

Call for applications: Wellcome Early-Career Awards – May 2025 Round

<https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/early-career-awards>

Keywords: early career, science, discovery research, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), experimental medicine, humanities and social science, health sciences, and public health

Funding amount and duration of funding: Salary and up to £400,000 for research expenses over 5 years

Funder deadline: 21 May 2025, 17:00 GMT

UCT Intention to Submit deadline: Please complete UCT's [intention-to-submit form](#) 19 February 2025 to help us ensure timely submission of your completed application.

UCT internal deadlines: Approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is **required** prior to submission to the funder. Applicants should:

- Your finance staff will be automatically contacted when you complete and submit the intention-to-submit form
- [eRA Internal Approvals forms](#) should reach the Finance Approver step by no later than **7 May 2025**.
- Faculty approved eRA forms must reach RC&I by **14 May 2025**.

Contacts: Faculty of Health Sciences: FHS.ResearchFunding@uct.ac.za Other Faculties - internationalgrants@uct.ac.za

[The Wellcome Early-Career Awards scheme](#) is soliciting applications from early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity. Through innovative projects, awardees will deliver shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health, and wellbeing.

By the end of the award, successful candidates will be equipped to lead their own independent research programme. Research proposals may be in any discipline - including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), experimental medicine, humanities and social science, clinical/allied health sciences, and public health - as long as it has the potential to improve human life, health and wellbeing, and aligns with the Wellcome Trust's [funding remit](#).

Award details:

- Grants are available for up to five years, but this may be less for some disciplines, and longer if held on a part-time basis.
- Applicants may request salary and up to £400,000 for research expenses.
- More information regarding allowable and non-allowable costs can be found [here](#).

Eligibility:

The call is open to early-career researchers who:

- Hold a PhD or have completed four years' equivalent research experience; and
- Are ready to design, plan, and deliver their own innovative project that aims to:
 - Advance understanding in their field, and/or
 - Develop methodologies, conceptual frameworks, tools, or techniques that could benefit health-related research
- Please review the [Wellcome's Eligibility and Suitability](#) criteria to confirm your individual eligibility.

Deadlines & submission process:

This proposal requires the PI to complete an online application on the funder portal ([Wellcome Funding platform](#)) as well as requesting institutional approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system, prior to submission of the application.

Important: The call has 3 submission rounds per year, with deadlines in February, May & October 2025. Submission timelines for the October deadlines will be communicated once finalised.

	May Round	October Round
PI to initiate an eRA proposal approval request and alert their faculty finance staff of the budget support needed	19 February 2025	8 July 2025
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request with a draft budget to the Budget Reviewer step on eRA at least 4 weeks before the funder deadline	17 April 2025	2 September 2025
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA at least 2 weeks before the funder deadline	7 May 2025	20 September 2025
Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA at least 1 week before the funder deadline	14 May 2025	27 September 2025
Funder deadline: Final submission actioned by RC&I via the funder's portal.	21 May 2025	01 October 2025

Contact information:

- Health Sciences applicants contact FHS.ReserachFunding@uct.ac.za
- All other faculties contact internationalgrants@uct.ac.za