

BIOS PUMP-PRIMING GRANTS

2023



BIOS is offering small pump-priming awards for either an early-stage research project or an early-stage research career. The aim is to increase research capacity within the profession.

There will be two levels of award: 2-3 awards up to the value of £2500, and 1-5 awards up to the value of £1000 (to a total of £10,000 in 2023).

The application closing date is August 31st 2023 and the projects should be completed by January 2024.

Award Goals

This grant offers a stepping-stone for early career researchers, so we are looking for applications with some evidence of commitment to research. This could be having led a good audit with some data analysis component, or completing a short, validated course on a research related topic.

The funding can be used to support equipment, training, participant expenses, disposables, or a small amount of time. Audit and service evaluations would be eligible, but only as a first stage towards further research or development. Training will only be funded to support the project, not for personal professional development alone. Conference travel or registration fees will not be covered.

Each successful application will present a clear, achievable endpoint which is the first stage in further research capacity development within core orthoptics.

BIOS would welcome exploration of topics not already being well researched in the profession, and applications from early career researchers trying to build independent research careers away from an established group. The research should preferably align with the BIOS top 10 Research Priorities.

BIOS would encourage and prefer a small project done well rather than anything too ambitious. However, we will consider top-up grants for ongoing projects, where the applicant can show clearly why their current funds cannot cover the additional cost.

The successful applicant would be expected to present the research to the profession using all BIOS networking opportunities (social media, PV, BIOS conferences and research events) and preferably submit for publication to a peer reviewed publication (preferably open access, such as the BIOJ, which is free to publish). The successful applicant would be

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In addition, the successful applicant will be required to submit quarterly updates on the progress of their research to BIOS, so that any support needs can be identified. Failure to communicate with BIOS during the time of the ongoing research project may result in the funding being revoked.

A successful application will show:

- Commitment to building an academic or clinical research career
- Clearly explained deliverable outcome(s)
- A pathway to further development of research capacity for BIOS and/or the topic
- Evidence of research mentorship in the application and throughout the project (BIOS has a mentorship panel if a suitably qualified mentor is not known to the applicant)
- Serious consideration of feasibility, ethics and governance
- Evidence of planning for failure, e.g. smaller deliverables within the project if fatal flaws or serious delays emerge during the research.

Application Process

Applications should be on no more than 3 sides of A4, 12point text

- Title
- Applicant, qualifications/role, and workplace
- Evidence of some research interest or experience
- Mentor and brief details of their research skills e.g. PhD, publication record, lecturer
- Project
 - Importance. References can be listed in addition to the 3 page limit. Potential impact
 - Methodology (e.g. sample size, study design, method, data collection, analysis).
 - Recruitment (sample characteristics, inclusions, exclusions)
 - Ethics considerations e.g. whether NHS Ethics approval will be necessary. Any potential ethics issues
 - Deliverables and timeline
 - Potential barriers or difficulties, and how they might be overcome or mitigated
 - Dissemination plans
 - Itemised costs
- Pathway to developing the topic
- Pathway to research career development
- Signatures of applicant and mentor

Applications should be submitted by email to bios@orthoptics.org.uk with the email Subject header - BIOS PUMP-PRIMING RESEARCH APPLICATION.

Closing date is 5pm Friday 8 September 2023.