

Collaborative research grant funding for early career researchers

This funding is intended to specifically support 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 any career break, for example due to: family care, health reasons, reasons related to COVID-19, such as home schooling or increased teaching load.

'Collaborative research' is defined as research which involves a minimum of two different partners, which may come from UK and/or international academic, non-academic (e.g., practitioners, charities, third sector organisations and/or policy makers) and/or partners from a wide range of disciplines (e.g., health, technology, social sciences and humanities.). Teams from across more than one department or discipline, but from the same organisation, would also not be considered collaborative and therefore not eligible to apply for this grant.

This research grant is intended to support collaborative research that aligns with [BACP's organisational strategy](#) and [research priorities](#), up to a maximum total value of £50,000 per project. Projects funded under this stream would not typically be expected to last longer than 24 months.

Research undertaken by collaborative groups offers the opportunity to conduct research that is likely to have greater impact (by influencing policy, commissioning, services, training and professional standards) than research undertaken by individuals or single organisations. Collaborative research might also present the opportunity for pooling data and wider reach in terms of participant recruitment and access to research skills.

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.

Bids are welcomed from established collaborative groups or from new groups wishing to start collaborative working. However, the grant should not be used for costs associated with setting up the collaborative work. 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.](#)

Research proposals under this funding stream may be 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.

Eligibility criteria

Projects under this funding stream must:

- be led by an ‘early career 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
- embrace a collaborative ethos and include a minimum of two different partners (academic, non-academic, industry and/or those with lived experience of counselling/psychotherapy/coaching) from multiple UK and/or international academic institutions. Teams from across more than one department or discipline but from the same organisation would not be considered collaborative and are therefore not eligible to apply for this grant.
- 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
- clearly demonstrate that the project team has the necessary skills and experience to be able to successfully deliver on the project
- sit within BACP’s 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 £50,000 per project:

- salaries for members of the collaborative research groups for time spent on projects
- travel and subsistence costs required for the project
- consumables, such as equipment, specifically needed for the project. This might include data-analysis software 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).
- intervention costs

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