



SarcoidosisUK Research Innovation Award: Guidelines 2026

Overview

SarcoidosisUK is a UK registered charity that provides information and support for sarcoidosis patients, raises awareness of the disease and funds sarcoidosis related research. Sarcoidosis is a complex and poorly understood disease with limited interventions. SarcoidosisUK wants to provide a better future for everyone affected by sarcoidosis and is committed to investing in research that will enable the next research discoveries.

We recognise that research holds the key to expanding our understanding of sarcoidosis and to discover new and better treatments for the disease. SarcoidosisUK will provide funding for innovative proposals of the highest quality by offering financial support/grants to exceptional researchers to conduct world class research projects. There is a gap and demand for sarcoidosis specific research funding in the UK. We seek to expand the research capacity in the UK by investing in our new funding scheme, the SarcoidosisUK Research Innovation Award.

Scope

SarcoidosisUK will offer funding for innovative research proposals that are focused on sarcoidosis and that seek to address any of our research priorities (see our 2025-2027 Research Strategy):

- Expand the understanding of sarcoidosis.
- Improve diagnosis and prognosis.
- Discover new and better treatments.
- Address quality of life issues for those living with sarcoidosis.
- Sarcoidosis epidemiology in the UK.

SarcoidosisUK will fund only novel, clearly defined projects and will not financially supplement existing research studies. Successful proposals must demonstrate scientific excellence, potential impact, and benefit for sarcoidosis patients.

Our new award offers pump-priming/seed funding that will enable the applicant to:

- Kick-start a novel idea (proof of concept study).
- Evaluate or expand a novel hypothesis.
- Obtain vital basic data to progress an idea and facilitate further funding applications.

Eligibility

We invite relevant, high quality and feasible funding applications from established clinician scientists and/or research scientists with an established research track record.

Joint applications can be submitted, by a Lead applicant and Co-applicants, but we would expect the Lead applicant to be the principal investigator for the project.

Host Institution: Funding will be awarded to a non-profit research centre of excellence within the UK that will provide the facilities for conducting the proposed research project.

Financial information

SarcoidosisUK's Research Innovation Award offers financial support of maximum £60,000, to span a minimum duration of one year and a maximum duration of eighteen months. The grant may be

used for salary and direct costs of the project but will not support indirect costs such as institutional overheads. Funding is expected to support salary and consumable costs for a designated researcher. We would not expect the funding to be used for a purchase of equipment. Funding for PhD students is not permitted.

The application must provide indicative financial information as to how the award will be used, corroborated by the relevant finance department.

Application process

Applications should be submitted by email (hard copies are not required) and will be subject to expert review by members of SarcoidosisUK's Independent Medical and Scientific Advisory Panel, external expert reviewers, and people with lived experience of sarcoidosis. The application review process is summarised below.

Initial assessment: Applications will be triaged by SarcoidosisUK staff and may be rejected following the initial assessment. The criteria for assessment:

- ✓ The proposed research project must be within the 'scope' previously described.
- ✓ Applicants must comply with the eligibility criteria previously described.
- ✓ Applications must be fully completed and signed, page and word limits must be followed.
- ✓ Financial information must be accurate and approved by the relevant host institution finance signatory.

Once the initial assessment is complete all applicants will be notified of the outcome.

Expert review: Applications that pass the initial assessment will be sent for expert review to be:

- Assessed and scored by at least five members of SarcoidosisUK's Independent Medical and Scientific Advisory Panel.
- Assessed and scored by at least two independent external expert reviewers.
- Assessed by members of SarcoidosisUK Patient Advisory Panel

The main assessment criteria will be:

- Research excellence, including the originality of the proposal.
- Feasibility of the project, including appropriateness of experimental design and cost.
- Potential impact of the proposal for increasing understanding and patient benefit.
- The ability of the applicant/s to deliver the project and suitability of the host institution.

Recommendation and approval: A decision meeting will take place to allow the Expert Review Panel to fully consider all applications and make recommendations for successful funding. All funding awards will require approval by the SarcoidosisUK Board of Trustees.

Application feedback: Feedback may be available at the discretion of SarcoidosisUK, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Closing date: The closing date for receipt of applications is **midnight 30th April 2026**. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by September 2026.

Charity details



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