



GRANTS PROGRAMME

General information

1. Introduction

The Healthcare Infection Society (HIS) is a UK registered charity (no. 1158172) which exists to foster the advancement of knowledge and education of all those who have an interest in the field of healthcare-associated infection (HCAI). Its mission is to provide healthcare professionals with the knowledge and tools they need to prevent and control HCAs.

HIS believes that good science underpins good clinical practice, and views the support of research in the field of infection prevention and control in healthcare as being a vital component of its work. As such, it maintains a designated fund from which it can support research projects within this field. The level of funding is decided by Council, and may vary from year to year depending on the quality of applications received and the overall financial position of the Society. Currently, all grants are restricted to research undertaken in UK and Eire.

The availability of all grants is advertised via the Society website <http://www.his.org.uk/awards/>, in the *Journal of Hospital Infection* (JHI) and through distribution of information at relevant meetings and conferences.

The Grants Committee is formed from members of the Society and is a sub-Committee of the Scientific Development Committee. There are currently 9 members of the Grants Committee and their work is supported by Dr Gemma Marsden, Research and Development Manager. Details of the current Committee membership is available on the [website](#).

2. Available awards

2.1 Research Grants

Grants for both small scale research projects (up to £10,000 per annum; awarded twice in each year, for a project duration of 1 year), and major research projects (up to £33,000 per annum for 1 – 3 years, awarded once a year) are available. Periodically, a strategic grant will be made available when a call for research proposals for a topic of significant importance as identified by the HIS Scientific Development Committee. The Society has also introduced a pilot project grant to facilitate innovative research and hypothesis testing. A grant of up to £5000 is available for a project of 12 months duration.

2.2 The Mike Emmerson Early Career Award

The Society also provides the Mike Emmerson Early Career Award (up to £10,000 per annum, for a project duration of 1 year) which has been established to support specialist trainees and other IPC practitioners (such as nurses, clinical scientists or biomedical scientists) at the beginning of their research careers. The criteria for this award include scientific merit, the stage of the career of the applicant (generally less than five years in post) and the likelihood of the individual and research receiving funds from other sources (judged by receipt of previous funding and C.V.). Please see the Grants terms and conditions for full eligibility criteria.

2.3 The Graham Ayliffe Fellowship

The Graham Ayliffe Training Fellowship (up to £72,000 pa) is designed to enable trainees and nurses currently working in the field of infection prevention and control to take a one-year paid leave of absence to pursue their specialist area by broadening their knowledge base and imparting that knowledge to the wider scientific community.

2.4 Travel Grants

The Society also award Travel Grants for junior and trainee members of the Society requiring support to present at scientific meetings or attend workshops or short training courses. Where support for attendance at a workshop or short course has been applied for, the course must contain a substantial programme related to IPC and the application must include justification of the course for career development. In extenuating circumstances, applications from more senior staff including consultants will be considered, but adequate justification will be required in the application. Full details of these awards are provided on the website and application form.

2.5 Career Development Bursary

The Society has created this bursary in order to support the continuing professional development of its full and associate members. Applications must be received at least 6 weeks before the learning opportunity and applications are accepted throughout the year.

3. The application process

Applications must be submitted using the official application forms.

Application forms are available on the HIS website <http://www.his.org.uk/awards/>. Applications will be acknowledged on receipt.

Applications and supporting documents must be submitted as a merged PDF or DOC (Microsoft Word) format by **email only** to the Research and Development Manager at grants@his.org.uk. Hard copies of applications will not be accepted.

Applications must be submitted to reach HIS by 11.59pm on the specified deadlines:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 March | Mike Emmerson Early Career Award |
| 1 March and 1 September | Small Research grants |
| 1 March | Graham Ayliffe Training Fellowship |
| 1 September | Major Research Grants |
| 1 December and 1 May | Pilot Project Grant |
| (Ongoing) | Travel Grant and Career Development Bursary) |

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

4. Selection process

Initially, applications will be triaged by the Research and Development Manager and one member of the Grants Committee to determine whether they fall within the scope of HIS funding, i.e. strictly related to HCAI, rather than other broader fields of microbiology, virology, infectious diseases or basic science.

HIS adopts the scoring system developed by the Medical Research Council for use by independent referees ([MRC Reviewers Handbook 2017](#)) when assessing research proposals and fellowships:

| Score | Indicators | Outcome |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 10 | <p>Exceptional - <i>Top international programme or of exceptional national strategic importance</i></p> <p>Quality o Highly original and innovative o Novel methodology and design o Excellent leadership (team, environment, and collaborators are amongst the best in a broad field)</p> <p>Impact o Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap o Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact o Internationally unique resource of value to many disciplines</p> <p>Productivity o Potential for high return on investment o Very high likelihood of successful delivery (risks well managed)</p> | Fundable |
| 9 | <p>Excellent – <i>Internationally competitive and leading edge in most areas</i></p> <p>Quality o Original and innovative o Novel methodology and design o Excellent leadership (team, environment, and collaborators e.g. among the best in a specialist area)</p> <p>Impact o Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap o Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact o Internationally significant resource of value to many disciplines.</p> <p>Productivity o Potential for high return on investment o Very high likelihood of successful delivery (risks well managed)</p> | Fundable |
| 8 | <p>Very High Quality – <i>Internationally competitive and leading edge nationally</i></p> <p>Quality o Original and innovative o Robust methodology and design (innovative in parts) o Excellent leadership (team, environment, and collaborators)</p> <p>Impact o Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance to the UK o Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact o Resource of value to many disciplines.</p> <p>Productivity o Potential for significant return on investment o Very high likelihood of successful delivery (risks well managed)</p> | Fundable |
| 7 | <p>High Quality – <i>Leading edge nationally and internationally competitive in parts</i></p> <p>Quality o Innovative o Robust methodology and design (innovative in parts) o Strong leadership (team, environment, and collaborators)</p> <p>Impact o Key scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance to the UK o Potential for significant health and/or socioeconomic impact o Valuable scientific resource</p> <p>Productivity o Potential for significant return on investment o High likelihood of successful delivery</p> | Fundable |

| Score | Indicators | Outcome |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 6 | <p>High Quality –and Leading edge nationally, but not yet internationally competitive Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Methodologically robust study o Appropriate leadership (team; environment; collaborators) <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Worthwhile scientific question or knowledge gap o Justifiable scientific resource o Potential for reasonable health and/or socioeconomic impact <p>Productivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Resources appropriate to deliver the proposal o High likelihood of successful delivery | Fundable |
| 5 | <p>Good quality - Nationally competitive. Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Methodologically sound study but areas require significant revision fundable o Leadership not optimal (scope to strengthen team; environment; collaborators) <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Worthwhile scientific question with potentially useful outcomes o Moderate likelihood of contributing to new knowledge generation <p>Productivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Resources broadly appropriate to deliver the proposal o Good likelihood of successful delivery | Not Fundable |
| 4 | <p>Potentially useful – With significant weaknesses Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Methodologically weak study (approach or study design requires significant fundable revision) o Leadership/environment not optimal <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Contains potentially useful ideas but requires major revision o Moderate likelihood of successful delivery <p>Productivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Resources inappropriate to deliver the proposal o Unlikely to significantly contribute to new knowledge generation | Not Fundable |
| 3 | <p>Potentially useful – With major weaknesses Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Question poorly defined o Methodologically weak study o Poor leadership/environment <p>Productivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Unlikely to contribute to new knowledge generation | Not Fundable |
| 2 | Poor quality science, bordering on unacceptable | Not Fundable |
| 1 | Unacceptable quality or has serious ethical concerns. | Not Fundable |

Following the initial triage, an application will be reviewed and scored by the Grants Committee. **Small Research Grants** and the **Mike Emmerson Early Career Award** will be awarded on the basis of the scoring of the Grants Committee.

For **Major Research Grants**, the outstanding applications will be shortlisted for external review (based on of the scoring of the Grants Committee) and will be sent to at least two independent reviewers for peer review.

External reviewers will be asked to comment on the following aspects of the application:

- Relevance of the proposed project to the aims of the Society.
- Quality, e.g. importance and timeliness of research, appropriateness of proposed methodology.
- Whether the requested resources are appropriate and have been fully justified.

- Potential impact of research.
- Ability of applicant/the team to complete the project successfully.

The external reviewers will be asked to provide an overall score, based on the MRC system overleaf, together with their comments, using the form and information found in the reviewer's guidance which is available on the website. The Grants Committee will review the reports of the external reviewers to reach a decision on each Major Research Grant application. For all applications, the adjudication of the Grants Committee is final.

Graham Ayliffe Training Fellowships will be rated by the Grants Committee using the MRC framework and then a recommendation for award will be submitted to the Council officers for confirmation.

Travel Grants are assessed by a representative from the Grants Committee and the Research and Development Manager.

All grant awards are ratified by the Officers of the Society.

5. Feedback and expected dates for decisions:

Turn-around time for applications will be dependent on the volume of applications received for each call. Average timeframes for decisions are detailed below. Applicants will be notified if there is any deviation from these expectations.

Average decision times:

Travel grant and Career Development Bursary: 3 weeks from confirmation of acceptance

Mike Emmerson Early Career Award: Early June

Graham Ayliffe Training Fellowship: Early June

Small Research Grant Round 1: Early June and Early November

Major Research Grant: Late December

Strategic Research Grant: Late December

Pilot Project Grant: Early February and Early July

The Society will aim to provide constructive feedback to unsuccessful grant applicants for all grants (except Travel Grants), upon request.

6. Terms and conditions

All awardees, the Head of Department, the Head of Research and an authorized signatory from the awardee institute are required to sign a copy of the Grants terms & conditions. For grants involving multiple collaborators, signatories are also required for each institution. Please see the terms and conditions document which is available on the website