

## **Early Detection and Targeted Treatments 2026 FAQs**

Please refer to the funding round call document and the guidance document provided on the funding round webpage for information. There is also information available here: [Applying for an award | Arthritis UK](#).

### **I am unsure on whether my proposal is within scope – what should I do?**

Please contact [awards@arthritis-uk.org](mailto:awards@arthritis-uk.org) with the subject line as the funding round name and “scope query” and a member of staff will get back to you.

### **Do I have to address both “early detection” and “targeted treatments”?**

No, research addressing one of the focus areas is permitted, both do not have to be covered in a single application. We particularly welcome applications addressing targeted treatments this year for this funding call.

### **I want to investigate a non-arthritis condition - is this in scope?**

As noted in the call document, we are aligning the scope of our condition focus with our charity organisational strategy of being arthritis focussed.

We will prioritise applications that focus on the different forms of arthritis, as well as conditions where arthritis is a co-existing condition or consequence. We will also prioritise applications that address the causes and consequences of arthritis.

Most of our current funding goes towards 6 conditions: osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, axial spondyloarthritis and gout. We have also funded research into other musculoskeletal and related immune-mediated inflammatory conditions. A smaller proportion of our funding goes into less prevalent conditions.

We wish to maintain this balance of arthritis, associated and rarer conditions across the portfolio. You are welcome to apply but should note that non-arthritis conditions may receive lower priority when the charity ultimately makes funding decisions. For non-arthritis conditions (except for rare diseases) projects examining linkage or shared mechanisms with arthritis or for human studies including participants with arthritis, are likely to receive higher priority than a condition specific approach.

Final decisions will account for expert panel recommendations, organisational priorities and research portfolio balance and will be unique for each funding call.

For input regarding scope please contact [awards@arthritis-uk.org](mailto:awards@arthritis-uk.org) with the subject line as the funding round name and “scope query” and a member of staff will get back to you.

### **Can I be included on more than one application to the funding round?**

Yes, but it is not permitted to be the lead applicant on more than one application.

### **Can I apply to undertake a PhD?**

This scheme is not designed for lead applicants to pursue a PhD.

**Can I include a PhD student on a proposal?**

Yes, should you wish, stipends can be included, although tuition fees are not an eligible cost. There are no additional eligibility criteria, conditions or limitations.

**Can international co-applicants receive funds?**

Yes, international co-applicants can receive funds from the lead institution.

**Can I apply if I already hold a grant from the charity/specific funding round?**

Yes, as long as there are no overlapping requests for resources.

**Can I apply as a lead applicant if I do not hold a permanent contract?**

If your institution permits you, you are welcome to apply as a lead applicant and cost your salary but there must be an applicant from the lead institution with a substantive position on the application.

**If I re-submit an application, will it be reviewed by the same people?**

We do not run a “standing panel” system, so while it is possible that an application may be reviewed by some of the same individuals, this is not guaranteed as assessment panel members change from round to round.

**Can I apply for conference and publication costs in my application?**

No, these are available through the charity separately, you do not apply for them at application stage.

**Are letters of support required from co-applicants?**

No, as co-applicants contribute to your application form – but they are required from collaborators.

**Can promotions for staff be costed within applications?**

While increments within a band during a project for staff and inflation (3.5% maximum) should be costed, staff promotions during the course of an award must be covered by institutions and not charity funds.