

National Eczema Society Research Grants Terms and Conditions 2026

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General Conditions

All applicants and the involved institutions must accept and adhere to the grant conditions, including intellectual property and revenue-sharing elements, before making an application.

Acceptance of a grant constitutes an agreement to comply with these Terms and Conditions. The agreement will be formalized through a written contract signed by both parties.

Use of Funds

Allowable Costs: Grant funds must be used for direct research-related expenses, including personnel, equipment, supplies, and other approved costs as detailed in the grant proposal.

Unallowable Costs: Funds may not be used for indirect costs, administrative overheads, or any expenses unrelated to the approved research project. NES does not fund clinical trials.

Financial Accountability: The grantee must maintain accurate financial records and provide detailed financial reports as specified by the NES.

Expert-Review Process

NES is dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment and is committed to a policy of equal opportunities. All grant applicants will receive equitable treatment without regard to race, colour, religion, gender, age (except where specific conditions of the scheme dictate otherwise), disability, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by law. NES actively promotes diversity and strives to ensure that no applicant is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements that are not essential to the purpose of the grant.

As an Introductory Member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) we subscribe and strive to uphold the highest standards in research governance and awarding best practices.

All complete funding applications received by NES will be anonymised for assessment and reviewed by the NES Grant Advisory Panel composed of selected members of our [Medical Advisory Board](#) as well as members of our 'Expert by Experience' panel. The application form contains a section for a Lay Summary which must be completed. Please make sure this does not contain any technical language and is understandable for a non-scientific audience.

Project Management

Principal Investigator: The Principal Investigator (PI) named in the grant proposal is responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the project. Any changes to the PI must be approved by the NES.

Project Start Timeline

- **PhD Studentships:** expected Autumn 2026 unless otherwise stated in application.
- **Small Grants:** start within 4 weeks of contract signing

All Pump priming funded projects must commence within **four weeks** of the contract being signed by both parties. The official project start date will be confirmed in the grant agreement. Any anticipated delay beyond this period must be communicated to National Eczema Society in writing at the earliest opportunity and may be subject to further review or re-approval.

Studentship Start Date and Recruitment Expectations:

The PhD Studentship should ideally commence in the Autumn term of 2026. The National Eczema Society expects recruitment for the post to begin as soon as possible following the award decision, to ensure the recruitment of the highest quality candidate.

PhD Studentship Status

NES will provide funding for PhD studentships only where the student is registered and enrolled as a full-time candidate for the duration of the award. Part-time, distance-learning, or intermittent registration PhD arrangements shall not be eligible for funding under this Grant Call. It is the responsibility of the Host Institution to ensure that the student maintains full-time status throughout the funded period. Any change to the student's enrolment status must be reported to NES in writing without delay and may result in suspension or termination of the award, at NES's sole discretion.

Notwithstanding the above clause, NES recognises that extenuating circumstances may arise during the course of a full-time PhD studentship. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, maternity or paternity leave, long-term illness, caring responsibilities, or bereavement. In such cases, NES will consider reasonable adjustments to the studentship, including temporary suspension or extension of funding, in line with the policies of the Host Institution. The Host Institution must notify NES in writing as soon as practicable of any such circumstances affecting the student's enrolment or ability to undertake research. NES will liaise with the Host Institution to determine an appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis, with the aim of supporting the student while maintaining the integrity and purpose of the grant.

Small Grant Awards:

All small grants awarded under this agreement with National Eczema Society (NES) must commence within three (3) months of the date of signing the grant contract. Failure to initiate the project within this timeframe may result in withdrawal of the grant offer unless a written extension is requested and approved by NES prior to the original start deadline. Grant recipients are expected to provide confirmation of the project start date and demonstrate reasonable progress in line with the agreed-upon timeline.

Progress Reports: PhD Studentship awardees must submit regular, annual progress reports, including data on research milestones, outcomes, and any deviations from the original plan. Innovation and Pump Priming Grants must submit a mid-process review, 6-months after the start date of the award. Frequency and format of these reports will be specified in the grant agreement between NES and awardee.

Final Report: A comprehensive final report detailing all research findings, financial expenditures, and project impact must be submitted within twelve weeks of project end date to NES.

Changes to a Grant

Grants are awarded solely for the purposes outlined in the approved application. The grantee must strictly adhere to the proposed research plan, including objectives, methodologies, and timelines. Any significant changes to the research plan, budget, or timeline must be approved by NES in advance before they are carried out. Requests for changes must be submitted in writing with associated budget reforecast approved by Institute's finance office and submitted to NES at research@eczema.org.

In the event of unforeseen delays, interruptions or challenges impacting your research project, it may be necessary to discuss an extension or budget reforecast/modification. To discuss such circumstances, please reach out to NES at research@eczema.org as soon as possible.

No-Cost Extensions: The grantee may request a no-cost extension to complete the project without additional funding. Such requests must be justified and submitted at least 60 working days before the original end date of the award.

Employment Conditions

Periods of leave

During the grant there may be delays to the research due to periods of leave such as parental, paid sick leave, or other special leave of principal investigator/co- investigator/PhD student/s. The lead research organisation as the employer is responsible for meeting any additional costs that are associated with any period of leave.

Please contact the Research team at research@eczema.org if a period of leave is required and the award can be put into abeyance, if possible.

Fair Treatment

Research staff should be employed under conditions that respect the provisions of the ['Concordat for Contract Research Staff'](#) and its subsequent amendments, ensuring fair and ethical treatment.

Employment of Staff

NES does not act as an employer. Therefore, in all cases where support is provided for the employment of staff, the host institution assumes full employer responsibilities, in accordance with the [Employment Act 2008](#) and any other relevant legislation related to employment conditions.

The host institution must take full responsibility for the management, monitoring, and oversight of all research work funded through this grant.

Any staff employed as a result of this grant must be recruited in accordance with the institution's standards and best practices for recruitment.

Moving Institutions

The lead research organisation should contact NES if the Principal Investigator comes to/transfers lab to another organisation as soon as reasonably possible.

Please contact research@eczema.org if any senior member of the research team including PhD student are in the process of or likely will move institutes during the duration of the grant period.

Compliance and Ethical Standards

Regulatory Compliance: The grantee must comply with all relevant laws, regulations, and institutional policies governing the conduct of research, including but not limited to ethical guidelines, animal welfare, and biosafety standards as are in alignment with NES's AMRC membership.

Best Scientific practice

NES is committed to ensuring that the research it funds meets the highest scientific standards and is conducted ethically and responsibly. We support and subscribe to [AMRC position on involvement in medical research](#) & [statement on the use of animals in research](#).

The following considerations apply to all grant proposals submitted to the NES:

Integrity and Transparency

Researchers must ensure that all research findings are reported accurately and comprehensively. Efforts should be made to enable others to replicate results wherever possible.

Intellectual Property of Other Researchers/Institutions

Researchers must deal openly and fairly with the intellectual property of other researchers and their institutions, respecting all relevant rights and agreements.

Human Subjects

Research involving human subjects must have appropriate ethical approval from recognized institutional review boards or ethics committees.

Animal Research Studies

Involving animals must adhere to AMRC and internationally recognized standards for animal care and use, [the 3Rs](#), and must have appropriate ethical approval.

Independence and Impartiality

Researchers should maintain independence and impartiality concerning the subject of their research to ensure unbiased and objective outcomes.

Ethical Considerations

Proposals involving human participants must address ethical considerations and obtain necessary approvals from the institution's Research Ethics Committee or other relevant authorities.

Honesty and Clarity

Researchers must be honest with research staff and students about the purpose, methods, intended use, and potential risks of the research. Appropriate consent must be obtained from or on behalf of participants or others affected by the research, especially when dealing with sensitive personal data.

Risks

Any potential risks involved in the research should be clearly communicated to all parties involved.

Confidentiality and Anonymity

Information supplied by research subjects must be kept confidential, and the anonymity of respondents should be maintained unless otherwise agreed with the participants.

Research involving non-human animals must adhere to ethical guidelines and obtain appropriate consent where necessary. NES subscribes to [AMRC policy on animal testing](#).

Research involving sensitive personal data must outline how privacy and confidentiality will be protected. NES expects all researchers to comply with their Institutions and GDPR guidelines.

Ethical Approval

Applicants must indicate whether their proposed research raises any special ethical issues and confirm and supply proof that their application has been approved by their institution's Research Ethics Committee or other relevant authority. Proof of ethics approval (or application submitted) must be provided prior to release of funds from NES.

By accepting a grant from the National Eczema Society, the grantee agrees to adhere to these Terms and Conditions, ensuring that the research is conducted with the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability.

Zero Tolerance to Bullying and Harassment

NES is committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment for all applicants, researchers, and collaborators involved in our grant programme. Any form of bullying or harassment, whether verbal, physical, or psychological, will not be tolerated. All individuals participating in the grant process and successful applicants are expected to uphold these standards of conduct and treat each other with dignity and respect. Any reported incidents of bullying or harassment will be taken seriously and addressed promptly, which may include disqualification from future NES grant programme and further action as deemed appropriate.

Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)

Preferential Consideration for EXEC Group Members

The National Eczema Society (NES) strongly encourages applicants and institutions to give preferential consideration, where appropriate, to members of the Society's Expert by Experience (EXEC) Group for involvement in Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) roles, advisory input, or consultation activities. The EXEC Group comprises individuals with lived experience of eczema, including patients, carers, and parents, who have been carefully recruited and trained to contribute meaningfully to eczema research.

Applicants are encouraged to contact NES staff early in the application development process to begin engaging members of the EXEC Group in the co-design of their proposals. Early involvement helps ensure that research questions, methods, and outcomes reflect the priorities and experiences of those most affected by eczema. In recognition of their expertise and commitment, NES believes involving EXEC members can strengthen the relevance, inclusivity, and impact of research projects. Applicants are encouraged to engage EXEC members at early stages of project planning, design, co-development, and

dissemination, and to budget appropriately for their contributions. While EXEC involvement is not mandatory, projects that demonstrate thoughtful and meaningful engagement with this group will be viewed favourably in the review process, particularly in relation to PPIE quality and delivery.

We support embedded co-design and co-analysis practices in research with patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) partners and strive to increase the inclusion of under-served groups, both as PPIE partners and participants. We value the unique perspectives that members of PPIE contribute to research co-development in the field of eczema research. We support and encourage remuneration of PPIE partners' activities in-line with [NIHR guidelines](#).

All researchers applying for National Eczema Society research awards are required to utilize [the Public Involvement in Research Impact Toolkit \(PIRIT\)](#) provided by Cardiff University. This toolkit is designed to enhance public involvement in research projects, ensuring that the voices and experiences of individuals affected by eczema are incorporated into the research process. Researchers must demonstrate how they will engage with patients and the public throughout their project, outlining strategies for collaboration and feedback. Compliance with this requirement is essential for the successful application and ongoing support of funded projects.

Acknowledgment and Dissemination

Acknowledgment of Funding: The grantee must acknowledge NES funding in all publications, presentations, and communications related to the funded research.

Open Access Policy: NES mandates that all original expert-reviewed research funded be made available through open access as soon as possible. Researchers must submit their papers to journals that support this policy, or discuss alternatives with NES if their chosen journal does not comply. All publications must acknowledge NES funding, including grant details. Researchers are responsible for depositing their work in an appropriate open access repository upon acceptance, and they should retain rights to allow distribution under a Creative Commons license.

Public Engagement: The grantee is encouraged to disseminate research findings to the public and engage with patient communities, highlighting the support from NES in alignment with NES's Open Access and Social Media Policies.

Social Media Engagement with NES

All applicants including PPI collaborators must have ORCID ID (see [ORCID for Researchers - ORCID](#)).

Successful applicants to the NES grants are expected agree to NES Social Media Engagement Policy and to actively engage with NES's on its social media platforms, as appropriate, throughout the term of their grant. This involves not only disseminating their research findings through social platforms but also incorporating social media posts to enrich their ongoing research. Researchers must ensure that their social media content is used ethically, with proper consent and attribution, to enhance the relevance and reach of their studies.

NES Social Media Guidelines

We expect all applicants to take the following into consideration when posting or engaging with NES social media channels.

Ethical Considerations

Privacy and Consent: Do not include any social media posts that contain identifiable information without explicit consent from the individuals involved.

Source Credibility: Prioritize posts from reputable sources or verified accounts. Be cautious of misinformation and ensure the posts are factually accurate.

Cultural Sensitivity: Be mindful of the cultural context of the posts and avoid content that could be seen as insensitive or misrepresentative.

Diversity: Include a diverse range of posts to provide a comprehensive view of the issue. This may include posts from different demographics, geographic locations, and perspectives.

Recency: Prefer recent posts to reflect the current landscape and sentiments related to eczema.

Cite Sources: Properly attribute all social media posts to their original authors, including handles/usernames and the platform used (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, Instagram).

Digital Accessibility: Ensure that any digital documents containing social media posts are accessible to all reviewers, including those with disabilities. This includes using alt text for images and ensuring documents are compatible with screen readers.

Intellectual Property (IP)

Ownership: Intellectual property (IP) resulting from the research funded by the NES will be owned by the grantee's institution, subject to any applicable laws and institutional policies.

Rights and Licensing: The grantee must grant the NES a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use the IP for non-commercial purposes, including educational and advocacy activities.

As a charity, NES is under an obligation to ensure that the useful results of research that it funds (whether in whole or in part) are applied for the public good. In some circumstances, this obligation may be best achieved through the protection of intellectual property and commercial exploitation.

The institution and grant holders should notify NES promptly in writing when IP arises from the grant and take all reasonable steps to ensure that such IP is protected and not published or otherwise disclosed publicly prior to protection (whilst at the same time ensuring that potential delays in publication are minimised).

The institution should seek NES's consent to exploit commercially the results of any research it has funded. Consent will not be unreasonably withheld, and NES will only refuse an institution's request where it considers that the proposed commercial exploitation would run counter to its interests and charitable objectives. If NES does not provide a response to the institution's written request within thirty days of receiving such request, the institution or its technology transfer subsidiary will automatically have the right to proceed with such commercial exploitation. The institution is not required to seek NES's consent in assigning intellectual property to its technology transfer company.

NES requires the institution to have procedures in place for the identification, protection, management and exploitation of 'charity'-funded intellectual property.

Ensure that all persons in receipt of NES funding or working on a NES funded activity (including employees, students, visiting staff and subcontractors) are employed or retained on terms that vest in the Institution all NES-funded IP. If the institution decides not to protect, manage, exploit any NES-funded IP arising out of the grant then the charity has a right, but not a 'duty' to protect, manage or exploit such IP. If NES decides to exercise its right, the institution shall procure that its employees, students and any third parties acting on its behalf carry out all acts reasonably required by the NES to assist NES in such protection and exploitation.

The institution, grant holders and co-applicants should inform the charity of any pre-existing arrangements of which they are aware, and which could lead to a breach of the NES-funded standard conditions. The institution shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that no consultancies, third party restrictions or arrangements which might impact on a NES-funded grant are entered into in relation to any NES-funded person or activity without prior agreement of the charity. Charity-funded investigators or individuals involved in a charity-funded project should not use materials or compounds (other than those obtained commercially), on terms which would place restrictions on the publication of the results. Institutions shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that 'reach through rights' have not been granted on any charity-funded IP in favour of commercial organisations providing materials or compounds to charity-funded individuals for research purposes. However, NES recognises that companies providing materials may often require exclusive rights to any intellectual property arising from use of that material, and that this requirement is often non-negotiable. Where intellectual property arises from research linked indirectly to the use of material provided under such agreement, the provider should be offered a time-limited opportunity to take out a revenue- generating licence.

As a condition of granting consent, NES will require the institution to accept standard revenue and equity sharing terms of the charity.

"Direct Costs" means all external expenses incurred and paid by the institution in connection with the filing, prosecution and maintenance of the Intellectual Property including, but not limited to, official filing fees, agent costs, and reasonable legal, litigation and other advisory and consultancy fees. Direct Costs shall not include the institution's internal costs relating to these activities, regardless of the legal constitution of the institution's TTO. Institution & TTO may not make deductions for salary or taxes in respect of the institution & TTO or for any amounts payable to the inventors or generators of the Arising Intellectual Property.

TTO translation costs" are set at 5-10% after deducting direct costs. Where a higher percentage fee is sought by the institution, the onus will be on the institution to demonstrate why a higher fee is warranted (for example because relevant service cost has been absorbed by the TTO other than those already deducted as Direct Costs).

The Parties shall share all Net Revenue received from the exploitation of the Arising Intellectual Property, in the proportion of fifty percent (50%) to the Host Institution and fifty percent (50%) to Charity.

Cumulative net income	TTO translation fee	Remaining split
£0-100,000	10%	50% charity, 50% university

£100,001+	5%	50% charity, 50% university
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Limitations of the National Eczema Society's Liability

National Eczema Society (NES) assumes no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for any expenditures (or liabilities arising from such expenditures) outside those explicitly detailed in the formal award letter and these conditions. All expenses covered under this grant must adhere to the institution's standard governance and procedures, and must be subject to the formal audit arrangements in place at the institution.

Termination

Termination by Society: NES reserves the right to terminate the grant if the grantee fails to comply with these Terms and Conditions or if the research is deemed to be progressing unsatisfactorily.

Termination by Grantee: If the grantee needs to terminate the project prematurely, they must notify the NES in writing, providing a detailed explanation and a plan for winding down the project and returning remaining funds.

Return of Funds: Upon termination, the grantee will be required to return any unspent funds. A final financial report must be submitted to NES within 30 days of termination.

Audit and Evaluation

Audit Rights:

NES reserves the right to audit the grantee's financial records related to the grant to ensure compliance with these Terms and Conditions.

Evaluation: The grantee must cooperate with any evaluation or impact assessment conducted by the NES or its designated third-party evaluators.

Data Protection Act

Applicants must submit all documents for their application online. They must agree that the information provided therein is, to the best of their knowledge, complete and accurate.

The NES is compliant with GDPR and adheres to the principles of the [Data Protection Act 2018](#).

Applicants should be aware that information provided on grant applications will be stored and circulated as needed for our review process. Information on successful applications will be used and/or copied to the relevant authorised officer/s in their respective institution as necessary for standard award procedures to be activated. Information on the status of their award may be made available to the relevant authorised officer in institution/s listed on their application by the Charity as necessary for the conditions of the award to be fulfilled.

Application forms will be retained electronically for five years in the case of successful applications, and three years in the case of unsuccessful applications, and may be consulted by NES in the event of future applications being submitted. Details of award holders (including name, institution, project details and amount of award) will be used to compile published lists of award-holders which will be made available on the internet and our website, [National Eczema Society](#), and to produce statistical and historical information on

funding awarded by the charity. Details of our award/s may also be shared with the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) and their partners for the purposes of grant monitoring. For example, details of the grant may be included in the annual UK Health Research Analysis, and other landscape reviews.

Queries submitted under the terms of the Data Protection Act about the processing of personal data should be addressed to info@eczema.org. Submitting the application form constitutes the applicant's agreement to all terms and conditions.

Data monitoring

Personal information provided by applicants will be used for monitoring and statistical purposes only, and at no stage will it form any part of the assessment process.