**£5,000 Early Career Researcher Innovation grant**

 

**Purpose:**

To offer the Division of Infection and Immunity ECRs the opportunity to secure a **small research grant** to support the pursuit of an independent research project, and to **gain experience of preparing and defending a grant proposal.**

**Eligibility**

Applicants must be a final year PhD candidate or employed at the level of post-doctoral research associate in the Division of Infection and Immunity at UCL. They must have sufficient time (6-18 months) remaining on their current contract to complete the work proposed. Applications must be co-signed by the applicants current PI OR head of department, documenting their support for the proposal. The inclusion of a letter of support is also highly encouraged.

**Timeline**

30th Sept 2024 Submissions due

Early Oct Shortlisted applicants: Interview & Short presentation

Late Oct Award announced and feedback to all applicants

Sept 2025 Final report due from awardees (funds to be spent before 31/07/25)

**Budget:**

* Project budget should be up to a maximum of **£5,000.**

**Assessment panel:**

* Scientific Advisory sub-group: PIs and senior staff members (Bloomsbury and RF) and an advisor external to the division.

**Assessment criteria:**

* **Innovation:** Does the project take current work to a decisive point or explore a new avenue relevant to the future direction of the candidate’s research interests. Preliminary data is not essential.
* **Feasibility:** Does the work build-on the researcher’s expertise and is it deliverable within the timeframe proposed (6-12months).
* **Independence:** Will the project enhance the applicant’s personal career progression by developing their vision, awareness, and expert skills?
* Confirmation that the project has the full support and approval from the applicant’s current supervisor or head of department (signature)

|  |
| --- |
| **Name**: |
| **Job Title**: |

|  |
| --- |
| **Title of Project**: |
| **Host Lab:** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Lay summary (50words):** |
| **Ethics / Animal use:** *If human samples or data are to be used ethics must already be in place, please provide details. If animal work is to be performed the applicant must hold a personal license and all work must already be covered under a project license, please provide details.* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Brief Research Summary (500 words)**  *Please include the following sections: Hypothesis, Background, Aims, Experimental Design. Figures and references may be included as required (not included in word count).* |
|  |
| **How will securing an Innovation award help you to achieve your future scientific and career goals? (300 words)** |
|  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Costs requested and justification of costs (300 words)** | |
|  |  |
| **TOTAL** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Current supervisor or head of department declaration** |
| *Applicants must discuss their application with their supervisor OR head of department and demonstrate that this project will not impact on their current activities by confirming that time spent on this project will be in addition to their existing responsibilities. Additionally, a written letter of support can also be included with the application.*  **Declaration by Current supervisor or head of department**  I have discussed the proposed project with the applicant and can confirm that this project has my full support:    **Name** ……………………………………….  **Signature** ……………………………………….  **Date** ………………………………………. |

Please return completed forms to Dr Leo Swadling ([l.swadling@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.swadling@ucl.ac.uk)) with the ECR innovation grant in the subject by **30th September 2024**. You may contact Dr Swadling or Dr Laura Pallett ([laura.pallett@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:laura.pallett@ucl.ac.uk)) with any queries about the grant.