

DPUK Discovery Awards

What we're looking for

- ✓ Your proposal will be peer reviewed by independent scientific experts from the UK.

Assessments are based on four core criteria:

- ✓ **Importance:** how important are the questions, or gaps in knowledge, that are being addressed?
- ✓ **Data Portal cohorts:** that you will make good use of the DPUK data portal resource
- ✓ **Scientific potential:** what are the prospects for good scientific progress?
- ✓ **Resources requested:** are the funds requested essential for the work, and do the importance and scientific potential justify funding on the scale requested?

During this Award, we expect you to develop your scientific independence and expand your research horizons so that you can become a leader in the field.

You could do this by developing new skills and/or by working:

- across disciplines
- in new research environments or sectors
- in more than one research location, within the UK.

We expect you to think about your long-term vision and the skills and competencies you'll need.

- ✓ You should identify an important biomedical or population health research question that is answered by analysing data via the DPUK Data Portal.

Applications for the Discovery Awards involve a Lead Applicant and a number of Co-applicant(s). More information about the responsibilities of each post are listed in the Terms and Conditions attached for your information (p4 onwards).

In assessing your application, the panel will review:

- ✓ links to DPUK cohort data available within the DPUK Data Portal
- ✓ your research contributions
- ✓ the quality and importance of your research question(s)
- ✓ your knowledge of the scientific area
- ✓ the feasibility of your proposal
- ✓ the suitability of your choice of research sponsors and environments
- ✓ your vision of how this award will contribute to your career development.

At the end of this award, you should be able to show:

- ✓ you have the potential to be an independent leader in your area of research
- ✓ you have the skills and experience to apply for more advanced (intermediate level) funding schemes.

What is expected of your host organisation

- ✓ When your host university supports your application, they must agree to provide the space and resources you'll need from the start date through to the end date of your award.
- ✓ You must identify a sponsor and mentor who possess strong track records in research, training and mentorship.

Eligibility - applications must...	Ineligibility – applications may not...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ include an early career researcher who can demonstrate that they will direct the proposed research and be actively engaged in carrying it through. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ include a Lead Applicant employed by a commercial organisation (, but can be employed by a commercial organisation as a partner applicant) ✗ be applying for another DPUK Discovery Award *
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ have the minimum academic qualification. Less experienced researchers should apply in collaboration with a more senior colleague. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ apply for research lasting beyond 30 June 2019 ✗ have previously held or are currently completing a nationally competitive award at an equivalent level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ demonstrate that they will directly be using cohort data from the DPUK data portal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ apply if you want to combine research with a continuing clinical career in medicine, psychology, dentistry or veterinary practice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ meet the required application process for data access of the DPUK Data Portal (scientific rationale, analysis plan, ethical approval if required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ be conducting research in experimental studies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ all Lead Applicants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a researcher at a university, i.e. not an industry researcher* ✓ someone who is a researcher in industry can be involved in the Discovery Awards but only as a Co-applicant(s) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ able to agree to DPUK's Terms & Conditions 	
<p>As a lead applicant you should :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ hold an academic or research post ✓ have a salary, or the guarantee of a salary, for the duration of the award period. 	
<p>Research assistants seeking Co-applicant status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ are a postdoctoral research assistant ✓ will be making a significant contribution to the research proposal. <p>This is regardless of whether you're:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seeking a salary from the award • funded by another agency. <p>If you don't need a salary from the award you should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ a salary for the duration of the award period (if you don't have a salary, your employing organisation must guarantee salary support for the duration of the award) 	

<p>Industry researchers seeking Co-applicant status: You must collaborate with a lead applicant from a not-for-profit research organisation or higher education institution in order to be a co-applicant on an award. Please note however that there are no restrictions on industry researchers using the DPUK Data Portal, providing they meet the MRC definition of bona fide researchers and research organisations. Salary costs for industry researchers are not eligible from this award.</p>	<p><i>* If you are an industry researcher who needs to find a university researcher to work with, please contact us regarding using our researcher matching service to help you find university collaborators</i></p>
<p>Host organisation: You must have a host UK university* that will administer your award. Eligible host organisations should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ not-for-profit research organisations or a higher education institution ✓ able to sign up to the Terms & Conditions for the Discovery Awards 	
<p>The DPUK Discovery Award is aimed at researchers who want to undertake a guided period of research and will go on to lead their own independent research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ you must either be in the final year of your PhD studies or be an early career researcher with some initial postdoctoral experience. ✓ you should have started to make important contributions to your area of research, e.g. publications, patents, software development or an impact on policy. ✓ you must have an eligible sponsoring organisation in the UK that will administer the award for the full duration of the award. <p>If you've been away from research (e.g. for a career break, maternity leave, or long-term sick leave), we'll allow for this when we consider your application.</p>	
<p>There is a 50k maximum to the funding that can be requested under the scheme. Requests should be appropriate to the project and sufficiently justified in terms of delivering the objectives of the research proposal.</p>	
<p>Eligible costs - applicant may apply for...</p>	<p>Ineligible costs – applicant may not apply for...</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ full personal salary costs ✓ together with support for research staff ✓ travel costs ✓ data preservation, data sharing and dissemination costs (including Open Access publishing costs) ✓ consumables expenses ✓ travel costs ✓ capital equipment appropriate for the research project, (not basic computers). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ funding for use as a ‘bridge’ between grants under any other grant. ✗ costs for PhD studentships ✗ Computers (as we expect that the employer will provide computers and laptops for research staff) ✗ Patent costs and other IP costs are not eligible as universities already receive funding for these from HEIF. ✗ any overseas costs ✗ over 50k