# Pancreatic Cancer Action

# **PhD Scholarship Grant:**

# Terms and Conditions.

This scholarship will be awarded to up to two universities in 2018 to cover a PhD Student for a maximum of 36 months of full-time doctoral study, which will include a tax and NI-free stipend, tuition fees (subject to residency status) and running expenses.

Pancreatic Cancer Action has a particular interest in supporting UK students with a research interest in pancreatic cancer and its early diagnosis.

## Eligible applicants

The scheme is open to applications from any UK university.

**Pancreatic Cancer Action cannot accept applications directly from graduates wishing to pursue doctoral study.**

## Eligible research criteria

Applications are open only for projects focused on **improving early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer**. Projects may focus on any of the research areas listed below, or any combination of them. All proposals should consider line-of-sight to clinical or population impact.

* Epidemiology and risk stratification for early diagnosis (to inform populations for targeted research or screening)
* Biological research underpinning early detection and biomarker discovery and validation
* Human-based early diagnosis discovery research
* Data and computation-driven approaches to early diagnosis
* Development and utilization of preclinical early diagnosis model systems
* Early diagnosis technology development
* Translational and clinical early diagnosis research

## Assessment criteria

In assessing applications for funding, we will use the following criteria to prioritise applications:

* Explore a novel approach to diagnosis of pancreatic cancer;
* Investigate areas of unexplored potential;
* Focus on the novel application of technology;
* Grow and access a rich patient/sample cohort;
* Have potential to enable further research or enquiry;
* Research design and methodology is of a high quality;
* The supervisors and institution are suitably qualified for the realisation of the proposed research project.

## **Maximum** award costs covered by Pancreatic Cancer Action:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cost |  |  | 3-year total |
| Stipend | Outside London  | £20,000 | £60,000 |
| Inside London  | £22,000  | £66,000  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Running expenses | Years 1-2  | £15,000  | £37,000  |
| Year 3  | £7,000 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fees (per annum) | Years 1-3  | £4,195\* | £12,585 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total | Outside London  | £109,585  |
| Inside London  | £115,585  |

\*Fees set by Research Council UK (RCUK)

## Doctoral Students

Each doctoral student awarded a Pancreatic Cancer Action grant should be known as a “Pancreatic Cancer Action Doctoral Scholar”. Scholars must be registered as full-time PhD students unless Pancreatic Cancer Action gives explicit permission for this to be varied.

Scholars will be subject to the usual terms and conditions applying to doctoral students within the institution where they are registered. Scholars should not receive funds to duplicate those provided by this PhD Scholarship grant. However, they may apply for or receive additional funding for their research or training costs.

## Selection and management of Pancreatic Cancer Action Doctoral Scholars

It is the responsibility of the grant-holding institution to administer the scheme, including the selection of high-quality grant recipients. This includes ensuring the appropriate academic supervision is provided for each student.

Scholars recruited to the scheme must be in possession of a 2:1 or higher Bachelor’s degree or Master’s degree in biological sciences, mathematics, statistics or equivalent.

Scholars must be ordinarily resident in the UK, meaning there are no restrictions on how long they can stay, and must have been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least three years prior to the start of the Scholarship grant.

Overseas students may not be eligible for a full award depending on their residential status. Grant-holding institutions have full responsibility for determining the residential eligibility of potential students. Pancreatic Cancer Action will only pay the cost of fees at UK/EU rates.

## Reports

### Annual Progress Report:

Pancreatic Cancer Action will require the following, no later than two months after the end of the grant year:

* A summary of expenditure on the previous year, including how any funds used for the research and training element for each Scholar has been used;
* A progress report of up to 2,000 words. This should provide a brief summary of the individual’s progress in the past year including details of any outputs (i.e., publications/posters etc.)
* In the final year of the Scholarship, the report should indicate progress on the thesis and likely/actual submission and/or examination dates.
* Any significant changes in a student’s circumstances/progress should be reported immediately.

### Final Report:

A final report should be submitted no later than three months after the award comes to an end and should contain:

* A financial statement of expenditure formally approved by a finance officer of the Institution showing the total spent over the grant total and on what.
* A report of approx. 3,000 – 4,000 words in total. This should include confirmation of the award date of the PhD, brief details of main outputs and details of future career plans.
* A statement (no more than 500 words) explaining how the Pancreatic Cancer Action PhD Scholarship Grant has contributed to the chosen area of research and the university as a whole.

## Payments

Before payment can be made, both the Institution and the Principal Applicant (Supervisor) must have accepted the grant in writing. Payments will be made on an annual basis. For the first year, payment will be made on or around the start date of the PhD. Payments for subsequent years will be made when an annual report has been received and approved by the Pancreatic Cancer Action Scientific Advisory Committee.

All unspent funds at the end of the Grant must revert back to Pancreatic Cancer Action.

## Award acknowledgement and logos

We ask all Grantholders to acknowledge Pancreatic Cancer Action’s support in any publicity, promotional materials or publications associated with research funded by Pancreatic Cancer Action. Please refer to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Brand Guidelines for use of our logo. Please contact Comms@panact.org if further guidance is needed.

## Application procedure

The closing date is **31st March 2018**. Decisions will be made at the end of June 2018 with a view that the PhD Programme will commence in September/October 2018.

Universities may submit more than one application; however, applications are not accepted from a group or consortium of universities. Applications are not accepted from UK institutions or organisations other than Universities.

Applications must be submitted by a **principal applicant (PhD Supervisor)**, who must undertake to oversee delivery of the programme, and to be responsible for the management of the award. All applications must be accompanied by a supporting statement from a designated representative for the applying university. This should be the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for research, or someone holding a similar senior role. The application and supporting statement must both be provided by the closing date to Pancreatic Cancer Action.