

TIPS FOR YOUR APPLICATIONS

The Scar Free Foundation is committed to ensuring value in research. As a charity, we only have a finite amount of resources and it is important that the projects we fund deliver against our strategy, aims and objectives. As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) and a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) non-commercial partner, the Scar Free Foundation must ensure that our research is relevant to NHS policy and is impactful to patients and the public.

Below is some general advice for those considering applying for funding from the Scar Free Foundation, on how to put together your Elective application. In preparing this advice we have reflected on our experiences of running this scheme for the past 8 years. Please read the below guidelines if you are planning to apply:

- Supervisors are typically senior researchers and clinicians. They are busy people with many demands on their time. If you wish to apply to undertake an Elective project supervised by a Foundation Supervisor, it is recommended that you approach them as early as possible to ensure you they have a chance to consider your application. Last minute approaches are generally not favourably reviewed.
- The upper limit for funding is £1,200. Please do not ask for more than this. If the Elective funding is for part of a larger sum of money, please make this clear in your application and let us know your other sources of funding.
- It is suggested that you learn more about us as an organisation – what The Scar Free Foundation is trying to achieve, why we have these aspirations and how we are going to achieve our goals. Much of this can be found on our website and in our [research strategy](#).
- When framing your research question, it is important to consider whether it aligns to the disciplines the Electives are designed to support.
- Our expert reviewers will consider the scientific merit and feasibility of your application. Please ensure that what you are proposing is achievable in the Elective timescale of 4-8 weeks.
- Following your project, you are expected to submit a Final Report, with the deadline being three months after your project ends. When choosing a project and a timeframe, make sure that you will have ample time to complete your report, also.
- Think about what you wish to gain from this experience and how this can help with your future career.

When preparing your application, it is important to ask:

- Have you demonstrated a good knowledge and interest of the subject under investigation and made a case for undertaking a project in this area?
- Have I described the study methods I am going to use and are they the appropriate for my project?
- Have I clearly demonstrated that I have thought through all the potential pitfalls and built in contingency plans, if appropriate?
- Is my Elective application a good fit for the research priorities of the Scar Free Foundation?