

RM Partners Research & Innovation Fund 2023/2024 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: What equipment costs can be covered?

Applications where the primary intent is to purchase capital equipment will not be considered. Where essential to the project, running costs of utilising equipment will need to be justified, but any maintenance or installation of capital equipment will not fall within the remit of the funding.

Where essential, laptops and associated software required for the delivery of the project can be included. This is capped at £1,000.

Q2: What if the project cannot start by 31 March^t 2024?

While we understand that there can be delays in staff recruitment and regulatory approvals that are outside the control of the applicant, projects must start no later than 31 March 2024.

Projects will be monitored on a monthly basis with RM Partners, and any risk of delays to project timelines will be closely monitored with mitigations in place.

Q3: How and where will the funding be awarded?

The total amount of the grant awarded will be transferred to the applicant's host organisation once the Funding Award Letter is reviewed and signed by the applicant and RM Partners. The total amount will be transferred as a one-off payment award, and it will be the responsibility of the host organisation to carry funds forward across the duration of the project. As such, we require a letter confirming the arrangements by the host organisation's finance lead at the full application stage.

Q4: Can I include project supervision time?

Yes, protected project time for applicants and collaborators can be included in the funding application; however this must be clearly justified. Salary costs that appear to be excessive will be queried and may be reduced, and any costs considered inappropriate will be removed.

Q5: What if my project idea is not within the remit of the RMP Research & Innovation Fund?

The areas and approaches listed in the Guidance document is not exhaustive. What we have highlighted are approaches that we believe are relevant to the delivery of the NHS LTP aims; however, we welcome new ideas that may not have been considered, asking that you justify why your idea will help contribute to meeting the NHS LTP.

Q6: What type of evaluation are you looking for?

Applications will be scored against the robustness of the project analysis and evaluation plan as part of the full application. This should include detail on the evaluation questions and how they link to the expected outcomes of the project. The evaluation should contain a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures with methodology and timelines clearly articulated.

Q7: Are CVs required for each co-applicant and collaborator?

CVs (using the provided template at the full application stage) will be required for the lead applicant and all co-applicants. Please limit CVs to one A4 page where possible.

Q8: How much funding is available for each project award?

RM Partners will fund a maximum of £200,000 for projects lasting up to 3 years.

Q9: Can I apply for funding to extend an existing project?

No. The RM Partners Research & Innovation Fund is looking to fund new projects that have not yet been initiated. Additional complementary funding secured via other routes, or matched funding from the host organisation, is permitted; however, the milestones and timelines associated with the RMP Research and Innovation fund should be clearly stipulated. Any additional funding secured by the applicants should be clearly articulated in the full application.

Q10: Can this fund be used to support PhD studentships?

Yes, the grant may cover salary or stipend cost in accordance with the host organisation. The fund will not cover any PhD fees or registration costs.

Q11: What staff salary costs does this fund include?

Salary costs for staff working directly on project should include: basic salary, including the normal increments during the term of the project; employer's contributions, including National Insurance and pension scheme costs; and locally recognised allowances, e.g. London weighting. The fund will not cover any staff overhead costs, such as desk space, electricity, HR costs.

Q12: Can I submit more than one application?

Yes, lead applicants can submit more than one application. The track record of the applicant, including co-applicants and collaborators as a team will be considered at both stages of the funding process in their ability and expertise to deliver the project.

Q13: Can I list collaborators that are outside of the RMP network?

Yes. Where the expertise sits outside of the RMP network (and where there is existing collaboration), this is permissible and will need to be articulated in the application, including their role and any funding that will go to collaborators outside of RMP. The bulk of the award should remain in the host organisation within RMP, serving the population of RMP. As such, collaborations within the RMP network are strongly encouraged.

Q14: What is required in the confirmation letter by the finance lead of my organisation?

As we are awarding the total funds within the 2023-2024 financial year to the lead applicant's host organisation, it will be the responsibility of the organisation to hold these funds for the duration of the project and monitor expenditure. At the full application stage, we require written confirmation either by letter or email, agreeing to these arrangements by the finance lead.

Q15: Who can I contact to speak to about the Research & Innovation fund?

Please direct all queries to Dr Michelle Chen, RMPartners.Research@nhs.net