

Grants policies and positions



Animals in research

The Society maintains that a high regard for animal welfare should be adhered to in all research. The Society's expectations are set out in the [Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#) and the [Non-human primate accommodation, care and use](#) documents produced by the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research ([NC3Rs](#)).

These guidelines set out the expectations for the use of animals in research and is therefore also useful to ethics committees, referees and Panel/Committee/Board members involved in reviewing research proposals.

For further information, see our [policy on animals in research](#).

Childcare Travel Policy

The Society can provide financial support to Research Fellows for any additional childcare costs that arise when attending conferences, collaborative research visits or invited talks directly related to their fellowship or award. This policy is also applicable to meeting organisers, Chairs and invited speakers when attending a Royal Society organised meeting or event.

For further information, see our [Childcare Travel Policy \(PDF\)](#).

Equality and diversity

The Society is committed to increasing diversity in STEM and will do everything it can to promote and encourage diversity. This includes looking at ways to attract a higher percentage of applications from underrepresented groups and regularly reviewing and

revising as necessary promotional materials and processes to ensure that all applicants have an equal chance to succeed.

Funding decisions are made solely on the basis of the quality of the proposed science. Host organisations are expected to provide good practice workplace structures to support equality, inclusion and diversity.

All panel members are given a briefing on [unconscious bias](#) in decision making to aim to address potential biases which can arise when making judgements on funding decisions.

Under-represented groups are particularly encouraged to apply.

Flexible working and leave

The Society allows for part-time and flexible working arrangements depending on the award holder's personal circumstances through the University Research Fellowship, Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship, Sir Henry Dale Fellowship, Industry Fellowship and Research Professorships.

Individuals on these fellowships are entitled to take the full period of maternity, paternity, adoptive or extended sick leave as provided by their host organisation. Other care-related leave is also considered.

For further information, see our [leave policy \(PDF\)](#).

PhD supervision

If an award holder is supervising a PhD student during the course of their award from the Society, they and their host organisation are expected to adhere to the current good practice guidelines surrounding administration and supervision as outlined in the Quality Assurance Agency's publication, [UK Quality Code for Higher Education \(PDF\)](#).

Research misconduct

The Society's fundamental purpose is to recognise, promote and support excellence in science. This includes advocating for the excellent conduct of research, and for a culture of research that sustains and rewards this. The Royal Society's Fellowship and all those that receive grants from the Royal Society are expected to observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity in undertaking their research. Ethics and integrity are not an "optional extra" or a "regulatory burden" but an integral part of good research.

The Society considers it the responsibility of the Host Organisation to investigate and report all allegations of research misconduct and poor behaviour, and accepts that such

investigations must be aligned to its internal human resources policies and disciplinary procedures.

For further information, see our [Research Misconduct Policy \(PDF\)](#).

Research misuse

The Society expects all award holders to observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity in undertaking their research. Award holders have responsibilities with respect to research misuse as detailed under clause 3.16.1 (e) of the [UK Research Integrity Office Code of Practice for Research \(PDF\)](#).

The Society encourages all funded researchers to follow the advice of the Centre for the Protection of the National Infrastructure on [Trusted Research](#) when entering into collaborations or partnerships with non-UK organisations.

The Society is a supporter of the [Concordat to Support Research Integrity \(PDF\)](#).

Research publication

The Society is committed to the widest possible dissemination of research outputs through the awards it supports.

All recipients of a Royal Society award are encouraged to publish peer-reviewed accepted articles and conference proceedings in open access journals. As a minimum, award holders are expected to follow green routes for open access by publishing in a journal which allows deposit of the accepted version in a repository providing free access with a maximum embargo of 12 months from the date of publication. The Society's preference is for peer-reviewed publications to be freely accessible on publication to ensure the widest reach and maximum benefit to the scientific community.

Signatories

The Royal Society is a signatory of the following:

[Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers \(PDF\)](#)

[San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#)

[Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research \(PDF\)](#)

The Royal Society's remit

The Royal Society funds researchers at the postdoctoral level and above in the UK and overseas. Undergraduate, Masters and PhD students cannot apply for Royal Society funding.

Research must be within the Society's remit of natural sciences, which includes but is not limited to biological research, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics. For a full list, see our [guidance page](#).

Submissions from clinically qualified scientists may be considered. The Society does not support clinical or interventional research on humans at the individual or group level, social sciences or humanities, unless otherwise stated.

If there is any doubt about the eligibility of a project, contact the [grants team](#).

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