**Funding Opportunity Announcement:**

**Wellcome Trust Early-Career Awards**

The [Wellcome Early-Career Awards](https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/early-career-awards) scheme is soliciting applications from early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity. Through innovative projects, they will deliver shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health, and wellbeing. By the end of the award, successful candidates will be equipped to lead their own independent research programme.

Research proposals may 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’s [funding remit](https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/guidance/discovery-research-schemes-remit).

**Eligibility:**

The call is open to early-career researchers who:

* Hold a PhD or have completed four years’ equivalent research experience; and
* Are ready to design, plan, and deliver their own innovative project that aims to:
	+ Advance understanding in their field, and/or
	+ Develop methodologies, conceptual frameworks, tools, or techniques that could benefit health-related research
* Please review the [Wellcome's Eligibility and Suitability](https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/early-career-awards#eligibility-and-suitability-72a1) criteria to confirm your individual eligibility.

**Award details:**

* Grants are available for up to five years and applicants may request salary and up to £400,000 for research expenses.
* More information regarding allowable and non-allowable costs can be found [here](https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/early-career-awards#what-we-offer-8137).

**Deadlines & submission process:**

This proposal requires the PI to complete an online application on the funder portal ([Grant Tracker](https://wtgrants.wellcome.org/)) as well as requesting institutional approval via UCT’s electronic Research Administration ([eRA](https://eraonline.uct.ac.za/converis/portal/overview?lang=en_GB)) system, prior to submission of the application.

**Important**: The call has 3 submission rounds per year, with deadlines in February, May & October 2024. Submission timelines for the October deadlines will be communicated once finalized.

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|     | **May Round** | **October Round** |
| PI to initiate an eRA proposal approval request and contact the Departmental Finance Officer no later than     | **09 April 2024** | **13 August 2024** |
| PI to submit an eRA proposal approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA no later than    | **07 May 2024** | **17 September 2024** |
| PI to submit the application on Grant Tracker no later than    | **14 May 2024** | **24 September 2024** |
| RC&I to action final submission on Grant Tracker no later than    | **21 May 2024** | **01 October 2024** |
| Funder Deadline  | **21 May 2024** | **01 October 2024** |

**Proposal development support:**

To assist early career researchers in developing their proposal, the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Development team will be hosting an information session/webinar on Tuesday, 13 February, followed by a virtual interactive workshop series from Tuesday, 05 March. Please click [here](https://forms.office.com/r/WJgHVRLvn8) to register for the webinar, and click [here](https://forms.office.com/r/MFdkEZXndZ) to register for the interactive workshop.

Please complete this FHS [intention-to-submit form](https://forms.office.com/r/G1UhcRCN0C)  if you intend applying for this call. Please note that completion of this form is for the purposes of internal support and tracking, it is not linked to funder application processes and does not commit you to applying to this opportunity.

For any further queries, please contact the Faculty Research Office.