

Funding opportunities Medical Humanities

1) Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF)

The Oxford-Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) is an **internal fund** that aims to support strategically important activity across the University of Oxford in biomedical and clinical sciences, public health, social sciences and the medical humanities.

Research projects must fall within the Wellcome remit, as well as the strategic remit of biomedical research at Oxford. The ISSF Committee especially welcomes cross-divisional bids. Funding will be allocated across the following funding streams. Applications are invited to the Individual Career Support scheme and Interdepartmental Strategic Initiatives scheme.

- **Individual Career Support**

Main and small awards are available for early career researchers, mid-career researchers and discipline hopping to pump prime activity and facilitate successful applications to external funding schemes.

- **Interdepartmental Strategic Initiatives**

Support for strategically important equipment, research assets or staff within shared facilities or support to facilitate the establishment of cross-cutting themes.

- **Translational Research**

Support for early stage translational projects in order to accelerate the transition from discovery research to translational development projects via the Medical and Life Sciences Translational Fund.

- **Diversity**

The ISSF is contributing toward supporting diversity at the University of Oxford. This includes supporting the institutional bids for Athena SWAN Silver and the Race Charter Mark, and the Returning Carers' Fund small grants scheme.

- **Public Engagement with Research**

The ISSF is used to support a culture of Public Engagement with Research (PER) across the University by building capacity (for example through training), raising the profile of PER and supporting reward and recognition. Please note that this funding stream is not able to support individual PER activities.

Eligibility

Applicants must normally be employed by the University, hold a contract extending to at least the end date of their proposed project (or an underwrite from their department), and fit into at least one of the categories described above. DPhil students are not eligible to apply. Postdoctoral Researchers and Clinical Research Fellows are only eligible to apply when a clear case is made for how an ISSF award will establish their independent career.

Deadlines

The Individual Career Support and Interdepartmental Strategic Initiatives schemes are open to applications for small awards (up to £10K) **each term** throughout the year.

The Individual Career Support and Interdepartmental Strategic Initiatives schemes are open to applications for main awards (greater than £10K) **twice each year** in Michaelmas and Trinity terms only.

2) Wellcome Trust Research Fellowships in Humanities and Social Sciences

This scheme supports postdoctoral researchers in health-related humanities and social sciences who do not hold established academic posts, and who wish to carry out an extended period of research on their own project. The fellowship will cover salary costs and research expenses for **up to 3 years** or a longer period of time if held part-time. Awards will usually not be above **£275,000**.

Eligibility

You must be of postdoctoral standing in order to be eligible to apply for a Research Fellowship, and must not have a permanent contract, or a contract that will outlast this fellowship. You also need to have sponsorship from an eligible host institution.

Deadlines

The Wellcome Trust considers applications twice a year, with deadlines for preliminary applications in January and July.

3) Wellcome Trust Collaborative Awards in Humanities and Social Science

This scheme funds teams who are tackling major health-related questions in the humanities and social sciences that require a collaborative approach. **Up to £1,500,000** are available for **3 to 5 years**.

Eligibility: Your proposed approach must have the potential to make a significant, measurable difference to health research in the humanities and social sciences. The number of researchers in your team can range from two to six and should be appropriate to your proposed research.

Everyone in the team should have a good track record in their field relative to their career stage and a PhD or equivalent.

Deadline and Proposed start date: They operate a 3 stage application process, with deadlines for preliminary applications in January and July. Please note that the last preliminary deadline for outline applications will be January 2020, after which the scheme will be paused for one year.

4) Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards in Humanities and Social Sciences

Investigator Awards enable humanities and social science researchers with a compelling research vision to tackle the most significant questions in human health. Funds from **£250,000 to £1,000,000** are available for **3 to 5 years**.

Eligibility

You can apply for an Investigator Award if you're a humanities or social science researcher with a compelling vision who wants to tackle a significant question about human health. Open to any career stage. You would need to have a permanent (or open ended/rolling) post. The Trust welcomes joint applications where a project will benefit from the complementary expertise of two researchers.

Deadline and Proposed start date: They operate a 3 stage application process, with deadlines for preliminary applications in January and July. Please note that the last preliminary deadline for outline applications will be January 2020, after which the scheme will be paused for one year.

5) Wellcome Trust Seed Awards in Humanities and Social Sciences

Seed Awards help researchers develop compelling and innovative ideas that will go on to form part of larger grant applications to Wellcome or elsewhere. **Up to £100,000** are available for **12 to 18 months**.

Seed Awards give researchers the opportunity to use innovative methodologies and carry out a broad range of activities, such as pilot and scoping studies, preliminary data gathering, proof-of-principle studies, planning sessions, or collaborative network meetings.

Eligibility

This scheme is themed. For the 2018 round, the theme was 'artificial intelligence'. They should shortly announce the theme for the next round. The award is open to applicants with or without established academic posts. The Trust particularly encourages researchers who are at the start of their independent careers to apply. You can have collaborators, but you can't submit a joint application with another person.

6) Wellcome Trust Open Research Fund

This funding supports researchers to develop and test innovative ways of making health research open, accessible and reusable. **Up to £50,000** are available for **up to 12 months**.

Eligibility

You can apply to the Open Research Fund if you want to develop, pilot and evaluate innovative approaches that aim to make health research more open. These awards are open to individuals or teams of up to six members from anywhere in the world. You can apply if you're based at an academic institution/a non-profit organisation/a private sector organisation.

To be eligible, you must propose to:

- trial new tools, resources or ways of working that enable research outputs to be discovered, accessed and re-used
- evaluate the impact, benefits and risks of your work.

The Trust welcomes proposals that encourage collaboration across international borders, and between different organisations, sectors and disciplines, and particularly welcomes proposals that do one or more of the following:

- **incentivise researchers to practise open research**, for example by developing new metrics to assess impact, or by improving how good practice is recognised, embedded and rewarded
- **transform the way researchers publish**, for example by developing open source tools that increase the use of pre-prints, or by testing new ways to support open peer review or to report null or negative findings
- **improve how research outputs are made findable, accessible, interoperable, re-usable (FAIR) and reproducible**, for example by pioneering approaches to enrich and standardise metadata or to assess the reproducibility of findings
- **develop open platforms or tools**, for example to combine or repurpose datasets and other research outputs from different locations and disciplines, to crowdsource ideas, or to mine vast quantities of research data and

Deadline

The Wellcome Trust accepts applications for this scheme once a year with the deadline for preliminary applications usually being in June.