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# Glaucoma UK and The Royal College of Ophthalmologists Research Award 2024

**Closing date: 7 May 2024, 9am**

[Glaucoma UK](http://www.glaucoma.uk/)[[1]](#footnote-1) is pleased to announce a Research Award(s) up to the value of £100,000.  
  
This award is funded by Glaucoma UK. The application process is administered by The Royal College of Ophthalmologists.­

**The Glaucoma UK RCOphth funding stream is accredited by NIHR.**

1. This is a postgraduate research award to facilitate research into glaucoma.
2. Applicants may be trainees seeking support for a fellowship or senior researchers seeking a grant for a project.
3. Applications are invited from departments and individuals based in the UK or Ireland, but the research studies may be carried out elsewhere.
4. Glaucoma UK encourages patient-orientated research and research directly concerned with the improvement of the management of glaucoma.
5. Multidisciplinary research teams are encouraged and should include a member/fellow of The Royal College of Ophthalmology, but co-applicants (and project lead) may include hospital/community-based optometrists and/or nurses undertaking glaucoma research in the UK and Ireland.
6. The awards are normally awarded annually.
7. Grants must be taken up within nine months, unless the grantee makes an application, with explanation, to the Chair of the Glaucoma UK Grants Committee for approval.
8. The successful applicant will be required to submit a preliminary report on work carried out at six months and after each six months thereafter for the duration of the award and return a full report at the termination of the Fellowship. The progress of each project will be monitored by Glaucoma UK’s Head of Research. Continued staged financial payments are dependent on receipt and satisfactory review of each of these reports with the last 10% of payment given on receipt of the final report.

**Please note that the application process is administered by The Royal College of Ophthalmologists. The conditions of grant will be an agreement between Glaucoma UK and the successful applicant.**

Please email an electronic version of your completed application form and embedded CV to [education@rcophth.ac.uk](file:///C:/Users/gbrennan/AppData/Local/Packages/Microsoft.Office.Desktop_8wekyb3d8bbwe/AC/INetCache/Content.Outlook/K0W6NVY7/education@rcophth.ac.uk)

CVs sent as separate documents will be accepted as an alternative to completing the relevant section on the application form.

For queries about Glaucoma UK’s funding and priorities contact Joanna Hodgkinson, Head of Research, on [j.hodgkinson@glaucoma.uk](mailto:j.hodgkinson@glaucoma.uk), or 07719 519 021.

**Closing date for applications: 7 May 2024**

Application form

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| 1. Name of the funding programme you are applying to: |
| Glaucoma UK and The Royal College of Ophthalmologists Research Award 2024 |

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| 2. Lead applicant details | |
| Title: |  |
| First name: |  |
| Surname: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Telephone: |  |
| Post(s) held: |  |
| Workplace(s): |  |
| Professional body membership details. Name and number required: |  |

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| 3. Co-applicant details (please copy this box for more than one co-applicant) | |
| Title: |  |
| First name: |  |
| Surname |  |
| Address: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Telephone: |  |
| Post(s) held: |  |
| Workplace(s): |  |
| Professional body membership details. Name and number required: |  |

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| 4. Title of project: |
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| 5. Research abstract in lay terms (max 300 words):See guidance notes for details of what to include |
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| 6. Proposed start date: |
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| 7. Proposed duration: |
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| --- |
| 8. Total cost: |
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| 9. Other support |  |
| Is this research currently being supported by any other body? | Yes  No |
| If yes, please give details: | |
| Is this application being submitted elsewhere? | Yes  No |
| If yes, to which organisation and by what date is a decision expected? | |

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| 10. Proposed investigation (maximum 3000 words) Please detail your proposals under the following headings. This section should be a maximum of four pages in single spaced typescript, with a minimum of sized 12 font. |
| 10a. Title of project: |
| 10b. Purpose and background of proposed investigation: |
| 10c. Plan of investigation: |
| 10d. Reasons for support requested (including staff, expenses, equipment, etc): |
| 10e. Ethical approval: |
| 10f. Patient and public involvement in application: |
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| 11. Use of animals |  |
| Does the research include procedures to be carried out on animals in the UK under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986? | Yes  No |
| If yes, please detail:   * The number and species/model to be used including details of any sample size calculations and statistical advice sought. * How you have considered the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction & Refinement). | |
| Have approvals been given by the Home Office (in relation to personal, project and establishment licences)? | Yes  No  Not required |

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| 12. Details of grant requested *Please refer to guidance notes* | | | | |
|  | | First Year  £ | Second Year  £ | Third Year  £ | Total Over Period  £ |
| Personal support of applicant: | |  |  |  |  |
| Research assistance: | |  |  |  |  |
| Technical/other assistance: | |  |  |  |  |
| Addition for superannuation, national insurance, graduated pensions: | |  |  |  |  |
| Collaborator expenses: | |  |  |  |  |
| Materials and consumables: | |  |  |  |  |
| Equipment: | |  |  |  |  |
| Other expenses: | |  |  |  |  |
| Total support requested | |  |  |  |  |

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| 13. Is any Intellectual Property (IP) likely to be generated through this research? If so, please give brief details |
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| 14. CVs of applicant(s) & scientific assistant(s)Please attach CVs for all applicants and assistants or cut and paste in the space below. These should include:• Surname, first name and title• Degrees (subject, class, university)• Posts held (with dates)• Recent publications (title and reference) |
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| 15. Research environmentPlease provide brief details of the research setting, the institution or department’s experience of glaucoma or eye research and the resources available, and the geographic setting if applicable. |
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| 16. Peer reviewersPlease suggest three independent reviewers to peer review the full application. Please include title, full name, departments / institutes, institutions and email address(es). We may send your application to other reviewers of our choice. Reviewers may be outside the UK. Please do not suggest a Glaucoma UK Trustee or Clinical Advisory Panel member (see [Glaucoma UK website](https://glaucoma.uk/about-us/) for details). Applications will not be considered unless three peer reviewers have been suggested. |
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| 17. Acceptance of terms and conditions I shall be actively engaged in, and in day-to-day control of, the project. Signature of lead applicant:  Date:  Print name:  I confirm that I have read this application and that, if granted, the work will be accommodated and administered in the practice/department.  I/We confirm that this research can be accommodated within the resources (including space) already available to the staff member/group concerned and that the presentation and scientific cases are of a sufficiently high standard to bear scrutiny by external referees.  Signature of Head of Practice/Department:  Date:  Print name:  **THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED BY THE HEAD OF PRACTICE/DEPARTMENT** |

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| 18. Sight Loss and Vision Priority Setting Partnership (PSP)The following [10 priorities for glaucoma research have been identified by the James Lind Alliance PSP.](http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/priority-setting-partnerships/sight-loss-and-vision/downloads/SLV-PSP_Final_Report_v111.pdf) Please tell us which (single) priority best describes your project by ticking one of the boxes below. | |
| 1. What are the most effective treatments for glaucoma and how can treatment be improved? |  |
| 2. How can loss of vision be restored for people with glaucoma? |  |
| 3. How can glaucoma be stopped from progressing? |  |
| 4. What can be done to improve early diagnosis of sight-threatening glaucoma? |  |
| 5. What causes glaucoma? |  |
| 6. What is the most effective way of monitoring the progression of glaucoma? |  |
| 7. How can glaucoma patients with a higher risk to progress rapidly be detected? |  |
| 8. Why is glaucoma more aggressive in people of certain ethnic groups, such as those of West African origin? |  |
| 9. How can glaucoma be prevented? |  |
| 10. Is there a link between treatment adherence and glaucoma progression and how can adherence be improved? |  |

**Please send your completed application to Richenda Kew at** [**r.kew@glaucoma.uk**](mailto:r.kew@glaucoma.uk)**.**

**Closing dates for all funding streams can be found on the Glaucoma UK** [**website**](http://www.glaucoma.uk/)**.**

Guidance notes

These notes are provided to help applicants to think through their proposed project and to produce a good quality application. The numbered points correspond with the numbering on the application form.

## 1. Name of the funding programme you are applying to

This is likely to be one of the following:

* Glaucoma UK and The Royal College of Ophthalmologists Research Award 2024
* Allied healthcare professional award 2024
* UKEGS research award 2024
* Glaucoma open call research award 2024

## 2 and 3. Applicant details

An application can be made by an individual or jointly by several applicants. In the event of a joint application, one person should be identified as the lead applicant and principal investigator. Contact and employment details should be provided for all other co-applicants. The lead applicant must be a member of their relevant professional body and state the membership number. All payments will be made to the employer of the lead applicant.

**Address**

This address will be used for all correspondence. It may be a work address or home address.

**Post held**

Applications are welcomed from allied healthcare professionals working in the field of glaucoma in any setting or combination of settings with relevant experience and knowledge. If more than one post is held, the main post should be listed first.

**Workplace**

Applicants should state the name of their primary place of practice and its location. If the workplace is an academic institution, please state the department and university. If the primary workplace is a hospital, the name of the hospital department and trust within which the department is located should be given.

## 4. Title of project

The title of the project should describe the project as concisely as possible.

## 5. Abstract

This should be a maximum of 300 words and should summarise the proposed research in terms that would be accessible to a lay person. The abstract should include (in order):

* Purpose
* Methods
* Results
* Conclusion

Within these headings you should include information to address the following points:

* Objective(s) of the project
* Methodology (brief)
* Start date and objective end date
* What has already been found
* Possible outcomes/results
* Possible impact on the lives of people with glaucoma, and/or the professionals

who support them

Writing a lay summary does not mean dumbing down your explanation. Remove as much niche medical or scientific terminology as possible and keep sentences short and direct. However, make sure a lay reader would be able to understand the relevance of the research for them, and how it will answer the research question(s).

## 6. Proposed start date

The start date should be the date on which applicants anticipate commencing activities relating to the project that fall within the project description provided, and which will be supported by the funding provided. This would normally be expected to include applications for ethical approval; recruitment of participants and project staff; identification of data sources and collaborative contributors beyond the co-applicants named in the application; collection and analysis of data and reporting. Where an activity is expected to commence prior to the proposed start date this should be made clear, and reasons given.

## 7. Proposed Duration

Applicants should provide the anticipated total duration of the project from initiation to completion. The completion date should normally be the point at which all data collection, analysis and reporting has been concluded. Where applicants anticipate that there may be scope for further publications (beyond the final report) that might not be completed within the project’s duration, this should be indicated.

## 8. Total Cost

Applicants should note the total costs for the proposed project – these should not normally exceed the upper limit of the grant being applied for. Where total costs exceed the total grant available / applied for, applicants should provide details of how the additional costs will be met.

## 9. Other Support

Applicants should indicate whether the proposed research is already being supported by another organisation. In this context ‘support’ includes both direct financial support and indirect ‘in-kind’ support such as access to workspace, personnel time or other resources and facilities.

Applicants should indicate whether the proposal has previously been submitted to another organisation for consideration for funding or is currently under review by another organisation. Applicants should indicate what decision was received in respect of prior applications for support or on what date decisions are anticipated for concurrent submissions.

## 10. Proposed Investigation

This should follow the headings:

1. **Title of project**

**b. Purpose and background of proposed investigation**

This section should describe why the proposed research should be carried out. It should include an explanation of why this is an important issue for glaucoma patients, ophthalmologists, other professionals and the public and refer to any relevant policies. The proposed project should also be put in the context of any previous research i.e. applicants should have conducted a literature search to identify any related research and the gap in existing knowledge. The aims and objectives should be clearly and concisely outlined along with the research hypothesis and associated research questions. Please state whether patients were involved or consulted in the design of the project.

**c. Plan of investigation**

This section should describe how the proposed research project would be undertaken and the methods should be justified. It should include

* the type of research e.g. survey, experiment, qualitative study
* the target population and details of the sample: any inclusion or exclusion criteria, the number of participants or cases, how they will be identified, selected and recruited to take part
* how information will be collected e.g. interviews, extraction from patient notes, questionnaires, and who will collect the information.

Applicants may also provide an appropriate chart or diagram showing the project plan for the proposed investigation.

**d. Reasons for support requested**

Applicants should use this section to provide brief additional information relating to the budget and costs proposed for the project, explaining how the costs arise and will contribute to the success of the project and briefly justifying expenses or items of equipment requested. Value for money will be an important criterion in the evaluation of submissions. The headings indicated should be used.

**e. Ethical approval**

All projects will be subject to ethical review and many projects will require approval from a research ethics committee. In the case of projects carried out at universities, this will normally be obtained through the relevant university ethics committee. For other research locations, application for ethical approval should be made through the [National Research Ethics Service](https://www.hra.nhs.uk/about-us/committees-and-services/res-and-recs/research-ethics-service/). Their website includes extensive guidance on associated matters, including the Human Tissue Act, Data Protection, and the Mental Capacity Act.

**f. Patient and public involvement in application**

As Glaucoma UK is a patient organisation, it is vital that the research we fund involves the voices and experiences of people affected by glaucoma. Please outline how you will facilitate meaningful patient and public involvement in the planning, monitoring and dissemination of your research.

## 11. Use of animals

Glaucoma UK supports the use of animals in research only when it is necessary to advance understanding of health and disease and to develop new treatments. This research only takes place where there is no alternative available. We will only support the use of animals in experiments and testing:

* under conditions specified under the [Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consolidated-version-of-aspa-1986) (ASPA)
* where the applicant considers the possibilities to advance the refinement, reduction and replacement of animal use throughout the project
* where no valid alternative exists
* where regard to animal welfare is a priority for the applicant

## 12. Details of Grant Requested

Applicants should provide information in the table cells relating to the financial support being requested for the project.

* **Personal support of applicant:** This should cover all costs associated with the lead applicant for the project. Costs permitted under this heading include: ‘buying out’ clinical or academic time in hospital of academic settings or to cover costs associated with locum fees to free healthcare professionals’ time in community settings (N.B. there is a daily cap of £250 / day regardless of setting); salary costs for lead applicant where their commitment to the project is proposed as being equivalent to a part-time or full-time post for part or all of the project.
* **Research assistance:** This should include all costs associated with ensuring that the project has appropriate scientific support from relevant participants. This may be used to cover the salary or other costs of academic or clinical co-applicants working in other settings to the lead applicant, or to purchase time from other scientists with relevant knowledge necessary for the successful completion of the project. Where costs under this heading relate to more than one member of staff, the total number of staff should be clearly indicated.
* **Technical / other assistance:** This should include all costs associated with technical staff or other personnel. This may range from IT and administrative support through to statistical support and project management. Where costs under this heading relate to more than one member of staff, the total number of staff should be clearly indicated.
* **Addition for superannuation, national insurance, graduated pensions:** Glaucoma UKis a charity and does not normally pay FECs. Where costs relate to staff time for the lead applicant, co-applicants or associated staff providing support to the project, applicants may include an additional amount of up to 26% of those costs to cover (pro rata) costs for superannuation, NI contributions and other pension related costs.
* **Collaborator expenses:** Where the involvement of a visiting senior scientist is proposed, any costs associated with their contribution should be indicated.
* **Materials and consumables:** All non-staff / personnel related expenses other than equipment should be listed fully here: this should include all directly incurred costs of materials and consumables such as: print/stationary, clinical materials and medicines not otherwise funded by another source. Applicants should be prepared to justify all expenses proposed and demonstrate their relevance to the successful completion of the project.
* **Equipment:** Where the proposed project requires the purchase of specific items of equipment these should be listed here. The cost of equipment which is essential for the research study may be included but should not constitute the majority of the total amount of funding covered by the application. Applicants should be prepared to explain why the equipment is required and justify purchase as opposed to accessing equipment via other means.
* **Other expenses:** Expenses can include: travel, (method of travel should be indicated and wherever possible the most economical means of travel should be used), subsistence, accommodation, reasonable presentation/publication costs, participant travel and expenses, software licences etc. (Please do not list items of equipment here).

**Ineligible costs include:**

* non-project related expenses
* annual leave / sick leave / parental leave costs
* parking or travel to the general place of work
* institutional overheads

## 13. Intellectual Property

Full details of Glaucoma UK’s approach to IP can be found in the Terms and condition of grant aid, available on the charity’s website.

## 14. CVs of Applicants / Scientific and Technical Advisors

Applicants should provide information in the format indicated for the lead applicant, all co-applicants and any scientific and technical staff.

## 15. Research environment

When information is collected from just one hospital, clinic, practice or geographical area, it may be that the participants in the study are not typical of the population that the research is about. If feasible, it is often a good idea to collect information from a number of sites or from more than one geographical area to increase the generalisability of the results.

If the project involves collection of data from or about patients, the application should specify whether data would be collected from one hospital/practice or from several. If hospitals/practices other than the applicants are involved, please state whether or not these have been identified and have agreed to participate. If the project involves collection of data from other health care professionals, the application should describe the geographical location or spread or identify the organisation(s) from which participants will be recruited.

## 16. Peer reviewers

Please suggest three independent reviewers to peer review the full application. Please include title, full name, departments / institutes, institutions and email address(es). We may send your application to other reviewers of our choice. Reviewers may be outside the UK. Please do not suggest a Glaucoma UK Trustee or Clinical Advisory Panel member (see [Glaucoma UK website](https://glaucoma.uk/about-us/) for details.

## 17. Acceptance of Regulations and Conditions

Applicants **MUST** ensure that their submission is returned with all relevant signatures. If the application is being submitted electronically then it should be saved as a pdf (converted from Word, not a scan).

The lead applicant’s head of department or practice must sign to confirm their agreement to the lead applicant’s participation and to confirm the research venue is suitable for the project proposed. Where the lead applicant is also the head of the department or practice this should be clearly indicated, and the lead applicant should sign this declaration.

## 18. Sight loss and vision Priority Setting Partnership (PSP)

[PSPs](http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/priority-setting-partnerships/) enable clinicians, patients and carers to work together to identify and prioritise evidence uncertainties in particular areas of health and care that could be answered by research. The [James Lind Alliance (JLA)](http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/about-the-james-lind-alliance/) facilitates these partnerships, and details of the Sight Loss and Vision PSP can be found [here](http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/priority-setting-partnerships/sight-loss-and-vision/downloads/SLV-PSP_Final_Report_v111.pdf).

1. Glaucoma UK is the operating name of the International Glaucoma Association. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)