

Coronavirus FAQs for grant holders and applicants

Current grant holders

Is it still possible to temporarily freeze my grant(s)?

Principal Investigators should contact Diabetes UK as soon as possible if it is necessary to freeze a Diabetes UK-funded award due to Coronavirus, to discuss the impact on the project. Diabetes UK will be supportive of no cost extensions to cover the period of the delay.

What is Diabetes UK position on the Government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)?

Diabetes UK is in full support of the statement posted from the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) in May 2020 on the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\)](#). This encouraged universities to use the CJRS until paused projects restart and urged universities not to make furloughing of researchers conditional on charity funders topping up the additional 20% of salaries not funded by the scheme. You can read the full statement [here](#).

The [Scheme](#) is now closed for new entrants and will close for everyone on October 31st 2020.

Please work with your Head of Department/HR Team if you're ready to bring staff back from furlough. Once your project is able to resume, let us know, and we'll agree a reactivation date with you and consider whether a no-cost extension will be needed to account for time lost while your staff were furloughed.

Will invoice payments on my grant continue during the Coronavirus period?

Diabetes UK will continue to pay invoices as per the original finance payment schedule for awards where work has continued during the Coronavirus pandemic,

fellowship salaries (except where fellows have been furloughed) and PhD studentship stipends

For those awards where work has paused or where members of the project team are furloughed, we ask that the institute provides itemised invoices for actual costs incurred for the period being claimed, in line with the finance payment schedule for the award. Diabetes UK will not pay invoices for work that hasn't taken place during the period being claimed for.

Members of my team are shielding and unable to return to work. What should I do?

If your staff are unable to return to work, we would advise them to speak to their HR Team and keep us informed about the disruption to the grant.

We are now able to resume the project, so what steps do I need to take to get back up and running?

When your project is ready to restart, please contact us at research@diabetes.org.uk and we'll agree a reactivation date and confirm new project timelines with you. We'll discuss your revised plans and any considerations that might affect delivery of your project.

What do I need to do to get my clinical trial back up and running?

Please refer to [guidance](#) from the NIHR on restarting your clinical research. Let us know if there's anything we can do to support you with getting your research up and running as soon as possible.

I've been asked to return to clinical practice during the Coronavirus pandemic, what does this mean for my Diabetes UK award?

If you, or a member of your team, wish to return to clinical practice, or are asked to, please do so with our full and complete support. In these circumstances the Principal Investigator should contact us research@diabetes.org.uk with details of the staff affected, to discuss next steps and the impact on their award. We ask that the Principle Investigator and their Institution keep dated records of any

affected staff member currently supported on one of our grants, including the duration of any redeployment.

Supporting resources:

The [Academy of Medical Sciences](#) - materials to support clinical academics during this time.

The [UK Clinical Academic Training Forum \(CATE\)](#) - guidance for academic trainees, their clinical and research supervisors, and their institutions to support the return to clinical and research training.

Access to my lab is still prohibited, what should I do?

If the work on your project is able to continue as planned without being significantly affected by staff working remotely, and without compromising the overall delivery of the grant, then please continue working as you are.

If your project is already on hold, we ask that it remains on hold if activity cannot continue as planned while working remotely. You should also continue to make use of the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme during this period to minimise the financial impact on the charity.

If your project is not currently on hold but you are unable to continue with remote working, then we would strongly recommend that the grant is paused. Please get in touch with us research@diabetes.org.uk to discuss your options further.

Please get in touch when your lab re-opens to discuss how you plan to move forward with your project while managing any restrictions in place which may affect your progress.

Can I request a no cost extension to my grant?

For all grants that have been temporarily frozen or impacted due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Diabetes UK is supportive of no cost extensions to cover the period of the delay.

All requests for no cost extensions, including requests to extend existing extensions, should be sent to research@diabetes.org.uk and be made prior to your award end date. A member of the team will email you the relevant form to complete.

Will you be offering costed extensions?

We realise that many grants funded by Diabetes UK have been paused due to Coronavirus, meaning that project progress has slowed, whilst some costs, particularly salary costs, have continued to accrue.

Unfortunately, like many other medical research charities, we're expecting a significant drop in income due to the impact of Coronavirus on fundraising activities. We are therefore unable to commit to providing costed extensions at this point. We strongly recommended taking practical steps to minimise grant expenditure during this time, including reviewing project plans and making use of virements between budgets.

Will you be flexible with my award?

To support existing research projects, Diabetes UK will be flexible and allow virements between budget headings. We are asking grant holders to review their project plans and associated costs to assess whether any funds can be vired between budgets, without impacting the delivery of project aims. In most cases we will be able to approve virements, except for those proposing the purchase of additional animals which would need to go through a review process. To vire between budgets, please contact research@diabetes.org.uk and we will ask you to complete the relevant form.

I've been awarded a grant but haven't yet started my project. When am I able to activate the grant?

We strongly recommend that any new projects that have not yet started delay commencing until a time when it can be carried out unhindered and safely, and as originally planned.

If you think your project is ready to begin as planned or if your project aims are going to be impacted by Coronavirus, please contact us at research@diabetes.org.uk

Funding calls

I submitted a grant application prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, what will happen with the funding decision?

We are continuing with the process of making funding recommendations on applications that have already been submitted and are under review. However, our financial commitment and any release of funds to projects recommended for award will be conditional on the following:

- Diabetes UK has a clear understanding of the financial impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on our organisation
- That the project would be able to commence as planned if funding were available
- Whether any amendments are required to the original project plan or if the relevance of the project is impacted as a result of the Coronavirus crisis

Diabetes UK still does not have clarity on its financial forecast for 2020. Any decision to fund projects will be reviewed periodically and we will keep applicants informed of any updates.

Have application deadlines changed for Diabetes UK open funding schemes?

As we continue to monitor the impact of Coronavirus, we are doing all we can to minimise the impact of the current situation to our ongoing research programme. With 125 research projects currently underway, supporting our current funded researchers to make the adjustments necessary to continue their important work, now or in the future, is a priority. We are also working hard to protect funding for

future diabetes research and to ensure that new projects are feasible as the pandemic evolves.

Unfortunately, we did have had to make some difficult decisions and move deadlines for some funding schemes.

Revised deadlines

- Project grants (including associated highlight notices) – Application deadline: 1 December 2020. Funding decision: May/June 2021
- Early career small grants – Application deadline: 1 December 2020. Funding decision: May/June 2021
- Harry Keen Intermediate Clinical Fellowship (full application) - Application deadline: 14 September 2020. Funding decision: February 2021

All other funding schemes remain unchanged at present. However, the impact of COVID 19 on these will continue to be reviewed. You can find more information on all our schemes [here](#).

Do I need to consider Coronavirus in my new grant application?

As part of any funding application to Diabetes UK, we are asking applicants to include a work plan that takes into account the impact of Coronavirus on the project deliverables.