



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- What are the Submission Criteria for the Statement of Intent?**
- What are the criteria for selecting applications to invite for Full Proposal**
- What are the key dates of this funding call?**
- What is the PsyIMPACT Programme?**
- What are evidence-based psychological treatments?**
- Why “theory-driven, innovative, early psychological interventions focused on the development or relapse of mental disorders”?**
- What do you mean by interdisciplinary?**
- What does MQ want from the smaller projects?**
- What criteria will be used to evaluate PsyIMPACT Full Project Proposals?**
- What costs can be requested on the award?**
- Who is eligible to receive an award?**
- What’s the difference between Co-Investigator and Collaborator?**
- Can our application have Co-Principal-Investigators?**
- Is my institution eligible?**
- Do you have any other advice for Applicants?**

What are the Submission Criteria for the Statement of Intent?

Application advice:

Applicants are encouraged to contact the MQ Grants Office by email on psyimpact@joinmq.org if they have any queries regarding the Programme.

Submission criteria

Submission criteria for Statement of Intent include:

- Proposal clearly addresses the PsyIMPACT call as described in the funding announcement
- The study is feasible
- Eligibility of the PI and research team
- Satisfactory completion of the electronic application form in English
- Draft budget uploaded as a separate PDF document
- Clear trajectory to patient benefit
- Project is distinct from other projects currently submitted elsewhere for funding

What are the criteria for selecting applications to invite for Full Proposal

The process and specific criteria for judging which applications will be invited to proceed to Stage 2 of the application process (Stage 2) are detailed in our ‘Triaging checklist’ which can be downloaded from the Flexigrant site. Criteria include:

- Grant attainment and publication history of the PI
- The experience of the team
- Appropriate research design and methods
- How well the project addresses the PsyIMPACT call
- How well the project addresses MQ’s interdisciplinary aim
- Other applicant-specified strengths of the project

What are the Key Dates of this funding call?

Date	Event	Note
Monday, 1 February 2016 (17:00 BST)	Statement of Intent application deadline	Required if you plan to submit a full proposal
Tuesday, 8 March 2016	Decision regarding invitation to full Proposal	
Sunday, 1 May 2016 (17:00 BST)	Full Proposal deadline	Open to invited applicants only.
July 2016	Decision & Award Announcements	Psy-IMPACT Commitment meets

What is the PsyIMPACT Programme?

The Psychological Treatments Research Programme (PsyIMPACT) is a broad-based translational research programme that is agnostic as to diagnostic category or treatment modality: the goal is to stimulate innovation and advances in the field of psychological treatment that will benefit patients in the near term. MQ is planning to invest £1 million in research toward this goal through a suite of funding opportunities and targeted investments in research that will enhance the effective and efficient use of psychological treatments to improve patient outcomes.

What are evidence-based psychological treatments?

The goal of PsyIMPACT is to advance research that will enhance the effectiveness and use of psychological treatments. Consequently, applicants must demonstrate that their approach is evidence-based, and that the treatment they are proposing to investigate is sufficiently robust and promising.

Psychological treatments are complex interventions. Consequently, developing their evidence base requires iterative testing of underlying concepts, feasibility study, and efficacy testing. The MRC has published guidance on how such interventions should be developed and evaluated.

Further, proof of concept studies and preliminary work are needed to ensure that a treatment has a logical underlying conceptual basis. Early in the development of a treatment such work is an essential evidence base.

Why “theory-driven, innovative, early psychological interventions focused on the development or relapse of mental disorders”?

Theory driven: The research should contribute to our understanding of how psychological treatments work. Our current understanding is limited.

Innovative: MQ aims to fund research that is not currently funded by other agencies with a view towards developing new treatment to help those that do not benefit from existing interventions.

The call is focused on early psychological interventions to prevent the development or relapse of mental disorders because of the proven health, social and economic benefits of doing so across the life span.

The research may be focused on primary or secondary prevention, but must be in at risk populations, because of the stronger evidence for these approaches compared with universal prevention. Study populations will be those at risk of developing a mental disorder (primary prevention). Specifically, study samples will include those with subsyndromal symptoms (indicated prevention) or with biological, psychological or social risk factors (selective prevention). Alternatively, samples may include those at risk of relapse of an existing mental disorder (secondary prevention) because innovation in these areas is currently lacking. We will not fund public health interventions because MQ's focus is on mental disorders.

What do you mean by interdisciplinary?

Interdisciplinarity is a core value of the PsyIMPACT programme. While interdisciplinary approaches to the PsyIMPACT programme are encouraged, it is not necessarily appropriate for all proposals. Applicants should use their best judgment on this topic in crafting their proposals.

The intersection between the biological, psychological and social science is increasingly seen as an area where mental health research may be most productive. MQ is committed to catalysing these interdisciplinary approaches to transforming mental health. By this we mean **projects and people at the intersection of disciplines and approaches**, whose work transgresses traditional boundaries between disciplines. We also mean interdisciplinary work that promotes the sharing of information and knowledge across boundaries.

What does MQ want from the smaller projects?

MQ welcomes a variety of applications for these small awards. For example they may be used for a small proof of concept study or for analysis of existing data. It is hoped that the findings from projects, which use existing data, can be used to develop new hypotheses to test against larger data and/or clinical populations. MQ further hopes to better understand if and how current methods of data collection and analysis at the clinical and research level should be improved upon to support the knowledge discovery efforts of the future.

What criteria will be used to evaluate PsyIMPACT Full Project Proposals?

The same criteria as used for rating the Statements of Intent will be used to assess the full proposals (please see our 'Triaging checklist' that can be downloaded from the Flexigrant site). Essentially, applicants are challenged to demonstrate how their project will help researchers to develop innovative psychological treatments for those at risk of developing a mental disorder or at risk of relapse. It is also important that the research leads to understanding of how and why the treatment works, with whom and how it can be improved upon. The proposal should describe how the project would inform our understanding of the processes involved in treating mental health problems.

It is understood that direct patient benefit may not be fully realised in the near-term for all projects, but a clear trajectory (with estimated time line) to patient benefit (e.g. specific plans for obtaining future funding and/or plans for future implementation of study findings into clinical practice should be specified. Where possible, proposals should also contribute toward building a strong foundation for interdisciplinary work in mental health research.

Who is eligible to receive an award?

This ambitious programme plans to see rapid change to patient care through soundly conceived and well-executed research projects. MQ recognises that developing and delivering such projects takes both skill and experience. Therefore the team making the application must be comprised of people who can demonstrate these, including through

their qualifications. Appropriate qualifications include PhD, MBBS, DClinPsy, MD and equivalent. Applicants may have additional indications of esteem that further demonstrate their capacity. The PI or co-applicants can be from any research discipline; the PI will have an appointment at an accredited research institution for at least the duration of the award.

What costs can be requested on the award?

This programme is flexible in terms of what items funds can be requested for, in order to best meet the goals of the project. University indirect costs will not be paid.

What's the difference between Co-Investigator and Collaborator?

The main difference is in terms of the level of involvement in the scientific thinking of the project. There's a continuum from PI to Co-Investigator to Collaborator in terms of involvement with the thinking and logistics of the project.

The second difference is in terms of expertise. The PI and Co-Investigators expertise is critical to the successful delivery of the project, and this must be justified in the grant application. This is not the case for Collaborators, who contribute in other ways such as through providing access to data, research techniques, or participants.

The important underlying difference is terms of responsibility for the project's deliverables. The PI and Co-Investigators are held accountable for the project meeting its milestones and deliverables, whereas collaborators are not.

Can our application have Co-Principal-Investigators?

No. For this programme, applications are required to have just one Principal Investigator.

Is my institution eligible?

MQ recognises that good research takes place in supportive environments and will assess applications accordingly. The host institution can be an NHS trust or other healthcare provider, a university, or other research organisation with demonstrable track record in producing research. It should be well-recognised in the field and provide strong support for research.

MQ will accept applications naming either not-profit or for-profit Host Institutions, providing that these criteria can be met. MQ reserves the right to request additional information to assess institutional eligibility.

Supporting institutions will be asked to verify that they can meet MQ funding policies as outlined in our Sponsored Research Guidelines. These Guidelines are posted on our website and can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Do you have any other advice for Applicants?

Yes! Please make sure you review our [Guidelines for Applicants](#) document as you prepare to complete your application form.

You should also know that MQ has posted [Policies for Sponsored Research Awards](#) on the website. This policy document addresses many topics including budgeted expenses, intellectual property and reporting requirements.