

PeMSAA-UK Research Grant:

Introduction:

The PeMSAA-UK Research Grant endeavours to cultivate and bolster research initiatives within the medical student community. Tailored to facilitate proof-of-concept studies, this grant serves as a crucial precursor for future major clinical investigations. Accessible to all medical students enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Peradeniya, the grant offers a maximum funding of £250 per selected applicant or group.

- **Application Process:** Prospective candidates are required to submit their applications online through the designated portal. Applications must encompass a comprehensive abstract outlining the proposed research project, adhering to the specified guidelines.
- **Selection Criteria:** Evaluation of applications will hinge upon the quality and feasibility of the proposed research endeavour. Each submission will undergo meticulous scrutiny by the PeMSAA-UK academic committee.
- **Grant Disbursement:** The maximum grant amount is fixed at £250, with the final award determined by the committee based on project costs and anticipated utility. Disbursement of funds to successful applicants will be contingent upon approval through the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya.
- **Research Project Completion:** Recipients are obligated to conclude their research projects within the stipulated timeframe and furnish a comprehensive final report upon culmination. PeMSAA-UK advocates for the dissemination of research findings at pertinent forums, while also facilitating publication in esteemed journals and facilitating applications for the PeMSAA-UK annual award.
- **Acknowledgment:** Proper acknowledgment of PeMSAA-UK is imperative in all publications or presentations arising from research funded by the grant.

PeMSAA-UK Research Grant application guidelines: These guidelines aim to ensure clarity and completeness in the submission of research proposals for the PeMSAA-UK Research Annual Grant. Should further clarification be required please email: info@pema.uk

- **Abstract:**

The abstract must provide a succinct summary of the key components of the proposed research project, covering the following headings: It should also include a brief background to the proposed research, the hypotheses and/or specific aims, the methodology, the expected results, and how they are anticipated to contribute to the field of research. Please note you may leave blank or add not applicable if your study design doesn't entail the requested information. The abstract should be no more than 250 words long.

1. Study Design: Clearly outline the proposed study design.
2. Study Population: Detail the inclusion and exclusion criteria, specifying the source of the study population and elucidating the demographics affected by the condition under study. Explain strategies for recruiting a diverse and representative sample.
3. Measures of Exposure: Describe the primary exposures of interest and their assessment methodologies.
4. Confounding Factors: Identify anticipated confounding factors, their measurement, and any proposed adjustments.
5. Outcome Measures: Define primary and secondary outcome measures and articulate how they will be assessed.
6. Follow-up: Provide specifics regarding the frequency and duration of follow-up procedures.
7. Proposed Sample Size & Power Calculations: Specify the number of participants, elucidate the estimated effect size, power, and precision utilized in the calculations, and justify these assumptions.
8. Planned Subgroup Analysis: Describe any planned subgroup analyses, including considerations for sex/gender stratification or justification for its absence.
9. Statistical Analysis: State the purpose, proposed type, and frequency of statistical analyses, along with the software to be used.
10. Data Access: Detail the arrangements for accessing data.
11. Data and Sample Storage: Describe procedures for data and sample storage, including archiving protocols.
12. Project Timetable including Recruitment Rate: Outline the recruitment organization, timeframe, and evidence supporting the achievable recruitment rate.
13. Costing: Provide an itemized breakdown of planned expenses, including materials and consumables. Note that the grant does not cover salary, accommodation, travel expenses, or IT equipment.

- **Existing Knowledge and Expected Contribution:** This section should offer a concise overview of the current understanding within the field, highlighting any knowledge gaps and unanswered questions that have prompted the proposed research. Emphasize the expected contributions, such as generating novel data, advancing the research field, and fostering future research opportunities. Avoid including citations and ensure the section does not exceed 250 words.

- **Impact of the Proposed Study:** Here, articulate the anticipated scientific, clinical, economic, societal, or other impacts resulting from the successful completion of the research. Identify potential beneficiaries, describe the nature of the benefits, and outline measures for realizing these outcomes. Focus on broader benefits beyond scientific publications or conference presentations, considering long-term implications and knowledge exchange with various stakeholders. Limit the section to a maximum of 250 words.

PeMSAA-UK Research Grant: Award Rules & Obligations

These guidelines delineate the expectations and obligations associated with the PeMSAA-UK Research Annual Grant, aiming to uphold integrity, accountability, and effective utilization of resources in research endeavours. Should further clarification be necessary, applicants are encouraged to seek assistance from PeMSAA-UK.

1. **Use of the Grant:** The Grant Holder is obligated to exert utmost effort to ensure the completion of the research activity within the agreed-upon period and budget. Any diversion of grant funds for purposes other than those specified in the Award Letter is strictly prohibited without prior written approval from PeMSAA-UK. It is incumbent upon the Grant Holder to promptly notify PeMSAA-UK of any changes affecting the research activity, including alterations to the principal investigator, supervisors, or co-investigators. PeMSAA-UK retains the right to review the Grant and implement necessary changes, including termination if deemed appropriate.
2. **Starting a Grant:** The Grant should be initiated promptly once all requisite approvals outlined in the Conditions of Grant are secured, and within six months of the Award Letter's issuance date. The initiation of the Grant should proceed unhindered and in accordance with the proposed plan.
3. **Notification of Research Activity Commencement:** The Grant Holder must formally notify PeMSAA-UK in writing regarding the commencement date of the research activity at the earliest opportunity. If the research activity does not commence within six months of the Award Letter's date, prior written approval from PeMSAA-UK must be sought.
4. **Reporting Responsibilities:** A final written report, adhering to the prescribed format and endorsed by the supervisor and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, must be submitted within three months following the conclusion of the research project.
5. **Institutional Responsibilities and PeMSAA-UK's Liability Limitations:** The Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, as the host institution, bears the responsibility of ensuring that the Grant is utilized exclusively and appropriately to support the designated research activity or purpose. It is imperative that all relevant laws, regulations, and obligations to the University of Peradeniya pertaining to the research activity are duly observed. Additionally, the Faculty of Medicine must ensure that the research is conducted in a thorough and proper manner, with adequate supervision of all individuals and activities funded by the Grant.