



CAMBRIDGE REPRODUCTION

Cross-disciplinary Projects Fund

Guidance for applicants (2025–26)

The **Cross-disciplinary Projects Fund** has been established to foster innovative cross-disciplinary projects in any aspect of reproduction. Grants provide seed funding as a basis for development of larger bids, with an emphasis on novel or exploratory reproduction research or other activities.

There are two pathways available:

- **Small grants** provide funding of up to £1,500 and may be applied for by an individual or by two or more people working in collaboration;
- **Large grants** provide funding of up to £5,000 and must involve at least two applicants from different departments (**preferably from different Schools**).

These pathways have been developed to recognise the equal worth of lower-cost projects (especially in the arts and humanities) and to encourage applications for smaller projects as well as larger collaborations. Whichever pathway is chosen, projects must be focused on some aspect of reproduction, and should be broadly cross-disciplinary.

Eligibility

The lead applicant must be a current postgraduate student or member of staff at the University of Cambridge or its affiliated institutions (Babraham Institute, Wellcome Sanger Institute or Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust). You may apply with up to two other applicants, who can include partners from outside these institutions.

Grants will be awarded for projects that promote cross-disciplinary exchange and collaboration, typically including (but not limited to):

- public engagement or outreach activities;
- public and patient involvement and engagement activities;
- production of a short film, podcast or exhibition;
- development of a special-interest network and associated activities;
- a pilot research project that leads to a cross-disciplinary publication or grant application;
- collaboration with a creative professional or other person from outside academia;
- a visit or exchange with another institution or research group, in order to develop new skills;
- development of a new policy initiative or engagement with governmental or other external organisations;
- data collection or analysis to explore a new research direction;
- application of approaches or methods from another discipline to an existing piece of research;
- development of a prototype or novel method or approach;
- providing proof of concept for a larger funding proposal;
- development of a new research resource (e.g. a website, archive or tool).

Straightforward research projects, or proposals that could be easily funded from another source, are unlikely to be considered for funding.

Projects **must be**:

- **broadly cross-disciplinary** (please note that having applicants from different Schools is not sufficient to demonstrate that a project is cross-disciplinary);
- (for the large grants pathway) led by at least 2 applicants from different departments (**preferably from different Schools**);
- (for the large grants pathway) founded on a **new collaboration**; existing collaborations are ineligible for funding, unless in exceptional circumstances;
- a **new activity**, not a continuation of an existing project;
- **fully costed**, as funding will be capped;
- **completed within 9 months** of receipt of funding.

Excluded costs include:

- Open access fees
- Publication fees
- Purchase of equipment or materials
- Attendance at academic meetings and conferences
- Salaries for current members of staff
- University overheads

In exceptional circumstances, we may consider applications for projects that cannot be completed within 9 months, or that do not otherwise meet all of the requirements above. If you think this applies to you, please email Christina Rozeik to discuss your situation: coordinator@repro.cam.ac.uk.

Funding available

Each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Awards will be up to £1,500 (for the small grants pathway) and up to £5,000 (for the large grants pathway). Applicants are strongly encouraged to look for additional sources of co-funding.

Assessment criteria

The key criteria for assessing applications will be:

- Relevance of the proposed activity to reproduction research;
- Cross-disciplinarity and potential to stimulate new collaborations;
- Originality or novelty;
- Benefit of the project to the wider Cambridge Reproduction network;
- Feasibility and achievability of the proposed plans;
- Impact of the expected outcomes/outputs;
- Value for money;
- Sustainability/long-term legacy (including likelihood of attracting further funding).

Application and review process

Applications can be made via the [online form](#)

or by emailing the Word application form to Tamsin Smyth. Forms and guidance can be downloaded from www.repro.cam.ac.uk/funding/cross-disciplinary-projects-fund.

Applications must be accompanied by:

- a recent CV for each applicant;
- a statement of support from your supervisor, group leader or Head of Department. Only one statement of support is needed per application.

If the project involves working with research subjects, appropriate ethical permission must be sought. Funds will not be released until this has been gained.

Submissions must be made at least 4 weeks before your proposed project begins, as we cannot cover retrospective costs.

Key dates for 2025–26

Applications will be considered once per term; this year's deadlines are:

Michaelmas Term: 21 November 2025

Lent Term: 20 February 2026

Easter Term: 22 May 2026

In exceptional circumstances, we may be able to consider applications outside these timescales; if you think this applies to you, please [email Christina Rozeik](#) to discuss your situation.

The review process is expected to take 3-4 weeks to complete. The review is conducted by the Cross-disciplinary Fund Panel.

Preference may be given to current members of Cambridge Reproduction, and to those who have not previously received a grant from Cambridge Reproduction.

Awards and report

Successful applicants will be contacted at the start of their projects, to arrange interim and final deadlines, and to discuss how the budget will be managed. They will also be expected to provide text and/or images for a project page on the Cambridge Reproduction website.

Awards are subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. If you are awarded a grant you will be required to:

- i) acknowledge our support in any project materials and/or outputs;
- ii) write a short report on the funded project, using the provided post-award report form. Your report should be accompanied by at least one image of your project, which we will use on the Cambridge Reproduction website (www.repro.cam.ac.uk) together with a summary based on the text from your report.
- iii) provide receipts giving proof of expenditure. We can only reimburse expenses relating to your award if they are accompanied by receipts or other proof of expenditure;
- iv) provide other information relating to your project (e.g. publications, details of events or participants) as requested.

2. Any unspent funds at the end of the project must be returned to Cambridge Reproduction;

3. Projects should be started within 6 months of award, and should be completed within 9 months of the starting date, unless agreed otherwise in advance.

4. You may be invited to give a brief presentation of your project at a Cambridge Reproduction Forum or other event, or to share details of your project.

5. We would be very glad to receive any additional images relating to your project. Please also provide a caption and credit line for each image. By supplying images you are agreeing that Cambridge Reproduction may use these on its website, social media, Flickr account or in its annual report.

Contact

Applicants may discuss the Cross-disciplinary Projects Fund with Tamsin Smyth (admin@repro.cam.ac.uk). Please [email Christina Rozeik](#) if you would like us to consider an application outside the usual timescales or for a project that may not usually be considered eligible for funding.