

Enabling Research Awards 2025: Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

1. How many projects do you expect to fund?

This will ultimately depend on the quality of the applications we receive and the available funding. [A list of previous awards can be found here.](#)

2. If funded, when is the earliest that my project can start?

No financial claims can be submitted prior to April 2026 and so we recommend projects commence no sooner than April 2026, and no longer than six months after the award is made. If successful, a proposed start date for the study will be included in the letter of offer and confirmation of this start date will be sought in the Form of Acceptance.

3. How long can my project last?

There is no restriction on the duration of ERAs; however, under normal circumstances, it is not expected that a project would last more than 24 months and timelines should be fully justified.

4. Do I have to complete the ERA project in full before submitting the application to the target funder?

It may be that before completion you have the data generate to support your subsequent application and so could submit prior to completion. Applicants must inform HSC R&D Division immediately if funding for the proposed ERA project becomes available from another source.

5. Can external/independent consultancy services be included in the costings?

Yes costs for external/independent consultancy services are covered. This would have to come under the University costing section in Q12b 'Exceptional items'.

As per [our Terms and Conditions](#) for successful award holders: Section 3.2 - the Host Institution organisation must "carry out appropriate due diligence on any Third Parties used to deliver any part of the Project and shall ensure in particular, that such Third Parties comply with these Award Terms and Conditions and any specific conditions of the Award".

6. Can I include costings for staff already in post in the University at the time of submitting the ERA application?

ERA projects '*must not involve a recruitment process for appointment of staff to work on the award*'. But can proposals involve:

- Employing a named member of research staff who is already in post in the university at the time of submitting the ERA application; or
- Appointing a suitable researcher from a Researcher Pool or redeployment list within the University

7. Are directly allocated staff costs eligible for inclusion?

Yes, you can request funding to cover staff time committed by the Chief Investigator and co-investigators. If successful, a separate Staffing Certificate must be completed for each individual member of staff before the project begins (see 4.2 of [our Terms and Conditions](#) for successful award holders).

8. Can I cost in data support from the Honest Broker Service in my application?

Yes, you can cost in data support from the Honest Broker Service. We ask that written confirmation of costings from the Honest Broker Service is provided with your application.

9. Are the following costs acceptable as direct costs: travel and subsistence, conference fees, and organisation of conferences/workshops/events (materials, consumables, speaker fees, catering etc), and website development.

Yes, these proposed costs will be acceptable. All requested costs must be fully justified.

10. Do I need to complete the sponsor section if my research does not involve HSC organisations?

Appropriate arrangements in relation to the research sponsor, as defined in the [UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research](#), should be considered by applicants. The University may act as the sponsor for a project.

[See 2.5 within our Terms and Conditions](#) for successful award holders