

Public, Patient and Community Involvement and Engagement Awards for Ageing Research

Guidance for applicants

Overview

The scheme is funded by the Vivensa Foundation Excellence Award for Senior Research Leadership awarded to Professor Vicki Goodwin at the University of Exeter, and aims to:

- Facilitate early engagement with the public, patients and communities for the development of ageing related research ideas
- Promote research inclusion through engagement with underserved groups.

Funding Opportunity

Application period: June 2026 to April 2027. It is anticipated that approximately 10-12 awards will be made during this period. Once these have been allocated, the call will be closed to further applications without further notice. However, it is likely that there will be further awards available in 2027-28.

Award amount: £500 per successful application.

Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

- Applicants must be UK-based early or mid-career researchers who do not have access to funds to support engagement or research inclusion through existing grants or fellowships or their employer.
- Applicants must be based at a university, in the NHS or local authority anywhere within the UK.
- Applicants must be members of the [Vivensa Foundation Academy](#). You can easily apply to become a member at no cost (see [here](#) for details on applying). Please check you are listed on the member directory before applying.
- The proposed activity must relate to public, patient or community engagement or research inclusion
- The proposed activity must relate to the field of ageing or age-related diseases
- The proposed activity the funding will support must be clearly explained

Note: Funding **cannot** be used to undertake research, for training and development purposes or for conference costs.

Eligible costs and activities

Funding covers only directly incurred costs and may be requested to support the following types of activities

- Payments to public contributors for their time
- Refreshments/venue hire for engagement activities
- Consumables to support engagement activities
- Resources to support research inclusion e.g. interpreter, translation, researcher travel, public travel, internet payment, carer costs
- Dissemination activity that is specific to engagement or research inclusion of underserved groups

We encourage potential applicants to access relevant resources to support them developing their application such as:

[Better public partnerships are vital for a truly inclusive research organisation | NIHR](#)

[Patient & Public Involvement Resources - PenARC](#)

[NIHR Community Engagement Toolkit - ARC](#)

[Payment guidance for researchers and professionals | NIHR](#)

You may need to discuss your application in advance with your host organisation. You will need to provide us with details for someone in your finance department so we can arrange payment. Once awarded the grant will be paid in full in advance to your host organisation. It is up to you to find out from your organisation how you will access the funding.

Application Process

- Please **ensure you meet ALL the eligibility criteria** before applying to avoid disappointment.
- Applications are open year-round and can be submitted at any time; however, decisions will only be made after these time points in the year
 - 31st July 2026
 - 30th October 2026
 - 31st January 2027
 - 30th April 2027
- We will aim to provide a decision within a month of these deadlines
- Please note that the Vivensa Foundation is not involved in the decision-making process for these awards.
- Due to the number of applications received, individual feedback will not always be possible.
- Applicants who are successful in obtaining an award may not apply again in future.
- We will aim to process payments as soon as possible after receiving a formal acceptance form with details from your finance dept. It is up to applicants to ensure we receive all the required information to process payments in a timely way to avoid delays. Please note that there will be delays in finance processing at times such as annual leave or sickness.

Application form link: [Vivensa Foundation Excellence Award – Fill in form](#)

If you have any queries, please contact vivensa@exeter.ac.uk.