

**GOSH BRC Paediatric Excellence Initiative New Projects Funding Call 2024 - Guidelines and Application Form**

Application deadline: Tuesday 20th February 2024

**Aim**

The NIHR Great Ormond Street Hospital Biomedical Research Centre (NIHR GOSH BRC) New Projects Call aims to fund novel translational research ideas, which seek to develop new therapies, biomarkers, diagnostics or surgical interventions to benefit children and the adults they will become with rare and/or complex conditions. Around £145k is available in this call to support several projects across our strategic research themes at our partner sites, Sheffield, Birmingham and Alder Hey Children’s Hospitals. The call will prioritise applications from early career researchers to ensure it supports career progression as well as driving translational research.

**Background**

The NIHR GOSH BRC is a collaboration between Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) and the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health (ICH). The NIHR GOSH BRC provides cutting-edge facilities and world-leading expertise and access to over 200 rare disease patient populations allowing our staff and NHS, university and industry collaborators to conduct pioneering translational research into childhood illnesses. We were first awarded BRC status from the NIHR in 2007 and, in 2022, we secured £35 million for our fourth term until 2022 - 2027.

In its fourth term of funding, the NIHR GOSH BRC has [five strategic research themes](https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/our-research/our-research-infrastructure/nihr-great-ormond-street-hospital-brc/about-our-biomedical-research-centre/our-research-themes/): genomic medicine, tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, gene, stem and cellular therapies, accelerating novel therapies and applied child health and informatics. Alongside our themes, our Central Development Hub supports our career development academy, business development and patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) activities, which support our continued efforts to translate research into patient benefits.

Furthermore, essential to delivering the BRC’s strategy is our newly created Paediatric Excellence Initiative, a partnership between the BRC, Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Birmingham Women’s and Children’s Hospital and Sheffield Children’s Hospitals. The initiative will enable more rapid translation of our research, will help to create a network of excellence and reflects our ambition to ensure staff from a range of career stages, professions and backgrounds can influence our strategy.

**Funding call information**

The call invites researchers from our partner sites within the Paediatric Excellence Initiative to apply for funding to pump-prime innovative new projects across our strategic research themes. GOSH Children’s Charity has provided funding to support some projects within the call.

Applications submitted through the call should seek to propose novel research ideas around therapies, biomarkers, diagnostics and surgical innovations, including proof of concept, validation studies, new methodologies, novel uses of data and/or PPIE activity related to the BRC themes. We would expect successful applicants to generate preliminary data to support future grant application and patent applications, and ultimately to accelerate the likelihood of the new interventions delivering patient benefit in future. Projects may be based in the lab, the clinic, or be data driven, and can focus on human cells, tissues, participants, or data. Projects may be preclinical or clinical, but NIHR rules for BRCs mean basic science projects (i.e. not translational) or clinical projects supporting phase III trials are not eligible.

The BRC is not allowed to support any research using animals, but as a portion of funding will be coming from GOSH Children’s Charity, it may be possible for projects to include a small component of animal work within a wider project. If you wish to include any animal work in your application, please discuss this with us before applying.

Applications are welcome from all staff substantively employed by our partner hospitals Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Birmingham Women’s and Children’s Hospital or Sheffield Children’s Hospital, including clinicians, non-clinical, nursing, AHP, psychologists, pharmacists and health care scientist staff and any others not mentioned here. Honorary employees of our partner hospitals may be considered where they are primarily working with the relevant Trust for the majority of their employment (please contact the BRC to discuss).

You do not need to have had prior links with GOSH BRC to be eligible to apply and we are keen to receive new ideas from a broad spectrum of research areas across our partner sites within the Paediatric Excellence Initiative. Collaborative projects across our associated partner sites as well as GOSH and ICH are also encouraged.

The call will prioritise applications from early career researchers to ensure it supports career progression as well as driving translational research. For this call, an early career researcher is defined as someone who is within **six years\*\*** of receiving their PhD (or equivalent), has ≤£250k in total grant income as Primary Investigator/Lead Applicant since the start of their career (excluding their own salary e.g., a fellowship grant) and does not hold a tenured academic position.

**\*\****six years of full-time active research pro rata. Eligibility can be extended for reasons such as caring responsibilities, illness, career breaks or change in profession, clinical activity and any extenuating circumstances that resulted in time away from research. Contact the BRC (*[*brc@gosh.nhs.uk*](mailto:brc@gosh.nhs.uk)*) if you have any queries regarding your eligibility for this call.*

The New Projects Funding Call has around £145k to award for a mixture of one-to-two-year projects at our partner sites. Applicants can request non-pay costs as well as salary costs. There is no upper limit for what applicants can apply for, but we would typically expect applicants to request between £25k - £75k. You can apply for co-funding through this call where you have secured funding from another source for part of a project.

For anyone applying for salary funding, you should factor in at least six months for recruitment of new posts (i.e. staff posts should start six months after the project start date). Salary funding for existing staff can be from the start date of the award. Applications will be assessed on feasibility and deliverability within this timeline and requests for no cost extensions will not be considered. Applicants requesting salary funding are also asked to describe their plans for supporting the salaried member of staff after the BRC funding has finished.

Projects must be within the remit of one or more of our research themes, which will need to be listed and justified in the application. Cross-theme projects are also encouraged as well as collaborative projects across GOSH/ICH and our partner sites.

Applicants may also apply for funding to conduct patient and public involvement and engagement activities as part of a translational project. The table below provides guidance on costs you may request for this. Applicants should follow the NIHR guidelines when costings your application for a PPIE project: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/payment-guidance-for-researchers-and-professionals/27392>

If you have any questions or need any guidance on this, please contact our PPIE Lead at [research.ppi@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:research.ppi@gosh.nhs.uk).

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| **PPI E Activity** | **Amount suggested** |
| **Zoom licence** | Either log into free Zoom account for a 40 mins or sign up for monthly Zoom pro account if the meeting will be for >40 mins |
| **Advisory/Focus Group/Online Meeting** | £20 - £25 for each patient/carer/public member  Proxy payment usually by e-Amazon vouchers |
| **Research activity** | £20 per hour for each patient/carer/public member  Proxy payment as above. Examples include reviewing information prior to attending meetings or giving virtual feedback. |
| **Steering/Management/ Committee Group** (during the life cycle of a research project: from idea to dissemination) | £160 (per day) for each patient/carer/public member  £75 - £80 (per half day) for each patient/carer/public member  This includes preparing for meetings by reading information, includes more ongoing involvement agreed with patient/public. |
| **Childcare costs** | Between £50 - £100 (estimate) - invoices will need to be provided |
| **Facilitator time** | For e.g. Clinical Psychologist - Time allocated/rate of pay/ band for e.g. 4 hours @ £55.20/hour/ Band 8c |
| **Transcription costs** | Costs vary £100 - £200 - invoices required. |
| **Services outside of GOSH/ICH** | Costs will vary. If for e.g. using a media company other services get a quote and add 20% VAT. |

You can also apply for a project focused solely on PPIE activities through this call, where the project is aimed at supporting researchers to actively involve and/or engage patients and the public in research which is translational and aligns with one of our research themes. Examples activities include:

* develop Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement so it is practised more widely across the GOSH BRC and becomes embedded in the research process from the beginning.
* ensure Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement is well conducted and is a positive experience for all involved so that it has a demonstrable and meaningful impact on research.
* encourage the active involvement of patients and the public in setting research priorities and the strategic development of research.
* improve the quality and effectiveness of Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement activities already taking place.
* raise the profile of Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement among our research community and the public.

Further information about eligible PPIE projects can be found in our guidance document here: <https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/documents/12952/GOSH_BRC_PPIE_Small_Grants_Call_2021_Guidance_Notes_and_Application_Form.docx>

As a guide, we would expect PPIE project requests to fall into these budget categories:

* £250 - £500 - Part funding or funding a small activity
* £400 - £500 - Starter activities
* £500 - £1,000 - More detailed long term planned activity
* £1,000 - £2,000 - Innovation in Patient and Public Involvement & Engagement

Project funding will be available from 1st April 2024 so your project start date must be after this date. All funds awarded will need to be spent within the financial year (by 31st March 2025 for one-year projects and by 31st March 2026 for two-year projects). To meet this deadline, project timelines should allow for all purchase orders to be raised by the end of February of the financial year, with all invoices received by 20th March. No funding can be spent beyond the end date of the financial year and movement of funding across financial years is not permissible. Requests for no cost extensions will not be considered. Please factor this in when planning your project timelines and phasing of your budget if your project is over a yearlong in its duration. Funds that are awarded will be lost if you are unable to carry out the research activity within the planned timescale.

If any new approvals are needed for your project, please ensure you’ve factored sufficient time to obtain these into your timelines (e.g. R&D approval and contract agreements can take up to six months to receive). If you are applying for a project where ethical approval is already in place, it is your responsibility to ensure the ethical approval covers the work proposed in your application. In previous years in some instances applicants have listed overarching ethics approvals to cover the proposed project. Subsequently, upon review, it has been shown to not cover the project detailed in the application. If this situation occurs and timelines do not allow for new ethics applications to be made, any awarded funding may be withdrawn.

We also encourage all applicants to consider including costs for dissemination in their budget requests, including for open access fees for primary publications resulting from the project. Dissemination costs may be awarded later than the project timeline, but no additional costs will be considered for open access related costs for awarded projects in future above those requested as part of the application. For all applications, there is a maximum limit of £5,000 on equipment purchases (including VAT).

**Webinar and Q&A drop-in session**

GOSH BRC team will be holding a webinar and will present briefly about the funding call, expectations for applicants and common areas of feedback from previous calls for successful and unsuccessful applications. We encourage all applicants to join the webinar and the Zoom details for the call can be found below.

**Thursday 11th January, 2.00pm – 3.00pm, via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83812243390?pwd=bE1iTGY2ZzF5eUJHVmIwYkdrd1BLQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 1224 3390

Passcode: 339265

We will also be holding a Q&A session for any applicant to drop in to ask questions about the call. The Zoom details for the Q&A session can be found below.

**Monday 29th January, 1.00pm – 2.00pm, via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87333707704?pwd=RTRUc1pnZmtXb01WMTh5K0JCUmlFUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 3370 7704

Passcode: 820119

An exemplar grant application from GOSH BRC’s New Projects Call in 2020 is available upon request – please contact [brc@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:brc@gosh.nhs.uk) if you’d like a copy of it.

**Summary of Key Eligibility Criteria and Conditions of Award**

* This funding call is open to all staff substantively employed Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Birmingham Women’s and Children’s Hospital and Sheffield Children’s Hospital from any grade or band. Honorary employees of our partner hospitals may be considered where they are primarily working with the relevant Trust for the majority of their employment (please contact the BRC to discuss).
* Applicants must have an existing employment contract with the organisations referenced above when they apply, which must be in place for the duration of the award.
* Anyone wishing to include any component of animal work in their project must contact [brc@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:brc@gosh.nhs.uk) prior to submission.
* The project must be within the remit of the BRC, i.e., supporting translational research focused on paediatric rare or complex disease and must align with one of our research themes as mentioned above.
* If any sections of your application form exceed the word limit stated on the form, the BRC team will delete the text that comes after the limit prior to peer review.
* If any signatures are missing from the application form on the day of the deadline, then the application will not be considered. Please get in touch with the BRC if you have issues obtaining signatures.
* Awardees must acknowledge the NIHR GOSH BRC in any publications and presentations and produce progress reports to the BRC upon request (including one year after the project end date). Some projects are supported by GOSH Children’s Charity through this call may also be expected to provide progress reports to the Charity.

**Application and Selection Process**

* The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 20th February 2024.**
* Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in mid-March and the funding will be available from 1st April 2024.
* A Review Panel, the membership of which will include representatives from the BRC’s Leadership Team, each BRC Theme, the Paediatric Excellence Initiative and the BRC Junior Faculty, in addition to external and internal members of academic staff, will assess applications using criteria outlined in the guidance document.
* A lay member of the Panel will review the plain English summary and PPIE section of each application form to ensure patient/public views are considered in the selection process.
* Applications will be anonymised before being sent to the Review Panel.
* To apply please complete the application form below and submit an electronic copy as a word document to [brc@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:brc@gosh.nhs.uk).

**Selection Criteria**

* Innovative aspects of the proposed project and its scientific excellence.
* Translational objectives of the project - likelihood of outcomes being used to support further research/strategic activity within the relevant research theme and/or Paediatric Excellence Initiative, that will lead to patient benefit and/or economic benefit.
* Likelihood that the project will lead to in future to translational impact. This may include but is not limited to patient benefit via novel interventions/biomarkers, changing clinical guidelines/practice, future external funding, and/or patent filing/commercial activity.
* Feasibility and deliverability of the proposal, based on the available/requested resources, the proposed timelines, and the balance of expertise of the applicant(s). Please note in previous years a number of applicants have requested no-cost extensions to projects based on delayed timelines, often as a result of governance or contractual difficulties. The NIHR do not allow us to award no-cost extensions therefore please consider very carefully the timelines you include in your project. Funds that are awarded will be lost if you are unable to carry out the research activity within the planned timescale. With this in mind, proposed projects do not have to start on 1st April 2024, but can start at a later date.
* For PPIE projects, likelihood of patient/public involvement to change project methodology/priorities/outcomes.

Please contact [brc@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:brc@gosh.nhs.uk) if you have any questions about the scheme.

APPLICATION FORM

Please complete in size 12 Calibre font and submit your application form as a word document

1. Lead Applicant Details

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| **Title and Name:** |
| **Substantive Employer:** |
| **Position:** |
| **Department:** |
| **Email:** |
| **Current contract end date:** |
| **Total grant income as Primary Investigator/Lead applicant (excluding own salary e.g., fellowship grant) since the start of your research career:** |
| **What year did you obtain your PhD (or equivalent qualification)?** |
| **Co-Investigators** *(please provide name, position and employing organisation for each person)***:** |

1. Project Details

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| --- | --- |
| **Local Reference Number**: | **Funding Amount Requested:** |
| **Project Start Date:** | **Project End Date:** |
| **Project title:** | |
| **BRC Research Theme(s) your project aligns with:** | |
| **Are you applying for support for a new project or to continue an existing project?** | |
| **Host Institution for the grant (if successful):** | |

1. Plain English Summary

Please describe the research in **general terms** in a way that could be published to a general audience (in no more than 300 words). This should include some information on what the project will entail. You can include diagrams if you would like to. If awarded, this may be made publicly available, and applicants are responsible for ensuring that the content is suitable for publication. This section will be scored by a lay member of the Review Panel during the selection process.

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1. Proposed Research Project

You can write up to three A4 pages for section 4, excluding references. You may insert figures/tables if desired, and these will be included in page count. Please complete in size 12 Calibre font.

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| **i**. **Project background, rationale and area of unmet need** |
| **ii**. **Research hypothesis, plans, and methodology** |
| **iii. Key objectives, milestones, deliverables and timeline for the proposed project** (please include details of your project timelines in the format of a table) |
| **iv.** **The resources required for delivery, with justification** (please ensure all costs requested are justified and if you are requesting salary costs, please describe how you plan to continue to support the post after BRC funding has finished) |
| **v. The expected outcomes/impact of this project and/or the anticipated timeline for patient or economic benefit.** |
| **vi. How your project aligns with the BRC’s overall remit as well as the BRC research theme(s) your project aligns with.** |
| **vii**. **Describe how the expertise and the skill set of the applicant(s) and any collaborations will facilitate successful delivery of the proposed study and maximise impact.** |
| **References (up to five key ones, which are not included in the page count)** |

1. Other Project Information

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| **Please describe how the project will support your career development and describe any plans for mentorship during the project:** |
| **Please describe any other sources of funding for this project. Please provide details of the size of award, start and end dates and names of Principal & Co-Investigators where they are not applicants on this proposal:** |
| **Are there any ethical issues that will have to be considered before this study can commence? Please provide details of Ethics Approvals already in place and if the wider study is or will be adopted by the NIHR-CRN portfolio. If you are applying for a project where ethical approval is already in place, it is your responsibility to ensure the ethical approval covers the work proposed in your application. As these are one- or two-year project awards, we would generally expect regulatory approvals to be in place already. If new approvals are required, these must be obtained before funding is made available to successful applicants. Delays in obtaining approvals will not be sufficient ground to request funding extensions.**  *In previous years in some instances applicants have listed overarching ethics approvals as awarded, that have subsequently been shown to not cover the project detailed in the application. If this situation occurs and timelines do not allow for new ethics applications to be made, awarded funding may be withdrawn.* |

1. Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement

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| **Please describe how patients or members of the public been involved in the planning or design of this project in any way? This section should be completed for all projects, whether they are only requesting funding for PPIE activity, or are requesting funding for larger research projects. Please provide some specific examples, rather than generic statements around PPIE.** |
| **Please describe how patients or members of the public will be involved for the duration of the project.** |

1. Intellectual Property/Commercialisation

*Please contact GOSH BRC Business Development Manager (David Chapman-Jones at* [*david.chapman-jones@gosh.nhs.uk*](mailto:david.chapman-jones@gosh.nhs.uk) *with any questions about IP/commercialisation.*

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| **Do you hold any Intellectual Property (IP) relating to this project?** |
| **Will you need a licence from any other party to undertake this research, or does anyone hold IP that may prevent you translating this research in the future?** |
| **Is this project likely to generate new IP?** |
| **Is there any industry involvement in this project (this may be at an early discussion stage)?** |

1. Costs

Please obtain formal costings from the R&D office for your proposal and indicate below what level of funding you require. Please provide a detailed breakdown of costs, including any PPIE costs requested.

**Non-pay costs**

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| **Non-pay costs requested for 2024/25 financial year (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025)** | | |
| **Please detail non-pay items applied for below** | **Location of spend** (e.g. NHS trust/university) | **TOTAL (£)** |
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| **TOTAL NON-PAY COSTS FOR 2024/25** | |  |
| **Non-pay costs requested for 2025/26 financial year if applicable (1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026)** | | |
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| **TOTAL NON-PAY COSTS FOR 2025/26** | |  |
| **TOTAL NON-PAY COSTS REQUESTED** | |  |

**Salary costs**

*Please copy and paste the table below if you are requesting more than one salary cost in the application and complete the table for each person.*

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| **Are you requesting funding for an existing staff member or for a new post?** |  |
| **Staff member name** (if existing employee) |  |
| **Substantive employer** |  |
| **Role** |  |
| **Grade and scale** |  |
| **Start date on the grant** |  |
| **End date on the grant** |  |
| **%FTE** |  |
| **TOTAL SALARY COST:** |  |

1. Declarations

In order for your application to be accepted, you are required to gain approval from the relevant stakeholders within your department and/or institution. These approvals are required to ensure that the applicants agree to support the proposed project, and that the research activity can be accommodated by the department where the work will be performed. These approvals can be supplied as an e-signature (i.e. a scanned image of the person's ink signature), or a ‘wet ink’ signature. If it’s not possible to obtain an e-signature or ‘wet ink’ signature, we can accept an email from the stakeholder confirming the relevant statement below. Please submit the consent email as part of the application.

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| I can confirm that the information given on this form is complete and correct and I shall be responsible for its overall management.  Name: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….  Signed: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………. Date: …………………………………..  **(Lead applicant)** |
| I confirm that I am the supervisor/line-manager of the student/post-doc/staff-member who is the Lead Applicant. I confirm that I have read this application and that, if funded, I will be happy for the applicant to undertake the work as part of their role and I will provide supervisory support to the applicant as require. By signing this, you are agreeing that, should the applicant leave their employment during the period of the research study, you would be responsible for informing the BRC and providing the required end of study reports.  Name: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….  Signed: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………. Date: …………………………………..  **(supervisor/line-manager of the student/post-doc/staff-member who is the Lead Applicant)** |
| I can confirm that I have read this application and that, if funded, the work will be accommodated in this department/institution and that the applicants for whom we are responsible may undertake and support this work.  Name: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….  Signed: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………. Date: …………………………………..  **(Representative of the institution hosting the research e.g. clinical general manager, unit/department head)** |

**Once you have completed this application, please return it as a word document to** [brc@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:brc@gosh.nhs.uk) **by Tuesday 20th February 2024**

Monitoring questions

The following questions will **not** be used to assess your application. They will only be used for monitoring purposes. Monitoring enables us to see what is happening in practice, to set any targets for improvements, and measure progress.

**Ethnic Group**:

Asian or Asian British

Black, African, Caribbean or Black British

Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

White

Other ethnic group

Prefer not to say

**Gender**:

Woman

Man

Transgender

Non-binary or non-conforming

Prefer not to say

**Disability**: Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say