



Answers to Your Questions

Answers to attendees' questions to The MPS Foundation Q&A Clinics

(Questions that may identify an individual have been either amended or removed and will be answered individually.

Questions and Answers from the clinics will be added to this document)

Question	Answer
Do you fund feasibility and pilot studies?	Yes, we do. The MPS Foundation is very keen on funding applied research and research that looks at what works so feasibility and pilot studies are welcomed.
Can you be an independent practitioner researcher to apply for these grants?	The Grants are not restricted to institutions. Independent practitioners are welcome to apply for a Grant. We have already funded a number of research projects undertaken by independent practitioners.
What are the intellectual property rules of the grant?	Any intellectual property that you own at the start of the project will remain your own. The MPS Foundation wishes to ensure that the outcomes of projects are utilised for the benefit of healthcare professionals where relevant and will publicise, disseminate and promote the outcomes of your project including directly to MPS members. How IPR is applied will be dependent on how work already undertaken by the researcher(s) informs the new research undertaken with the MPS funding. The MPS Foundation will follow its Intellectual Property Right Policy in the Use and Exploitation of Intellectual Property Rights which will be clearly outlined in the funding agreement.
Can an SME apply or research organisations?	Yes, an SME can apply for a grant as can a research organisation. We have already funded a number of SMEs.
What has been the application to successful application rate for past issues of the grant? ie x number of applications, y number of grants awarded.	Approximately 20% of those invited to submit a Full Application have been successful in securing a Grant over the last two years. The decision as to whether to support an application is ultimately the decision of The MPS Foundation Board. The Board focus on the quality rather than the volume of applications.

Question	Answer
Is there an outline structure for the grant application?	Yes, an outline structure is included on the Grant Portal and can be found on the Grant Portal site - Guidance for Applicants - The MPS Foundation Grant Portal (smapply.io)
Will all the listed collaborators in the project be invited to join?	Yes
Do you fund systematic reviews?	Yes, provided there is evidence that such studies have not been done elsewhere
What is the requirement to apply for the grant - should we be working on a paper already or can we apply for a grant with just an idea to work on a particular topic?	At the Expression of Interest stage, you will be asked to provide a brief project summary and why the project is important. If you are invited to submit a Full Application you will be asked to provide details of the methodology you propose, the risks associated with the project, how you intend to disseminate the outcomes and a project plan. We would also expect a costed budget. Without this information and demonstrating the uniqueness of the project it is unlikely your application will be supported.
How much involvement does MPS have in the project	The MPS Foundation team will meet with successful applicants on a regular basis. Current applicants appreciate this involvement. We also actively promote the projects we are funding
Will this initiative consider part-funding the development of a possible low-cost solution to a global problem of epilepsy diagnosis, the lack of EEG, which often leads to inappropriate or no treatment and consequently, significant morbidity and mortality?	The MPS Foundation does not fund this type of activity
Do I have to have research proposal ready before applying?	At the Expression of Interest stage, you will be asked to provide a brief project summary and why the project is important. If you are invited to submit a Full Application you will be asked to provide details of the methodology you propose, the risks associated with the project, how you intend to disseminate the outcomes and a project plan. We would also expect a costed budget. Without this information and demonstrating the uniqueness of the project it is unlikely your application will be supported.
Do I have to locally get research ethical approval?	Yes, we require applicants to secure ethical approval locally as we provide funding to researchers in a number of different countries
Is the grant supporting only work in the UK?	No. Researchers can come from anywhere in the world but they must base at least 51% of their research project in one of the MPS jurisdictions which are: UK, Ireland, South Africa, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, Caribbean and Bermuda

Question	Answer
Do you have an ethics board to approve research?	No, we require applicants to secure ethical approval locally. Ethical approval can be applied for after submitting your final application and The MPS Foundation agreeing to fund your project. However, we expect that applicants will have considered how they will achieve ethical approval and from whom at the point of application.
Can ethics approval be obtained for studies that include patients or is better to avoid direct patient contact when planning a study?	A number of our studies involve direct patient contact and ethical approval has been obtained for these.
Will qualitative research be considered equally favourably as quantitative?	Yes, a number of our existing projects are qualitative as well as mixed methods research.
As a South African doctor can I apply for the grant?	Yes, you can
May I try to apply if I submitted a proposal last year that was not funded?	Yes, previous applicants are welcome. You will have received some feedback from last year and the Research Committee will be expecting that this has been acted upon if you are putting forward the same proposal as you did previously.
I would like to know if studying diplomas and master's is also funded.	We do not fund university fees for undergraduate or post graduate studies.
Can my research related to a master's thesis, being done in Singapore, be eligible for funding?	The MPS Foundation will fund the research element of a Master's study and has done so previously.
I would like more information about areas on interest for the foundation.	The areas of interest and our priorities are listed on our website and on the Grant Portal: The MPS Foundation Application Guide
Could we involve more than one organisation in collaboration?	Yes, we have previously had applications from collaboratives with more than one organisation
Are the MPS Foundation grant opportunities available for studies based in Kenya	The study can be based in Kenya but the research needs to involve at least 51% of subjects who are in an MPS jurisdiction
In what capacity can I be a part of the research without taking on the entire project myself ?	You can create a project team to undertake the research and you don't have to do all the work yourself. The MPS Foundation will pay (using a day rate) for a project team. You can take on any role within that team.
Relevance of an application to in-patient mental health monitoring	If the application is relevant to The MPS Foundation's 5 priorities, then it will be considered

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What research experience do we need?	You will need to demonstrate that you have experience of research in your team. This may not be you personally but in assessing your application the Research Committee will be looking at those supporting you to ensure that they have the relevant knowledge, skills and experience to complete the proposed project.
How much money is available?	The MPS Foundation has funded projects between £2,500 and £199,000. The maximum budget for a project is £200,000 and £100,000 in any one year. To encourage smaller projects we operate two schemes, the first scheme is for projects worth up to £60,000 and between 3 months and 36 months of duration. The second scheme is for projects between 12 and 36 months and worth up to £200,000.
Interested in functional medicine testing in primary care - rare elemental blood tests	<p>We cannot comment on individual projects or topic areas as the question would be more accurately answered if the detail of the project is known. The MPS Foundation is interested in projects that fall into at least one of its strategic priority areas, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of human factors and people and teams have on patient care, safety, outcomes, and risk • The impact of processes and delivery models along with the effects of process and compliance on delivering healthcare • The personal and professional wellbeing and development of healthcare professionals and teams • The impact of digital integration and technology on healthcare and the opportunities and risks they pose • The assessment and evaluation of the effectiveness of teaching and learning innovations in increasing patient safety and reducing clinician risk. <p>The MPS Foundation will not fund what it deems to be clinical trials; research aimed at setting standards for clinical practice; or service evaluations.</p>

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Interested in qualitative study : continuity of care models small v large practice	<p>We cannot comment on individual projects or topic areas as the question would be more accurately answered if the detail of the project is known. The MPS Foundation is interested in projects that fall into at least one of its strategic priority areas, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of human factors and people and teams have on patient care, safety, outcomes, and risk • The impact of processes and delivery models along with the effects of process and compliance on delivering healthcare • The personal and professional wellbeing and development of healthcare professionals and teams • The impact of digital integration and technology on healthcare and the opportunities and risks they pose • The assessment and evaluation of the effectiveness of teaching and learning innovations in increasing patient safety and reducing clinician risk. <p>The MPS Foundation will not fund what it deems to be clinical trials; research aimed at setting standards for clinical practice; or service evaluations.</p>
Is MPS research fund likely to be interested in minimising environmental and climate change , the number global public health priority, with benefits for people and planet?	<p>We are likely to be interested but we would also wish to see how the research links into one of our 5 priorities as our focus is on patient safety, improving patient outcomes, reducing risk and improving the wellbeing of healthcare professionals. We are unlikely to support a general climate change proposal as that is outside of strategic focus.</p>
Is it necessary to cover all of the MPS Foundation’s research priorities, or could a project focus on one or two?	<p>A project should focus on at least one priority area.</p>
What are some examples of how the MPS Foundation defines/differentiates between applied and conceptual research?	<p>Applied is something that can work directly in the workplace such as a new process, system or approach. Conceptual or basic research is more laboratory based and would require a second stage to prove that it works in the workplace.</p>
Is it possible to have CO-PIs on projects?	<p>Yes</p>
Does a person have to be an MPS Member to be a PI?	<p>No</p>
Is the MPS Foundation’s IP Policy publicly available?	<p>Yes it is under Guidance for Applicants on the Portal Home Page Guidance For Applicants</p>
Do applicants need to cover brief budget details in an expression of interest?	<p>No the Expression of Interest asks for an estimate of the cost of your project only</p>

Question	Answer
Regarding the exclusion of undergraduate education, would this include projects that are researching the impact of a new educational intervention in a medical school?	No, it would not, the MPS Foundation would consider research on undergraduate medical/dental education.
Would the MPS Foundation cover the cost of Audio/Visual Equipment?	Yes
Do you fund patient and public involvement?	A small amount or something akin to a coffee voucher has been funded historically, it would need to be looked at in context of specific applications.
What is required in terms of ethical approval prior to project commencement?	Applicants are requested to secure ethical approval at their local level. At the full application stage, applicants will be asked how they are going to achieve that ethical approval, who from etc. Projects would not commence without ethical approval being confirmed.
Will the MPS Foundation fund research on occupational wellbeing of Allied healthcare trainees?	Yes
Would the MPS Foundation cover the costs of a steering group?	This would be dependent on costs and how it impacted a project.
Is there a preferred Intact Citation?	No specific preference, applicants may use their preferred.
Is palliative care an area the MPS Foundation would fund?	Yes it is.
Is there any level of technical product development required	That is dependent on the project
Is there a max proportion of the grant that can be spent on engineering?	More than 30% would likely lead to questions
Do all projects need to have a testing in humans end point?	Need to see in any project, the impact it will have on the healthcare system
Do you fund early stage research that might lead onto a product after further research?	Yes, though the flight path of that research would be considered
Are there examples of previous projects to review so that applicants can get an idea of what has been successful in the past?	Yes, there are examples on the MPS Foundation website here
Can individual private practitioners apply?	Yes

Question	Answer
Would the MPS Foundation consider applications around creation of Apps?	Yes, but with consideration to ongoing costs
As a small non-profit based company in the US providing free online education to radiotherapy professionals in limited resource settings, should we be interested in doing research on the outcomes of our courses or the outcomes of any other resources we provided to radiotherapy professionals, do we need to ensure at least 51% of the participants would be in Malaysia or Singapore?	Yes
In terms of previous applications, what is the ratio of projects that are successful from the public sector?	More than 50% are from the public sector. We ask grant recipients to think around how the application of project outputs could be applied in different environments/settings/jurisdictions. We want to share the outputs, not just in terms of ensuring publications and good research but also how the research could be used elsewhere, or is it purely an NHS or state sector solution?
Is there an opportunity to network to see where there are opportunities in the private and public sector?	We are currently creating a research community with everyone involved in research on our projects which will allow the opportunity to network
What is the maximum number of hours we can spend in a week as API?	There are no hard and fast rules and you can spend as many hours as you want on the project. This is something you would need to calculate at full application when you put the full budget together. The Research Committee would look at the feasibility of the time stated, ie is sufficient time going to be given to the project, is the project going to be worked on full-time or part-time, assessing if you have the time/resource to do the project.
Is there a limit to the number of people on a project team?	No, just as long as it is within budget.
With regard to the budget requirements at the Eoi stage of the application, does this need to be accurate?	For the EOI stage of the application, this is an estimate and not a precise figure.
Can funding cover fixed-term research staff to support data collection/analysis?	Yes, we will pay for their time working on the project
If we are working in a clinical research setting and want to look at the expectations and impact/ethical understanding of participants who screen fail, is this appropriate?	Full details of the project would be required before a decision could be made regarding this.

Question	Answer
Must the applicant hold PhD title when applying?	No. We have projects led by people without a PhD or are completing their PhD as part of the project. They do need to ensure they have access to experienced researchers
Are there any completed studies that are published which we can read through?	Yes. The research we are supporting can be found on our website here
How strict is the definition of 'research'. vs evaluation	We have defined what we mean by service evaluation in our guidance and FAQs on our website here . If in the opinion of the Research Committee a project meets the definition of a service evaluation it will be rejected.
As a charity do you pay any overheads to host organisations?	We will pay overheads that are attributable to an individual participating in the project as part of their day rate
Does the grant offer funding to hire research assistants/statistical support?	We pay the costs of research assistants and statistical support during their time working on the project through the application of a day rate.
Are the following costs fundable? - Compensation for participant time - Catering for participant workshops - Open access fees for journal publication - PPI groups	Yes we will fund these costs, if we deem them reasonable and not excessive
Are applications for realist syntheses (reviews) supported?	In principle we would fund projects using this methodology. The final decision will be based on what topic the project is researching
Can a person be involved in two or more different projects	Yes. Please be aware that the Research Committee and Board will be looking at the time commitment and the potential impact on one or both of the projects if both are invited to Full Application.
I understand that MPS wish to disseminate the findings from projects. Will research still be eligible for publication	We encourage our projects and their findings to be published. We work with the Principal Investigators to ensure that the findings of projects are disseminated but do not jeopardise and opportunities for publication.
Will the application form for a Grant be suitable for Ethics Submissions	The MPS Foundation application form is designed for our needs not the needs of an Ethics Committee. Some of the information from the application form will be able to be used in your Ethics Submission but you are likely to have to provide more information to your Ethics Committee.
Does the MPS Foundation have a database of Ethics approving organisations	No, as we work and fund projects across 9 different countries and jurisdictions it is not feasible to have a database such as this. It is the responsibility of the research team to identify and engage with a suitable Ethics Committee locally.
I am based in a state practice and I know the MPS Foundation has a private sector focus can I still receive funding.	We absolutely do and have funded research in state practice. We ask that researchers consider the potential impact of their research and how it can be applied in different environments, including private practice.

Question	Answer
Do 51% of participants in a project have to be based in in one of the 9 countries and jurisdictions listed on the registration form	Yes we expect at least 51% of those participating in and benefiting from the research to be based in at least one of: UK; Ireland; South Africa; Malaysia; Singapore; Hong Kong; New Zealand; Australia; Caribbean and Bermuda
How strict is the definition of 'research'. vs evaluation	We recognise that there can be a fine line between research and evaluation. The Research Committee will review each application on its merit and assess whether the project will elicit new knowledge and learning that can be shared with others. A straight forward evaluation of an already implemented programme is unlikely to be supported
Do you pay any overheads to host organisations?	We recognise that all organisations carry overheads, we do not pay for overheads as a budget line but will pay where a per capita amount of overheads is included as part of the calculation of the day rate.
Does the grant offer funding to hire research assistants/statistical support?	Yes
Can funding cover staff costs to hire a research assistant?	We will pay for a research assistant to be part of the project but not the staff costs to recruit that research assistant
Are the following costs fundable? - Compensation for participant time - Catering for participant workshops - Open access fees for journal publication - PPI groups	Yes - In terms of compensation for participant time we would anticipate that this will be in the form of small gratuities, often in the form of vouchers.
Are applications for realist syntheses (reviews) supported?	Yes
If successful can we use a portion of the money to pay costs for Diabetic Nurse Educators and for pathology to determine the outcomes of both our findings and then impact of interventions?	Yes. You will be asked to include these costs in your Full Application if you are successful at the Full Application stage
How broad an area are proposals expected to cover? I.e. should they aim to cover a range of specialties/settings, or would the MPS Foundation consider proposals with a narrow focus that can lead to more generalisable findings?	A difficult question to answer as it depends on the project. We would recommend that the breadth and depth of study will be determined by the outcomes and impact you wish to achieve. We already have a number of studies that are focused on specific specialties with the view that the learning can be transferred elsewhere if they are successful as the focus on one or two specialties provides greater insight for the amount of funding available.

Question	Answer
<p>Will MPS Foundation pay for public and patient involvement relevant to the project and any dissemination costs such as journal open article fees, or attendance and travel to conferences (including conference fees) etc</p>	<p>We will pay for patient involvement but this is expected to be a token of thanks rather than a full recompense of their time. We will pay for journal articles. The MPS Foundation expects to be kept informed of any articles that are submitted for publication and these should be shared before publication. The MPS Foundation will share the articles and the link to the journal once they have been successfully published</p>
<p>Are you expecting us to use references? If so, within word count? 2. Do you have a standard format/length for narrative CVs</p>	<p>We do not anticipate you to provide references or citations at the Expression of Interest stage. You will be asked to provide them at the Full Application stage. We do not have a standard format for a CV although we are looking at potentially providing a template in the future. We expect CVs to cover the applicants experience relevant to their role and the project. We do not require you to provide a CV that reflects more than 10 years of your professional experience unless there is something particularly pertinent to the project.</p>