

THRT Grant application guidelines



The Humane Research Trust CIO (THRT or the Trust) is a registered charity that funds projects to replace the use of animals and animal-derived products in medical research.

THRT is funded solely by donations and legacies from our supporters who desire to promote human health without animal cruelty.

The Trust and its supporters believe that '*human models for human diseases*' is the most effective approach to research.

The Trust wishes to fund the development and use of techniques that will quantitatively replace animals and animal-derived products in medical research and nurture the next generation of leaders in animal-free research methods.

“We fund research that is not easy”

The Trust asks all its grantholders to lead the way and commit to use their best endeavours to not use animals or animal derived products in any future research.

1. Who can apply for funding?

- 1.1. Principal Investigators (PIs) can apply for funding for a PhD or early-career post-doctoral researcher to lead a research project under their supervision. PhD and post-doctoral researchers cannot apply for their own funding and must be under the supervision of a PI. A PI cannot apply for funding for their own salary.
- 1.2. Existing and previous THRT grantholders.
- 1.3. PIs will be asked to declare if they hold a Home Office licence to experiment on live animals and will be asked to provide:
 - The licence issue and expiry dates
 - Details of recent and current grants that involve experiments on live animals, with start and end dates
 - Future publications expected to arise from their research involving live animals
 - Future research intentions with regards to experimentation on live animals

In taking a decision to fund an applicant with a history of research on live animals, trustees will need to be satisfied that the applicant will not be seeking to continue such experimentation on live animals in the future. Decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants must be registered at a UK university or a connected UK research institution such as a hospital.

2. Collaborations

- 2.1 The Trust encourages collaborations with other researchers. These can be based anywhere in the world.
- 2.2 THRT requires that all collaborators are named and their role described in the application.
- 2.3 THRT does not allow the results of research undertaken by collaborators that relies on animals or animal-derived products to be used in the THRT grant-funded project.
- 2.4 Collaborators must not receive remuneration from the THRT grant, with the exception of payment for laboratory services the collaborator may provide. These costs must be detailed in the application.

3. What research will THRT fund?

- 3.1 Research that advances human health and understanding of disease whilst also promoting the replacement of animals in research.
- 3.2 Research to further develop or test existing *in vitro*, *ex vivo* and *in silico* methods models, techniques and products that were developed to replace the use of animals or animal-derived products in research.
- 3.3 The development and application of novel *in vitro*, *ex vivo* and *in silico* models and techniques aiming to quantitatively replace the use of animals and animal-derived products in medical research.
- 3.4 The bespoke development of non-animal derived antibodies, animal-free growth factors and serum substitutes for use in medical research.
- 3.5 Joint applications with other like-minded funding bodies or charities that share our ethos and that **do not** fund research using animals.
- 3.6 Applications towards larger projects where other funding bodies are involved, provided those bodies share our ethos and **do not** fund research using animals.
- 3.7 In all cases, applicants must confirm that ethical approval from a relevant body has been acquired, is being sought or is not required.

4. What will THRT funding cover?

- 4.1 The full costs of a post-doc or PhD-led project, including stipend/salary, tuition fees and consumables. An annual inflationary rate of 3% should be added to the stipend/salary from year 2 onwards. At its discretion the Trust will vary this rate in line with market forces.
 - Typically, we support a PhD studentship of up to 4 years, and 2-year postdoctoral positions with the possibility of extension for a further year.
 - Part-time positions may be considered – please contact the Trust before submitting your application.

4.2 Follow-on funding that draws substantially on previous THRT funding where the route to practical application can be demonstrated. Follow-on funding is typically for up to two years.

4.3 Wider costs of research

- [Research facility costs](#). Recharge costs for scanners etc.
- [Technician support](#). Where essential, reasonable costs of a research assistant or technician's time on the project.
- [Attendance at conferences](#). The Trust recognises conferences are an important opportunity for PhDs and post-docs to network whilst spreading the word about the Trust. A PhD/post-doc will be funded to attend:
 - A maximum of 2 national conferences
 - A maximum of 1 international conference

The Trust will fund registration fees, travel, hotels and subsistence, provided these are fully costed in the grant application. Costs for a PI to attend one of the conferences may also be considered. Travel should be costed at standard or advanced ticket prices.

- [Equipment](#). Funding for equipment such as a laptop, specialist software etc.
- [Publication costs](#). The costs to publish in open-source journals.

5. What will THRT NOT fund?

5.1 The Humane Research Trust does not allow the use of animals or any animal-derived products to be funded through its grants. This includes the use of animal-derived growth serums etc as positive controls.

5.2 Indirect costs such as university overheads.

5.3 The salaries of PIs, collaborators or co-investigators.

5.4 Costs to recruit to the funded post.

5.5 Part contributions to course fees, living expenses, applications for just equipment or consumables.

Refer to our [Use of Animals and Animal Products in Research policy](#).

Please contact the Trust if you have any questions about whether your research will be considered for funding before making an application.

6. Making an application

6.1 Key dates can be found on THRT's website.

6.2 All applications must be made through [Tahua](#), the Trust's cloud-based grant management platform.

- 6.3 Applicants should be aware of the diversity of the scientific fields supported by the Trust and should endeavour to make their submissions as widely understood as possible.
- 6.4 All areas of the application form must be completed in full. Costs must be fully described and justified.
- 6.5 Longlisted applications will be assessed by the Trust's independent scientific advisory panel. The Trust may request further information from applicants following the assessment.
- 6.6 Following assessment, the Trust will arrange a visit to all shortlisted applicants before making a final decision on those projects it will fund.
- 6.7 The Trust aims to notify applicants of its decision within 24 weeks of the deadline for applications. The Trustees' decision is final. No feedback will be given.

7. Key conditions of a grant

- 7.1 If an application is successful, a Grant Agreement detailing the requirements of the Trust will be issued for signing by both parties.
- 7.2 At the start of a project THRT requires a brief overview of the intended research together with a photo of the team and any slides, diagrams, or graphs that help explain the research to supporters.
- 7.3 Grant payments will be made quarterly in arrears.
- 7.4 All invoices must be broken down to detail stipend/salary, fees, consumables and other expenses as detailed in the original application. The invoice must be accompanied by a detailed list of the consumables used together with the cost for each and a signed declaration by the PI that none of the consumables contains animal-derived products.
- 7.5 The use of animals or animal-derived products in THRT-funded research constitutes a breach of contract and may risk withdrawal of the grant by the Trust. The Trust's Breach of Grant policy is available on request.
- 7.6 Progress reports are required at the end of each year. Reports should be written in a format that will be easily understood by the Trust's supporters. These reports should be no more than 600 words. Q4 invoices will not be paid until a year-end report is received and approved in Tahua.
- 7.7 The Trust requires a detailed final report at the end of the grant.
The final payment will be withheld until a satisfactory final report has been received and accepted by the Trust.
- 7.8 THRT appreciates that the nature of scientific research means problems may arise. It is the Trust's policy to provide support in such a case if it is informed of the difficulties at the earliest opportunity.

- 7.9 THRT will arrange to visit the project team during the award period to see how the work is progressing or alternatively may request a catchup meeting via Teams or Zoom.
- 7.10 Researchers are asked to acknowledge THRT's support in any publicity to do with the research, including on the institution's website.
- 7.11 The grantholder is asked to notify THRT two weeks in advance of publication of an abstract or journal article so that the Trust can promote the work. Details of all published papers and poster or oral presentations given in connection with the grant should be included in the final report to demonstrate impact.
- 7.12 **IMPORTANT** – the Trust must be informed of **ANY** collaborations developed in the same area of research once the grant has been awarded.
- 7.13 If any commercial income arises from the project, the Grantholder must undertake to use their best endeavours to ensure that such income is used to finance further research consistent with the aims and objectives of THRT and to obtain the prior approval of THRT to the method of use of such income, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld.
- 7.14 Such approval, as referred to in point 7.13, will necessitate reaching agreement as to any intellectual property income (royalties and/or other income derived from same) capable of protection being apportioned between the parties.
- 7.15 In the event of fraud occurring, the Trust wishes to make it clear that it is the responsibility of the employing authority to investigate this. If a case of scientific fraud is suspected during the research the Trust should be notified and kept informed of further developments.
- 7.16 Failure to comply with the Trust's grant agreement or with the Use of Animals and Animal Products in Research policy, may risk withdrawal of the grant by the Trust. If scientific fraud is proven, the Trust reserves the right to terminate the grant immediately.

Please [email](#) the Trust for any further clarification or help.

Revision History	Changes made	Review Date
Version 1: February 2023		
Version 2: March 2023		March 2026.
Version 3: November 2023	CIO name change Reference to Tahua	November 2026
Version 4: March 2024	Sections 4 and 7 updated	March 2027
Version 5: September 2024	Section 1 updated to clarify that a PI cannot apply for funding for their own salary Section 1 updated to clarify the position with regards to holders of a Home Office licence	September 2027