

Joy Welch Post-Doctoral Grants Fund
2025-26
Call Details

Opening date: Monday 5 January 2026

Closing date: Friday 27 February 2026, 5pm

Scope

The Lancaster University Joy Welch Grants Fund provides an annual opportunity for Lancaster researchers to secure funding for post-doctoral research. Research across all discipline areas is open to consideration. The total budget for the 2025-26 call is £100,000 and a minimum of 12 awards will be made.

Lancaster University researchers are invited to apply for small grants which can run for up to 12 months in duration.

Eligibility

Any member of Lancaster University's **post-doctoral** (or equivalent experience) **Academic or Research staff**, engaged in a contract that extends beyond the lifetime of the proposed project, is eligible to apply. If you are not the Principal Investigator (PI) of your current research project, your PI/line manager must support your application.

Only one Joy Welch Grant may be applied for by any one person in each academic year.

Criteria

This call is open to all disciplines, and projects must start between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027 and may run for up to a maximum of 12 months thereafter.

Funds will be awarded for directly incurred costs only, e.g. travel, subsistence, small equipment (less than £10k), staff support, consultancy fees, and sub-contracting fees. **Investigator salaries are not eligible for funding.**

The Head of Department/School must provide a statement (on the Application Form) to confirm that the applicant will be supported by the Department/School.

Only applications submitted on the Joy Welch Post-Doctoral Grants Fund Application Form will be accepted.

An internal panel of four, comprising cross-faculty academic representatives, will review all applications and make award decisions.

The outcome will be communicated by e-mail to the address on the Application Form by 1 April 2026. Feedback for unsuccessful applicants will not be provided.

No one project may apply for funding for more than three consecutive years, whether successful or not.

Proposals do not need to be costed and approved in ACP before submission, but applicants may seek advice on cost eligibility from RSO. Please refer to the Costing Help Sheet and contact rso-submissions@lancaster.ac.uk with any further queries.

Note: Grantees of this internal scheme cannot use an award to count towards probationary targets or in a case for promotion.

Conditions of Award

1. Funding will only be released following ethical approval.
2. Details of successful awards will be published on the Lancaster University internet pages.
3. Funding is available to staff only while they remain in the employ of Lancaster University.

4. All items of small equipment purchased will remain the property of Lancaster University, including laptops or other IT equipment.
5. The Associate Director of Research Services must approve any proposed changes to the research or planned expenditure.
6. Joy Welch Post-Doctoral Grant awards cannot be used to count towards probationary targets or used for a promotion case.
7. Any unspent funds at the end of the award will be returned to the Fund.
8. The contribution made by the Joy Welch Post-Doctoral Grant should be acknowledged in any future publications arising from this grant.
9. Grantees will be required to provide a one-page final report within one month of their grant end date with details of any project outcomes, e.g. publications, bids submitted, and further funding awarded.