

WELLCOME Research Funding

The following Wellcome funding calls are currently open. Detailed information is available on the Wellcome website: <https://wellcome.org/research-funding/schemes>

IMPORTANT: UFS researchers who intend to apply for Wellcome Trust funding are requested to complete the attached form so that we can connect them with the appropriate support staff well in advance of the final closing date.

Completion of the form does not constitute a commitment to apply; it simply serves to indicate your interest in applying.

[Wellcome early-career awards](#)

Institutional deadlines:

Intention to submit: **2 February 2026 @Eleanor van der Westhuizen**

Budget approval: **9 February 2026 @Thato Molefi**

UFS internal closing date for submission: **12 February 2026 @Eleanor van der Westhuizen**

Wellcome final deadline: **17 February 2026**

This scheme provides funding for early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity. Through innovative projects, they will deliver shifts in understanding related to human life, health, and well-being. By the end of the award, they will be ready to lead their own independent research programme.

Lead applicant career stage:

- [Early-career researcher](#)

Administering organisation location:

- UK
- Republic of Ireland
- [Low- or middle-income countries \(apart from India and mainland China\)](#)

Funding duration:

Usually five years, but may be less for some disciplines, and may only be longer if held on a part-time basis.

Funding amount:

Your salary and up to £400 000 for research expenses. Certain costs do not count towards the £400 000 research expenses limit. Check 'Research costs we'll cover' for more information.

Strategic programme:

- Discovery Research
- Climate and Health
- Infectious Disease
- Mental Health

Frequency:

Three times a year

Co-applicants:

Not accepted

[Genomics in Context Awards: collaborative research at the intersection of genomics, humanities, social sciences, and bioethics](#)

Institutional deadlines:

Intention to submit: **5 February 2026 @Eleanor van der Westhuizen**

Budget approval: **2 March 2026 @Thato Molefi**

UFS internal closing date for submission: **10 March 2026 @Eleanor van der Westhuizen**

Wellcome final deadline: **16 March 2026**

These awards will support transdisciplinary teams with the time and resources to create new research agendas and explore innovative ways of working to catalyse research discoveries at the intersection of genomics, humanities, social sciences, and bioethics.

Lead applicant career stage:

- [Early-career researcher](#)
- [Mid-career researcher](#)
- [Established researcher](#)

Administering organisation location:

- Anywhere in the world (apart from mainland China)

Funding duration:

12-24 months

Funding amount:

Up to £500 000 for each award

Strategic programme:

- Discovery Research

Frequency:

One-off

Co-applicants:

Required

[Wellcome Career Development Awards](#)**Institutional Deadlines:**

Intention to submit: **5 February 2026 @Eleanor van der Westhuizen**

Budget approval: **13 March 2026 @Thato Molefi**

UFS internal closing date for submission: **23 March 2026 @Eleanor van der Westhuizen**

Wellcome final deadline: **26 March 2026**

This scheme provides funding for mid-career researchers who have the potential to be international research leaders. They will develop their research capabilities, drive innovative

programmes of work, and deliver significant shifts in understanding related to human life, health, and well-being.

Lead applicant career stage:

- [Mid-career researcher](#)

Administering organisation location:

- UK
- Republic of Ireland
- [Low- or middle-income countries \(apart from India and mainland China\)](#)

Funding duration:

Usually eight years, but may be less for some disciplines, and may only be longer if held on a part-time basis.

Funding amount:

You should ask for the resources you need for your research programme – see the 'Research costs we'll cover' section on this page. You will need to work with your organisation to justify your request in the context of the support they will provide. The annual expenditure for a Career Development Award is usually below £250 000, excluding the applicant's salary. Applications above this value will be subject to additional scrutiny.

Strategic programme:

- Discovery Research
- Climate and Health
- Infectious Disease
- Mental Health

Frequency:

Three times a year – upcoming deadline in March 2026

Co-applicants:

Not accepted

Wellcome Discovery Awards

Institutional deadlines:

Intention to submit: **5 February 2026 @Eleanor van der Westhuizen**

Budget approval: **10 March 2026 @Thato Molefi**

UFS internal closing date for submission: **26 March 2026 @Eleanor van der Westhuizen**

Wellcome final deadline: **31 March 2026**

This scheme provides funding for established researchers and teams from any discipline who want to pursue bold and creative research ideas to deliver significant shifts in understanding related to human life, health, and well-being.

Lead applicant career stage:

- [Established researcher](#)

Administering organisation location:

- UK
- Republic of Ireland
- [Low- or middle-income countries \(apart from India and mainland China\)](#)

Funding duration:

Awards can be up to eight years, but may be less for some disciplines, and may be longer if held on a part-time basis. The average duration of a Discovery Award is seven years, although we have supported awards from three to eight years.

Funding amount:

You should ask for the resources you need for your research programme – see the 'Research costs we'll cover' section on this page. You will need to justify this in your application. The average size of a Discovery Award is £3,5 million. Applications above £5 million will be subject to additional scrutiny.

Strategic programme:

- Discovery Research
- Climate and Health
- Infectious Disease

- Mental Health

Frequency:

Three times a year – upcoming deadline in March 2026

Co-applicants:

Accepted

[Climate Impacts Awards: Unlocking urgent climate action by making the health effects of climate change visible](#)

Institutional deadlines:

Intention to submit: **15 February 2026 @Eleanor van der Westhuizen**

Budget approval: **10 March 2026 @Thato Molefi**

UFS internal closing date for submission: **26 March 2026 (T.b.c.)**

Wellcome final deadline: **8 April 2026**

The aim of this scheme is to make the impact of climate change on physical and mental health visible in order to drive urgent climate policy action at scale.

Lead applicant career stage:

- [Mid-career researcher](#)
- [Established researcher](#)

Administering organisation location:

- Anywhere in the world (apart from mainland China)

Funding duration:

Up to three years

Funding amount:

Up to £2,5 million per award

Strategic programme:

- Climate and Health

Frequency:

Annual

Co-applicants:

Required

[Find the application form here.](#)