SMALL GRANT AWARDS PROGRAMME APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Introduction

Breakthrough T1D UK Small Grant Awards offer competitive funding to support excellent small studies to generate pilot data and proof of concept. Proposals should support the development of early career researchers, support new research or innovation with a clear impact pathway, lead on to further research or clinical practice change, gather critical data and resources strengthening larger follow-on funding and taking into consideration the views and needs of individuals living with type 1 diabetes in their applications.

Applications need to broadly address Breakthrough T1D's international research strategy, variances may be considered for projects addressing UK-specific challenges.

Breakthrough T1D UK Small Grant Awards are open to basic scientists (awarded a PhD no more than 10 years ago before the deadline date), clinicians, healthcare professionals (including allied health professionals) at an early stage of their research career. Applicants may have received previous funding but must not have received any grant worth more than £100,000 as principal investigator, excluding personal fellowships. Allowance will be made for applicants whose career has been subject to mitigating circumstances or interruptions for family or personal reasons. These awards are open for clinical and basic research with equal priority. Preference will be given to collaborative research that can be shown to enhance the potential success of the proposed project.

The programme offers funding to conduct a research project in the field of type 1 diabetes for up to 12 months. The funding is up to £20,000 for basic research projects and up to £30,000 for clinical research projects. These awards aim to support preliminary work which will lead on to further research or clinical practice change. Breakthrough T1D UK Small Grant Awards are not intended to top-up an existing grant but sub-studies will be considered if strongly justified.

The deadline for application is **5pm on Monday 13 April 2026.**

Reporting

A written report (max 1,000 words) will be requested three months after the end of the project including plans to seek further funding / develop the findings from the project. A follow up report will also be requested 18 months after the end of

the project including final results, publication(s) resulting from the research, outcomes of applications for future funding or future development and impact on career and personal development.

Process
Applications must be submitted on the Breakthrough T1D UK Small Grant Awards application form which is available on Breakthrough T1D UK website.

The deadline for application is **5pm on Monday 13 April 2026.** The application should be submitted via email to grants@breakthrought1d.org.uk. Late applications will not be considered.

Breakthrough T1D UK Small Grant Awards programme involves a one-step assessment process. All applications will be assessed by Breakthrough T1D Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) to ascertain the merit and potential beneficial outcome of the projects. The SAC includes lay members with a connection to type 1 diabetes, healthcare professionals and researchers in equal numbers.

The following criteria will be considered during the assessment of the applications:

- Relevance of the project to individuals living with type 1, their views and their needs
- Clarity of the project question, scientific merit and involvement activities
- Equity, diversity and inclusion considerations
- Applicant suitability and track record, and impact of the project on the applicant's career
- How the project will be taken forward
- Value for money

The decision will be ratified through Breakthrough T1D UK's financial governance processes and applicants will be notified of the outcome by Monday 22 June 2026 (subject to changes).

Please note that the award offer will automatically lapse and the Award Letter will automatically become void if the Research is not begun within six months of the Award Letter date.

Breakthrough T1D UK is an NIHR RDN Non-commercial Partner. This means the clinical studies that we fund may be eligible to access the NIHR Study Support Service which is provided by the NIHR Research Delivery Network within the NHS, and the wider public health and social care environment, across England.

Contact us
For any enquiries relating to your proposal please contact Breakthrough T1D UK Research Team at grants@breakthrought1d.org.uk.

Application form guidelines

The form should be filled in using Verdana font, size 11, no less than single spacing. The form must be returned in a word document format.
The whole application should be understandable to non-scientists with a connection to type 1 diabetes.

Principal investigator details
The principal investigator is the basic scientist (awarded a PhD no more than 10 years ago at the deadline date), clinician or healthcare professional (including allied health professional) responsible for the management of the project. The principal investigator must be affiliated with a UK academic or medical institution and have a contract of employment which extends beyond the termination date of the award. The research must be carried out in the UK.
The principal investigator's CV (max 2 sides of A4) must be attached to the application including up to 10 publications relevant to the project and all grants held in the past 5 years (including amount and funder).

Title of project
The title of your project should be clear, explicit and understandable to individuals living with type 1 diabetes.

Lay summary (max 250 words)
Explain, in well-articulated plain English, the aim of the study, the method of investigation and how this will benefit people with type 1 diabetes and their carers. It is important to write a clear non-scientific (lay) summary because individuals with a personnel connection to type 1 diabetes are involved in the review process.
Note: If the application is successful, this summary may be shared publicly and used by our fundraising team.

Project description (max 1,000 words)
Please include sufficient detail to allow the scientific/clinical members of the panel to assess the scientific/clinical merit of the application rigorously. Please include sample sizes, power calculation, and mitigation plan.

Breakthrough T1D research strategy fit (max 150 words)
Please briefly explain how your proposal fits with Breakthrough T1D international research strategy.

Preliminary data, supporting information and references attachment (max 1 side of A4)
If necessary, please present preliminary data or supporting information for the project and list a maximum of 10 references relevant to the project description. References should include first author name and initial(s) *et al*, title, year,

journal, issue and first page number. Please use bold if you are a co-author. Posters, oral presentations, or papers submitted/under review must **not** be used as references.

Project duration and Proposed start date
The maximum duration is 12 months.
The earliest start date is Monday 3 August 2026.

Project timeline and key steps (max 200 words)
Present the key steps or events taking place through the duration of the project. If Research Ethics Committee or Home Office (for use of animal) approval is required, please include when the application will be submitted and when approval is expected.

Project follow up plans (max (200 words)
Please explain how you will take this project forward and what the long-term outcomes would be. Please note that further funding is not the only good outcome, scientific and clinical outcomes will be considered as equally valuable.

Financial information
Include the total funding requested and a brief breakdown of how the funds requested will be spent.

Breakthrough T1D UK grants exclusively reimburse the directly incurred costs relating to the research described in the application. Funds can be used to cover consumables, animal purchase and maintenance, equipment essential for the project (excluding PC/laptop), collaborative travel, one international conference and salary. Requests for salary must be fully justified, salaries for co-applicant(s) are not allowed. The award cannot be used for MD/PhD fees or advertising costs.

The budget excludes indirect costs and any other non-attributable overhead costs (directly allocated costs). These will be calculated separately by each Higher Education Institution, according to TRAC methodology (https://www.trac.ac.uk/). However, such costs may be eligible under the Charity Research Support Fund.

Indirect costs: non-specific costs charged across all projects based on estimates that are not otherwise included as Directly Allocated costs. They include the costs of the Research Organisation's administration, such as personnel, finance, library and some departmental services.
Directly Allocated costs: costs of resources used by a project that are shared by other activities. They are charged to projects on the basis of estimates rather than actual costs and do not represent actual costs on a project-by-project basis.

Provide details of any funding applied for or received for this project directly or indirectly if it is part of a bigger project. Breakthrough T1D UK Small Grant Awards are not intended to top-up existing grants but sub-studies will be considered if strongly justified.

Justification for funding (max 300 words)
Individuals living with type 1 diabetes are at the heart of what we do at Breakthrough T1D UK. Please explain how your research project (basic or clinical) may be of benefit to people living with type 1 diabetes, be as specific as possible.

Breakthrough T1D UK Small Grant Award programme also aims to make a difference to investigators who are at the early stages of their research career in the field of type 1 diabetes. Please explain how this funding will support your research career progression. If you intend to employ others on this project, please specify what your contribution to the proposed research will be.

Public and Patient Involvement (max 200 words)
Meaningful involvement of individuals with type 1 diabetes in the design of your research proposal can improve the quality and relevance of both basic and clinical applications, and the research proposed.

Please outline how you have ensured that the views and needs of individuals living with type 1 diabetes have contributed to the development of your research idea and/or application, and how you will continue to do so throughout your project.

There are helpful resources on Breakthrough T1D's participation, involvement and engagement webpage. Please use the form and instructions provided to submit a PPIE request if you require help with involvement.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) (max 400 words)
Diverse and inclusive research is essential for generating more generalisable results and improving healthcare for all individuals living with type 1 diabetes. For example, see the MESSAGE policy framework for sex and gender considerations.

Please explain how you have considered EDI in your proposal, for example sex in animal models or ethnic diversity in sample libraries / study participants. Please include any limitations and how you would propose to address these.

For clinical research studies only, please provide a clear rationale for any proposed age range of participants, including any lower or upper age limits and exclusions. Please also include details on whether individuals with multiple long-

term conditions are eligible to participate in the study. If exclusions apply, please clearly explain the reasoning behind them.

Research Ethics Committee Approval
If the research involves human participants (including human data, human tissue or human samples) requiring Research Ethics Committee approval, you should include copy(ies) of the letter of approval and attach the approved participant information sheet.

If the approval is not in place at the time of application, indicate when a decision is expected. You must provide copy(ies) of the letter of approval and attach the approved participant information sheet as soon as it is received.

Note: it is the legal responsibility of the host institution to ensure that all ethical and legal requirements are met.

Use of animals
With regards to the use of animals please refer to the ARRIVE guidelines, NC3Rs and AMRC, the report 'Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research: Expectations of the major research council and charitable funding bodies'.

Please include any animal who will be impacted by 1) Procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 (ASPA), 2) Procedures under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (VSA), 3) The use of animal tissue and 4) any other use, involvement, or impact.

If the approval is not in place at the time of application, indicate when a decision is expected.

You must provide copy(ies) of the letter of approval and PPL, PIL reference numbers as soon as they are received.

Please explain how you implemented the 3Rs (replacing, reducing and refining the use of animals in research and testing). (max 250 words)

Note: it is the responsibility of the host institution to ensure that all Home Office regulations are complied with.

Personal Information (optional) (max 200 words)
Please provide details of any factors or mitigating circumstances you would like the SAC to consider when assessing your application. For example, career interruptions for family reasons or personal reasons.

Co-applicants details (max 200 words)
Co-applicants must provide significant input into the research and contribute to

the running of some aspect of the project.
No more than five co-applicants can be involved in a small grant award.
Please explain what the co-applicant(s) will contribute and how this will enhance the potential success of the proposed project.
The co-applicant(s)' CV (max 2 sides of A4) must be attached to the application including up to 10 publications relevant to the project and all grants held in the past 5 years (including amount and funder).

Collaborators details (max 200 words)
Collaborators may help by supplying material, specific expertise, access to people with type 1 diabetes/carers, samples, etc.
Please explain what the collaborator(s) will contribute and how this will enhance the potential success of the proposed project.
A letter of support on institution's letter headed paper and signed by the collaborator must be submitted too.