Call for applications: Wellcome Discovery Awards
https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/discovery-awards

Keywords: Established researchers, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), experimental medicine, humanities and social science, clinical/allied health sciences, public health, bold, creative, high-quality

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Funding and duration of funding: Funding for research expenses up to 8 Years

Funder deadline: 22 September 2026 , 17:00 GMT

UCT Intention to submit deadline: In order to receive institutional support, please complete an intention-to-submit form by **21 July 2026**

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 your complete and submit the intention-to-submit form
- eRA Internal Approvals forms should reach the Finance Approver step by no later than **8 September 2026**
- Faculty approved eRA forms must reach RC&I by **15 September 2026**

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

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The Wellcome Discovery Awards scheme is soliciting applications from established researchers and teams from any discipline who want to pursue bold and creative research ideas to deliver significant shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing.

Research proposals can 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 funding remit.

Eligibility:
The call is open to established researchers who want to pursue bold and creative research ideas. You must aim to make a major contribution to your research field by:
- o generating significant shifts in understanding and/or
- o developing methodologies, conceptual frameworks, tools or techniques that could benefit health-related research.

Award details:
- Grants are available for up to eight years.
- Lead applicants must be able to:
  - o demonstrate that they can drive and lead a substantial collaborative research programme.
  - o contribute at least 20% of their research time to the programme.
- More information regarding allowable and non-allowable costs can be found here.

Deadlines and 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 2 submission rounds per year, with deadlines in March and September,

	September 2026 Round
PI to initiate an eRA proposal approval request and alert their faculty finance staff of the budget support needed	**Tuesday, 21 July**
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	**Tuesday, 25 Aug**
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA at least **2 weeks** before the funder deadline	**Tuesday, 8 Sept**
Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA at least **1 week** before the funder deadline	**Tuesday, 15 Sept**
Funder deadline: Final submission actioned by RC&I via the funder's portal.	**Tuesday, 22 Sept**

Contact information:

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