

Department of Paediatrics - Bridging Support Scheme

Introduction

Bridging support is available to provide funding for the salary costs of researchers who experience either a gap in external funding or a gap generated by taking family leave while being funded on an external grant. The funds are used to bridge the funding gap until new grant funds are obtained. Bridge funding is intended primarily for research personnel whose salaries were paid by the lapsed grant. Funds from the scheme may be made available to staff for the following purposes:

- Bridging, for those who are 'between grants'.
- Underwrites, for those who expect their salaries to be fully recovered from grants but are seeking support in the interim, usually while the outcome of a grant application is awaited.
- Maternity and shared parental leave in cases where this cannot be funded from other sources.

Application procedure

All applications for bridging support must be made through the Head of Department. To do so, please send an email setting out how you meet the criteria below. This will be shared with the Head of Administration so that an informed decision can be made. As per the current Recruitment Protocol Process any request for the underwriting or bridging of posts over £20,000 per post, within any financial year, are subject to review by the Divisional Protocol Committee. Applicants are strongly advised to bear this in mind when bringing forward any requests and to note in particular the additional time that will be needed to obtain protocol approval, prior to any commitment being made by the department to provide the necessary funding.

Criteria

Criteria specific to each category of funding is below. Funding for the purpose of bridging or underwriting can only be provided once. Funding for maternity or shared parental leave could be provided for more than one leave instance, if required.

Bridging support

- You must have submitted applications for grants, or be costed on grants submitted by other PIs, which will together recover your salary in full.
- These applications must be judged to have a reasonable chance of success. In the absence of other information, past success rates will be taken as an indicator of potential future success.
- In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible to provide bridging funding for an individual who does not have grant applications in the pipeline, but who has clear and defined plans to submit applications for future funding and who is judged to be reasonably likely to succeed.
- Applicants eligible under this scenario may normally apply for up to three months' funding in the first instance. If during this time confirmation of future external funding is received, additional bridging support up to a total of 6 months may be sought.

Underwrites

- You must have submitted applications for grants, or be costed on grants submitted by other PIs, which will together recover your salary in full.



- The outcome of these applications must be due by the time your current funding ends, so that the request is for funding for a finite period in the event that the outcome is delayed or the application is unsuccessful.
- Applicants eligible under this scenario may normally apply for up to six months' funding.

Maternity and shared parental leave

- Funding can support either the salary of the person on leave or the maternity cover post (but not both).
- Staff funded on the BRC are asked first to apply for BRC Research Capability Funding before approaching the Department.

Financial arrangements

Data on those funded in this way, together with the outcome of any requests for such funding, will be provided to the Department's Management Committee for information.

If funding is obtained from an outside body within the period covered by a bridging support grant, the bridging support will cease as soon as the outside funding begins. Any savings will be returned to the bridging support fund. Where an external funding body agrees to provide retrospective funding to support a researcher for a period covered by bridging support, then the bridging support budget must be reimbursed accordingly.