

ROUND 3: Call for proposals that address foot health research priorities

Great Foundations is dedicated to supporting research that improves foot health.

We funded the first Foot Health Priority Setting Partnership (PSP), in which people living with foot health problems and the professionals that support them, identified the top ten priorities for future foot health research. The results are available [here](#) and we are now inviting applications for research projects and PhD studentships to address one or more of these priorities.

In round 3 applicants should select from one of two funding opportunities:

Scheme A: Research Project. The maximum allowed for any project is £100,000. A wide range of research designs are invited but evidence synthesis or systematic reviews are excluded. This includes research that takes advantage of existing funded research that might already be producing novel data or research opportunities. In this case, the research funded by Great Foundations must be clearly in addition to that already funded (e.g. a project nestled within a large clinical trial, or a project that uses data from an existing database). Projects should be able to start by Feb 1st 2025.

Scheme B: Doctoral Training Studentship. This includes a PhD stipend at UKRI levels and university tuition fees (both for 3 years), plus budget for research training, experiences and consumables (including travel) up to a maximum of £100,000 (minimum £90,000). Universities are expected to provide one third of the costs of the total studentship cost (i.e. minimum of £30,000) to demonstrate their commitment to the research area. This commitment can cover any aspect of the studentship costs including student fees, training expenses or part of the stipend. Students must commence their PhD before 31st December 2024 and study full time.

Application process.

We will operate a two-stage process and expect to see evidence of public, patient or user involvement at both stages.

- a) Deadline for Stage 1 applications is 5pm 1st Feb 2024
- b) Results of Stage 1 applications will be announced on 1st March 2024
- c) Deadline for Stage 2 applications is 5pm 1st June 2024
- d) Results of applications will be announced by 31st August 2024

Applications must be made by emailing a single PDF file of the signed application form to: c.nester@keele.ac.uk

Stage 1 applications should not exceed 1 side of A4, font size 10 Times New Roman, and cover:

For Scheme A Research projects:

1. Name and positions of main applicants
2. Project title (25 words maximum)
3. What PSP priority is being addressed and why.
4. Aim of the research

5. Brief work plan
6. Evidence of PPIE in the development of the research proposed.
7. Total costs.
8. Track record of the applicants in the research area

A further side of A4 is allowed for references and 1 diagram/figure.

For Scheme B PhD Studentship:

1. Title and aim of the PhD project.
2. What PSP priority is being addressed and how.
3. Evidence of PPIE in development of the proposal.
4. Name and educational track record of the PhD student if already known, or educational track record of likely applicants for the PhD studentship.
5. Brief work plan (e.g. 2 sentences on work to be done in each year or phase of the PhD)
6. Names and track record of the supervision team, including number of prior PhD completions. Involving colleagues new to PhD supervision alongside more experienced researchers is strongly encouraged.
7. Likely training *courses* to be attended by the PhD student and rationale for each (title, duration, location, training provider, likely costs).
8. Likely training *experiences* to be delivered and rationale for each (e.g. visits to UK or overseas research groups/sites, conferences to attend, research, industry or clinical placements to be arranged, likely costs)
9. Consumables or other PhD specific project costs.

Stage 2 application forms will only be made available to candidates successful at Stage 1.

Application notes

1. Do not apply for funding if you have not conducted some form of PPIE activity to inform your application.
2. If an application is invited to Stage 2, applicants must discuss the *potential* their research to involve CNWL patients or staff with the Head of Podiatry at CNWL (Praveena Patel). Examples include recruiting patients from CNWL and involving clinical staff in research delivery, and as a platform for building their research experience. This is one mechanism by which Great Foundations seeks to add value to its host organisation (CNWL NHS). **It is not, however, a prerequisite for funding that the research involves patients/staff of CNWL Trust.**

This information is not required for Stage 1 applications.

Application assessment process

All stage 1 applications will be assessed by the Scientific Committee.

All stage 2 applications will be assessed by the Scientific Committee using input from external peer reviewers. Members of the committee are requested to declare all potential conflicts of interest and are not eligible to apply for funding from Great Foundations.

At both stages applications will be judged against the following criteria:

- Alignment with foot health research priorities (note higher research priorities will generally take preference)
- Scientific excellence of the research (for Schemes A and B) and research training (for the Scheme B only)
- Quality of PPIE pre and during the project.
- Track record of the applicants/supervision team.
- Value for money.

For Scheme A, Research projects involving part time and full-time staff appointments will be treated equally.

For Scheme B, PhD students will be expected to register for full time study.

Grant funding information.

Great Foundations will not pay Directly Allocated costs under the UK full economic funding model. This includes salaries for principal investigators, co-applicants or collaborators named on the funding applications and who are paid from existing institutional funds. Only costs declared at the point of application will be considered.

For Scheme A, Great Foundations will only pay salaries that are Directly Incurred costs as a result of undertaking the research. The salaries must be stated in the application and be based on the salary scales at the institution in which the research will be based. Costs for National Insurance contributions, superannuation and known salary increments must be included in the application if they are to be paid. Unknown changes in salary due to national pay awards must not be included. However, institutions may invoice for the pay awards during the project.

For Scheme B, PhD studentship stipend costs must follow the [UKRI rates](#) (including the approach to London weighting). PhD fees will cover the costs for Home students only (international candidates would be eligible for the PhD studentships only if the University is able to cover the difference between home and international fees (not the candidate themselves)). Applications should consider the Disabled Students' Allowance where appropriate and high standards of equity, diversity and inclusivity are expected with respect to student recruitment and supervision teams.

For Stage 2 applications, all funding requests should be justified in detail. Categories (e.g. equipment, travel, consumables) should be broken down and the need for these within the proposed research made clear.

Great Foundations will not cover the costs below.

- Research work not specified in the application
- funding for work already completed
- 'Top-up' funds for current research projects
- Overspending on other grants
- Publication, open access, and public relations costs.
- Advertising
- Stationery
- Indirect costs, as specified by the Research Councils
- Overheads of any description
- Maintenance costs or access charges (e.g. building maintenance)

- Staff facilities
- Financial services (e.g. accounting, auditing)
- Routine care for patients
- Databases (unless specifically required for the research project).

Inflation may not be included on research costs.

Concurrent applications to other funding bodies

Applicants can apply for funding for the same research proposal from other funding bodies concurrently but Great Foundations must be informed of this at the time of any application or at the point of application to another funding body.

Failure to do so may result in an application being rejected or funding being withdrawn. If the application to another funding body is recommended for award Great Foundations must be informed immediately.

Eligibility

Principal Applicants must hold an established NHS, academic or research post and be in receipt of a salary for the duration of the award. Grants must be administered by an established research institution in the UK.

Applicants and their institutions must be able to sign up to the **Great Foundations Grant Conditions** at the time of making an application.

Receipt of application

Great Foundations will provide email confirmation of receipt to the Principal Applicant.

Current projects:

The research projects we are currently funding include:

1. Development of a decision aid for offloading device selection for people with diabetic foot ulceration. Dr Lindsey Cherry University of Southampton.
2. Impact of Foot Problems: Qualitative Study on Social Participation. Dr Gavin Wylie, University of Dundee.
3. Developing a Person-Centred Decision Aid for Supporting Footwear Choices for Those at Risk of Diabetes-Related Foot Ulceration. Dr Sally Abey, University of Plymouth.
4. The importance of musculoskeletal ultrasound in diagnosing foot problems and informing podiatric management. Dr Lisa Newcombe, Glasgow Caledonian University.

We contribute to Diabetes UK funding of:

- REAL PRETECTION - Preventing diabetic foot ulcers using real-time foot pressure monitoring and alert technologies. Prof Neil Reeves, Manchester Metropolitan University.