project duration?

There is no average award amount for the Innovator Awards, although the overall amount requested should not exceed £500,000, or in the case of applications from multidisciplinary teams, £750,000. We expect the duration of funding to be up to 24 months.

Will the Wellcome Trust fund an Innovator Award project alongside other funders?

We are keen for Innovator Awards funding to be leveraged via either cash or in-kind

contributions and therefore we would be willing to co-fund alongside others. We will not usually provide support for projects that have already attracted significant levels of commercial investment.

Can researchers from disciplines outside biomedicine apply?

Yes, and we encourage people that do not currently work with us to apply - including innovators from outside of the life and medical science communities provided that the application of the research is designed to deliver impact to patients. For example, the application of physics, engineering and materials science to the development of healthcare innovations is entirely appropriate. Examples of disciplines that are not eligible as multidisciplinary collaborations include statistical analysis, artificial intelligence and/or machine learning, social science and health economics.

Can current Innovations award holders apply for an Innovator Award?

Yes, you can apply for an Innovator Award if you wish to develop a new healthcare innovation that we have not previously funded. If you wish to seek funding to continue developing a project that we already fund through an Innovations award then please contact us to discuss your future funding needs. This includes projects funded through any of the following schemes: Affordable Healthcare in India; Health Innovation Challenge Fund; Innovative Engineering for Health; Pathfinder Awards; Portfolio Awards; Seeding Drug Discovery; Strategic Awards; Strategic Translation Awards; Translation Awards; Translation Fund.

What should I do if the innovation I wish to develop addresses a healthcare need in an area that is not commercially attractive?

We are committed to delivering impact to patients in areas where there is an unmet need. Disease areas neglected by industry because of the lack of a return on investment pose a particular challenge, but imaginative ways forward can sometimes be developed such as partnering with NGOs or public-private partnerships (e.g. the Medicines for Malaria Venture). Innovations staff will be happy to help with any specific queries.

Must I hold a tenured university post to be an applicant?

For university based applicants, our normal rules allow for tenured staff and staff on fixed-term contracts with no less than 12 months' service remaining to be co-applicants. For university based applicants who do not hold a tenured or permanent post, we will ask the university to provide a letter guaranteeing that it will provide the applicant space and resources during the Innovator Award.

Can I apply for my personal salary on an Innovator Award?

If you hold a tenured university or a permanent post, you must not re-charge your salary (in full or part) to an Innovator Award.

What are the arrangements for funding?

For companies and not-for-profit organisations, our standard Grant Conditions are

modified in the Innovator Awards Award Letter to be signed by Wellcome and the organisation; these are available on the scheme page (see the 'How to apply' section). For listed companies, we may adapt the Innovations Award Letter on a case-by-case basis.

What is the Wellcome Trust's policy on publication of the results arising from Innovator Award projects?

We wish to encourage the dissemination of findings arising from the research we support in order to achieve maximum public benefit. At the same time, it is essential that any intellectual property (IP) is protected to ensure that downstream investment is not deterred. It is therefore appropriate that publication or release of research findings is delayed until patent protection of the IP has been put in place, if required. For further information, please read our [policy on intellectual property and patenting](#).

Does the Wellcome Trust expect a share of any cash revenues or equity that may arise from commercialisation of an innovation developed under one of its awards?

Yes, for awards where net income from commercial exploitation is greater than £500,000 we require a proportional share of any financial benefits. The primary purpose of Innovator Awards is to move the project forward towards delivering impact to patients. Many of these technologies will ultimately fail to reach the market so awards are made with no expectation of a financial return. However, in the event that there is financial benefit arising from Wellcome funded intellectual property, e.g. a licensing agreement is entered into or revenue is generated, we have a responsibility as a charity to share in the financial benefits in order to channel that back into the pursuit of our charitable mission. Wellcome's share in net income will be proportionate to the contribution that this award has made to the overall development of the innovation. Please see our template revenue and equity sharing agreement in the 'How to apply' section on the scheme page.

Why do I have to seek the Wellcome Trust's consent before I can exploit Wellcome-funded intellectual property, and how should I do this?

For Innovator Awards to commercial organisations, the company has to seek our consent prior to exploitation because, as a charity, we are under an obligation to ensure that the useful results of research that it funds are applied for the public good and that the exploitation is an appropriate means of achieving the public benefit. In order to obtain our consent, the organisation must inform us about the exploitation activity that is planned.

How are inventors rewarded for Wellcome Trust-funded intellectual property that has been exploited?

Each organisation is responsible for compensating its inventors from its share of income received, in accordance with its own inventors' reward scheme. Equity transactions are treated differently, because inventors are usually allocated founders' shares in return for their efforts. You should contact the relevant department at your organisation e.g. the technology transfer office, if you have any questions about this.

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