

Secondary data analysis funding for PhD students or early career researchers

This funding is intended to specifically support PhD students or early career researchers. By that we mean someone who is either:

- within eight years of either their PhD award (this is from the time of the PhD 'viva' oral test) or equivalent professional training, or;
- within six years of their first academic appointment (the first full or part-time paid employment contract that lists research or teaching as the primary function).

These periods exclude and career break, for example due to: family care, health reasons, reasons related to COVID-19, such as home schooling or increased teaching load.

Secondary data analysis refers to research undertaken on known and existing valuable datasets. This presents a cost-effective way of making a contribution to the evidence base by putting previously collected data to a new use to gain more insights without costly and time-consuming purposive data collection.

This research grant is intended to support secondary data analysis that clearly aligns with [BACP's organisational strategy](#) and [research priorities](#), up to a maximum total value of £30,000 per project. Projects funded under this stream would not typically be expected to last longer than 24 months unless they include funding for a PhD.

Research proposals under this funding stream could be used either to support an institution's funding of a part-time (up to 6 years) or full-time PhD (up to 3 years) which seeks to draw on existing data. We would expect any funding for a part- or full-time PhD to be supplemented with funding offered by another partner (e.g., Higher Education Institute or other professional body etc.), of at least 50% of the total value (i.e. BACP will cover up to 50% of the costs associated with a part-time or full-time PhD). The grant can be used to support team funding in institutions (as long as the principal investigator is an early career researcher or PhD student) - this includes a researcher or team based within a single institution or working collaboratively with researchers from other institutions. Projects must have a primary focus on counselling, psychotherapy or coaching research, however they may be international, multi-disciplinary and include partners from outside the field.

Bids must be led by a UK-based partner who has access to a formal research ethics committee, such as a Higher Education Institute (HEI), NHS Trust or similar. If formal ethical approval is not deemed necessary, this should be verified with written confirmation from a HEI/NHS/other relevant Research Ethics Committee prior to the commencement of the research.

Project teams may be international, multi-disciplinary and include partners from outside the field of counselling, psychotherapy and coaching (e.g., health, technology, social sciences and humanities) but the primary focus must be on counselling, psychotherapy and/or coaching

research. Please note that additional support from BACP's research team can be made available to support projects funded under this stream. [You can read more about the additional support available here.](#)

Eligibility criteria

Projects under this funding stream must:

- be led by a PhD student or 'early career researcher' as the principal or sole researcher, defined for the purposes of these grants as someone who is either within eight years of either their PhD award (this is from the time of the PhD 'viva' oral test) or equivalent professional training, or within six years of their first academic appointment (the first full or part time paid employment contract that lists research or teaching as the primary function). Researchers who are not considered to be 'early career' can be included as partners on the bid
- exploit *existing* data resources relevant to counselling, psychotherapy and/or coaching
- be led by a UK-based partner who has access to a formal research ethics committee, such as a Higher Education Institute (HEI), NHS Trust or similar. Formal ethical approval OR written confirmation from a HEI/NHS/other relevant Research Ethics Committee that formal ethical review is not required must be provided prior to the commencement of the research
- if a collaborative proposal, clearly demonstrate that the project team has the necessary skills and experience to be able to successfully deliver on the project
- sit within the BACP definition of client-focussed research in counselling, psychotherapy and coaching:
"Research which focusses on the experiences, processes and outcomes of those receiving or providing therapeutic services (who will often be clients, or potential clients, but could include counselling, psychotherapy or coaching practitioners, supervisors, supervisees or trainees). Client-focussed research includes, but is not limited to, topics such as: clients' experiences in and perceptions of therapy; ways to adapt therapies and therapeutic interventions for specific client groups; understanding what engages and motivates clients in therapy; exploring how clients' personal qualities and demographics influence and shape experiences in therapy. Research which only explores theory or addresses the comparative effectiveness of different theoretical orientations will need to highlight the direct relevance to counselling, psychotherapy or coaching practice"
 demonstrate clear alignment with BACP's organisational strategy and research priorities
- appropriately involve people with lived experience (PLE) of counselling/psychotherapy/coaching throughout the research process (i.e., not simply as research participants). We are mindful that PLE involvement will vary depending on the type, scale and size of the individual projects being proposed and the contexts/settings in which the projects are being undertaken. However, we require all proposals to demonstrate direct relevance to client populations. People with lived experience could shape and inform your research questions, research design, data analysis, writing-up, dissemination or all of these areas

This research grant can be used to cover some or all of any of the following combination of activities, up to a maximum total of £30,000 per project:

- salaries for members of the collaborative research groups for time spent on projects

- PhD's can be part-funded under this stream and should be led and hosted by an academic institution, where at least 50% of the planned research project will draw on existing data. Additional funding from another partner (e.g., Higher Education Institute or other professional body etc.) should be used to supplement the BACP grant funding to offer as part of the funded PhD. Joint PhD funding (with at least 50% matched funding from the applicant) should cover fees, with some living allowance and some provision for training/development/conference attendance allowance for the student
- travel and subsistence costs required for the project
- consumables, such as equipment, specifically needed for the project. This might include data-analysis software, data access costs, and/or information database subscriptions (evidence that this is vital to the success of the project must be provided)
- dissemination costs such as open access publication fees and conference attendance fees which should be costed/estimated as far as possible and specified within the application. This may also include costs associated with making resources available in different formats to improve accessibility
- training for personnel working in the network/partnership.
- organisation of events through which research groups will showcase/disseminate their work (e.g., academic seminars and webinars, workshops, knowledge exchange activities)

If you have any further questions, please contact research@bacp.co.uk.