**Crick-University Partners Translation Call**

**Guidance for Applicants**

Translation at the Francis Crick Institute has created an environment to take discovery science through to application, bringing together in close proximity researchers from Universities, NHS, clinical and industry settings. The translation team has supported several spin outs, development of diagnostic tools and other innovative technologies to benefit health. There is an ambition to build on these foundations and further expand translation across the partnership.

To do this, the Crick has established a dedicated translational science funding scheme to support projects within the University partnership. The scheme will be open to researchers from the Crick and University partners to establish and develop new collaborative translational projects between Crick researchers and those based at UCL, King’s or Imperial – that is projects that could lead to technologies and applications that have a positive impact on human health.

The 2023 call will be run as a pilot to help optimize the effectiveness of the scheme, and we envisage there will additional call(s) in subsequent years. Applications that cross disciplinary boundaries are particularly encouraged, **particularly the engineering, clinical, and physical sciences interfaces**.

**Objectives of the scheme – what we are looking for?**

The scheme is generously supported by the Chris Banton Foundation. It has been established to:

* Support **new** translational science partnerships between Crick and Partner Universities (Imperial, UCL and King’s).
* Increase opportunities for researchers within the partnership working on translational science to progress their ideas towards impact.
* Support projects that are around Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3, experimental proof of concept stage and above. The entire translation pathway cannot be supported by this scheme, and applications should be addressing a critical step to bring ideas closer to adoption.
* Encourage translational science collaborative applications that cross disciplinary boundaries, particularly at the engineering, clinical and physical sciences interfaces.
* To enable a researcher employed by one partner to relocate (for the part or full duration of the project) to one of the other partners where this is justified by local access to research support facilities and/or the added value of the translational science.
* There are no restrictions in area of research that can be supported. Applications in diagnostics, medical technology and therapeutics are welcome.

**Eligibility - who can apply**

* The applicants should be employed by the Crick or one of the Crick Partner Universities (UCL, Imperial, King’s).
* All projects must involve applicants/co-applicants with at least one from the Crick and one from the Partner University (UCL, Imperial, King’s). The project should be a collaboration between the Crick and University researcher(s).
* **The Crick applicant** should be based at the Crick for the period of the proposed project, for example: Crick-employed Group Leaders, Partner University-employed Secondees; Clinician Scientist Group Leaders (CSGL), Physical Scientist Group Leaders (PSGL), and STP leads.
  + Where the Crick applicant is a Partner University employee, the collaboration must be with a Partner University other than the employing institution. This is to encourage new links and collaborations.
  + MSD or GSK staff may not act as the Crick applicant but could be collaborators.
* **The University applicant** should be an employee of one of the partner universities, including satellite group leaders working at the Crick.
  + Where the university applicant is a satellite group leader at the Crick, the collaboration with the Crick must be a NEW project and not an extension of current work.
* All applicants should be employed for the duration of the proposed project.
* If an Applicant is a Postdoc or LRS staff or similar role at Partner University, the application must be endorsed by the group/team leader/line manager. Applications of this type could assist the career development of the applicant, for example to gain experience in a translational project or work in an environment where they can accelerate their translational project.
* Clinician scientists who have active clinical duties are welcome to apply.
* Projects can involve additional stakeholders and co-applicants, such as from industry, NHS or other academic partners, but the focus of the project must be between at least one Crick and one Partner University applicant. No funding will be given to stakeholders beyond the Crick and Partner Universities (UCL, Imperial and King’s).

**Funding – what we offer**

**Duration:** The scheme will support projects of between **6 to 36 months.**

**Assessment:** Funding will be milestone based, assessed by progress of the science using Go/no-go decisions. Assessment intervals will be set by the science of the individual project.

**Level of funding:** no funding level has been pre-set, but projects are expected to support one to two staff for the duration of the project (as above)**.** The selection committees may decide to provide part-funding for projects.

**Eligible costs**

* Salaries **-** one or two posts for staff who work on the project either full or part-time, including researchers, technicians, engineers. Project managers and other operational staff could be supported if justified and within headcount.
* Consumables
* Access charges for Crick Science Technology Platforms (STPs) and HEI facilities
* Other project-related direct costs

**Ineligible costs**

* Salaries for applicants
* Indirect costs and overheads
* Estates costs, including building or refurbishment costs
* Large equipment
* PhD studentships
* Funding to institutions beyond Crick and Partner Universities (UCL, Imperial and King’s).
* Full funding for clinical trials (part funding may be possible)

The Partner Universities and any additional industry or NHS partners would normally be expected to contribute resources to the collaborative project, for example in the form of direct funding though university translation schemes (IAA UKRI), staff time, or in-kind such as access to facilities.

**Operational principles**

* Applicants should obtain approval at their home institute from their line manager if they are a postdoc, LRS staff or similar role at Partner University.
* All applicants should obtain approval from their Technology Transfer Offices before submitting the preliminary application.
* Projects should be costed by the grants office of the institute where the work will take place.
* Researchers working at the Crick and supported by this scheme will not count against the University space quota or Crick Group Leader space allocation.
* A Visiting Scientist Agreement or a collaboration agreement will be used depending on the project.
* Any proposed new recruitment of staff to work on the project should be approved by the Crick and university before submitting the preliminary application.
* Consumables, facilities and STP costings should be provided using Crick Worktribe & grant workflow.

**Intellectual Property**

In general projects may have IP from both parties, including foreground and background IP. It is therefore important that applicants talk to their Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) at an early stage and capture any IP that will be brought to the project.

Foreground IP ownership and commercialisation will be agreed on a case-by-case basis between the university TTOs and the Crick’s commercial translation team. This approach is supported by the university TTOs with the aim of managing and supporting the research appropriately.

**How to apply**

**This is a 2-stage process (see website):**

1. **Preliminary application**
2. **Full proposal**
3. **The preliminary application should include:**

* Overall objective of the project and up to 5 key words.
* Description of the translation opportunity including uniqueness of the approach, originality and competitiveness.
* Description of the added benefit of working together to advance the translational science.
* Detailed preliminary data supporting the proposal (up to 2 pages) plus one page of figures in a data appendix.
* Outline programme of work (with objectives and deliverables).
* Summary of likely resource requirements (personnel, running costs, STPs required) - Approximate total cost.
* The above to be contained within four pages with a one-page appendix for data or figures.
* In addition to four pages above, please submit a supporting email to demonstrate approval from Partner University TTO (all applications) andshow approval from group leader/line manager (for post docs, LRS staff, or staff with non-permanent positions).

1. **Full proposal**

Successful applicants in stage 1 will be invited to submit a full proposal.

The full proposal consists of a Word document form and a presentation template.

Applicants will be asked to submit both documents and present at the Translation Advisory Board.

Both preliminary and full application documents should be submitted by email to [translation@crick.ac.uk](mailto:translation@crick.ac.uk) with copy to partnership mangers at the relevant university:

Angela Kingman, Imperial; a.kingman@imperial.ac.uk

Elspeth Latimer, UCL; elspeth.latimer@ucl.ac.uk

Rachael Bernthal Bishop, KCL); rachael.bernthal\_bishop@kcl.ac.uk

**Review of the applications**

Preliminary applications will be considered by the Translation Science Advisory Committee, composed of Crick and Partner University members.

Final recommendations on the funding of projects will be made by the Translation Advisory Board on the basis of input from the Translation Science Advisory Committee.

Partnership managers will be invited to observe the meetings (Ruth Bird- Crick; Angela Kingman Imperial; Elspeth Latimer UCL; Rachael Bernthal Bishop KCL).

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| **Translation Science Advisory Committee** | | |
| **Francis Crick Institute** | Peter Parker | Emeritus Group Leader (Chair) |
| Véronique Birault | Director of Translation |
| Simon Boulton | Principal Group Leader |
| Steve Gamblin | Director of Research Infrastructure |
| Adrian Hayday | Principal Group Leader |
| Caroline Hill | Principal Group Leader |
| Katrin Rittinger | Principal Group Leader |
| Andreas Schaefer | Principal Group Leader |
| Richard Treisman | Director of Research |
| James Turner | Principal Group Leader |
| Carola Vinuesa | Principal Group Leader |
| Observers | Stephen Mayhew – Chief Business Officer  Edward McGowan – Head of Translational Science  Kayleigh Richardson - Translation Programme Manager  Edward McGowan – Head of Translational Science  Kayleigh Richardson - Translation Programme Manager |
| **Imperial College London** | TBC |  |
| **University College London** | Geriant Thomas | Professor of Biochemistry |
| **King’s College London** | Khuloud Al-Jamal | Professor of Drug Delivery & Nanomedicine and Head of Medicines Development |

The decisions will be communicated to all applicants and an award letter will be provided to all successful applicants.

# Timelines

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| Date |  |
| 18September, Monday | Official Launch |
| 22 September, Friday | Webinar 2 |
| 15 November, Wednesday | Deadline for preliminary applications |
| 27 November, Monday | Review and shortlisting by the Translation Science Advisory Committee |
| 14 December, Thursday | Translation Advisory Board |
| TBC – March 2024 | Deadline for full proposal |
| TBC – April 2024 | Translation Advisory Board |