

Finding and applying for funding

What are you looking for?

Money, obviously! But are you looking for funding for a qualification, a module, so you can attend a conference, or for a full blown research project? There are lots of opportunities out there, the key is to understand the criteria of the funding. It's essential to have a look at the guidance notes as some pots of money can be used for more than one thing, so have a read through before you decide to apply. On the other hand some funds are very specific—if you are going to spend time applying you need to be sure you meet the criteria.

Where can it come from?

You'd be surprised at where funding can come from and the range of things it can be used for. Funding can be split into the following categories:

- Profession specific
- Organisation specific
- Endowment funds
- Broad pots of money
- Condition or population specific
- Equipment specific
- Charity funds
- NHS Level funds

Just because a source doesn't mention radiotherapy doesn't mean you can't apply.

Potential sources and finding them

There are databases of funding opportunities, but they are subscription only and unfortunately the Trust does not subscribe to them. If you have connections with a University it is worth asking if they have access to them—two main ones are ['Research Professional'](#) and ['Grantfinder'](#)

When searching for funding, Google is your best bet as a starting point. Putting in 'radiotherapy research funding' will bring up quite broad funding sources, although they're often aimed at medical staff rather than AHPs. It can help if you have a specific condition or patient group in mind. Remember to use your networks—Twitter is a great place to find out about grants available.

Here are some of the opportunities we found:

[Action Bladder Cancer UK](#)

[College of Radiographers Industry Partnership Scheme Research Grants](#)

[College of Radiographers Legacy Fund](#)

[RAD-AID College of Radiographers Fellowship](#)

[National Institute for Health Research Pre-doctoral Clinical Academic Fellowships](#)

The application process– things to think about

Know Your Project

Make sure what you want/need is within the remit of the funding stream. Gather all the relevant material you need for the application. You need to sell you and the project to the funders– read your application from the funders perspective– would you fund it? Ensure you answer the questions– if you are not sure what they want then ask.

Talk to others– get help and advice

Colleagues– they know your population and profession and will help shape your ideas.

Patient and Public– vital to make sure your project and application makes sense both in terms of purpose, merit and not full of jargon and abbreviations.

Funders– they want to fund projects and are keen to add clarification if needed to make sure they get appropriate applications (just make sure they have not already provided the answer in the guidance or frequently asked questions).

Contact Clinical.academic@lthtr.nhs.uk for advice and/or signposting to people who can help review your project and/or application.

Get it Right

Give yourself time to write it, don't leave it till the last minute . If possible look at previous successful applications:

- Follow the guidance
- Be clear and concise
- Make sure you and others proof read your application
- Get it in on time– if there really are extenuating circumstances then speak to the funders. Some may be able to negotiate an extension but don't count on it.



Waiting to Hear

Decisions about funding can take time. Be patient- sometimes decisions can be delayed . Don't worry and communicate with the funders if its after the date they told you to expect.

Funders may want to make changes to your project– they often have expert reviewers in your field or methods and these suggestions may improve your project.

Rejection does not have to be the end! Most funding streams will provide feedback that you can utilise to improve your next application.

Next steps

- **Introduction to critical appraisal** is on Tues 7th August 2-3, Fri 10th August 11-12 both sessions in the VERT Room.
- Please read the paper we circulate before the session.
- All welcome to attend! Don't worry if you have not attended previous sessions.



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