

## Review Guidelines

In order to ensure that Muscular Dystrophy UK funds research of the highest calibre in both basic and clinical research related to muscular dystrophy and allied disorders, we request expert opinions from researchers working in fields that are relevant to this grant submission. We would therefore be most grateful for your comments on this application. We appreciate that your own particular expertise may not cover all aspects of the proposal; please indicate if this is the case and address only those sections of the proposal on which you feel competent to comment.

For the 2025 Grant Call we are funding:

- **Project grants** –The charity will cover any combination of salary and consumables up to £100,000 per year for 2–3-year projects.
- **Proof-of-principle grants** – Proof-of-principle awards can be for between 6 and 12 months. The charity will cover any combination of salary and consumables up to £30,000.
- **PhD studentships** – MDUK will cover any combination of stipend, fees and/or consumables for grants lasting four years. Stipends will be funded up to Medical Research Council rates and consumable costs will be capped at £10,000 per year.

For all grants we expect the applicants to clearly justify the costs they are requesting.

The proposals should also clearly demonstrate how the research meets the aims and objectives published in the charity's **research strategy**.

If you are familiar with reviewing applications submitted to overseas organizations, particularly those in the United States, you may find this application is shorter than you are used to. This is the usual form of grant applications in the UK.

If you are familiar with reviewing applications for clinical research in countries outside of the UK, you may not be aware of the Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Template (SoECAT) form. This is a form used to calculate the additional cost per patient (over and above

delivering standard clinical care) of running a clinical study. The costs are the responsibility of the NHS and are not borne by the charity. However, they give an indication of the additional cost burden of running the study which you are welcome to comment on. The SoECAT summary forms can be found in the appendix of relevant applications. If the costs are excessive (over £1m for the study or over £20,000 per patient), further approval will need to be sought if the grant is awarded.

This application is a confidential document and should not be disseminated. If you wish to discuss it with a specific colleague with appropriate expertise, please ensure that your colleagues understand the confidential nature of the application and inform us who has been consulted.

**Expert reviewers must not input content from confidential funding applications or reviews into, or use, generative AI tools to develop their expert review critiques. Our reviewers are selected for their expertise and experience in their field, and we value their unique perspectives.**

In choosing reviewers Muscular Dystrophy UK endeavours to avoid obvious conflicts of interest with grant applicants but cannot always be aware of circumstances which might result in such conflict. Please let us know should you have any concerns about your contribution to the review process.

If you are unable to return your report by the agreed date, please let us know as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements for reviewing the proposal can be made.

If you feel that you are unable, for any reason, to referee this application please reply as soon as possible to [researchgrants@muscular dystrophyuk.org](mailto:researchgrants@muscular dystrophyuk.org) and we would be grateful for your suggestions of potential alternative referees.

## Using the online review form

You can login to the online review form at <https://mduk.smartsimpleuk.com/>, using your personal login details which you will already have been sent by email. If there are any problems with your login, please contact us at [researchgrants@muscular dystrophyuk.org](mailto:researchgrants@muscular dystrophyuk.org).

When you have accepted the review invitation you will be able to access the application and peer review form from the Assigned Applications box on your homepage – click the 'Open' button for the relevant application. When you have done this, you will see three tabs:

- 1) Confidential Information – please check this is correct and make any changes in My Profile as required. You can access a PDF of the application from this tab.
- 2) Conflict of Interest Declaration – please read our conflict-of-interest policy for peer reviewers and indicate any conflicts of interest that might exist.
- 3) Reviewer’s Comments to be Disseminated – please complete all questions in this section. All information here will be seen by the Principal Investigator. If you have any confidential comments to make, please do so in the specified box in the Conflict-of-Interest Declaration tab.

You may find it easier to draft your answers offline and copy and paste them into the online form when complete. Please note that when copying and pasting from Word, formatting (such as italics, bold and underlining) will be lost but paragraphs will be kept.

Once you have completed all parts of the reviewer’s comments form, please press the ‘Submit’ button at the bottom of the form. If the submission has been successful, a PDF copy of the form will be created and emailed to you.

Please complete this process for each grant being reviewed. If you have any questions, please email us at [researchgrants@muscular dystrophyuk.org](mailto:researchgrants@muscular dystrophyuk.org).