

Coronavirus (Covid-19): FAQ for Academy of Medical Sciences applicants and Award holders

We shall be updating this page regularly in response to the queries we receive from our community.

Please continue to contact your primary contacts at the Academy, details for whom can be found on our individual scheme pages. For general queries, please contact grants@acmedsci.ac.uk

For up to date information on the Academy's response to Covid-19, please see our [information hub](#).

Applications

Is the Academy still accepting applications?

Yes, the Academy is very much still open for business and our programme of Award funding is continuing to operate, although timings may change. Please visit [individual scheme pages](#) for details about specific Award rounds.

Is the Academy going to be flexible with its submission dates?

Yes, the Academy is being as flexible as it can be with regards to submission dates. Please visit [individual scheme pages](#) for details about specific Award rounds.

Awards

What happens if my Award is delayed due the impact of Covid-19?

We will be as flexible as possible to support all our researchers around the challenges to their work from coronavirus. If you encounter problems that may result in a delay to the start of your Award, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss this. Please see our scheme pages for the appropriate scheme leads and their contact details. If you encounter problems during your Award, we encourage you to not request a no-cost extension until the last three months of the Award, so that all factors can be considered and multiple requests for the same Award can be reduced. Please note that all requests for extensions should be made prior to your Award end date. We will continue to consider requests for no-cost extensions on a case-by-case basis, but please be assured that requests for no-cost extensions to Awards that have been impacted by Covid-19 will be granted.

Can I ask for a no-cost extension?

Yes, we ask that you make as few requests, as possible, for each Award and therefore, encourage you wait until the last three months of the Award, so that all factors can be considered and multiple requests for the same Award can be reduced. Please note that all requests for extensions should be made prior to your Award end date. We will continue to consider requests for no-cost

extensions on a case-by-case basis, but please be assured that requests for no-cost extensions to Awards that have been impacted by Covid-19 will be granted.

Will the Academy continue to make scheduled payments on my Award if my host organisation closes or moves to home working?

Yes, providing the Award remains active, the Academy will continue paying all Awards in line with currently agreed payment schedules.

I am a clinician and have been asked to increase my clinical time to support the coronavirus response; how will this affect my Award?

We ask you to inform us if you will be undertaking additional clinical duties. Depending on your Award, activities may be continued or you may wish to temporarily halt your Award. If this is the case, we then ask you to inform us at the point at which you resume your Award. Please see our scheme pages for the appropriate scheme leads and their contact details.

I haven't yet started my Award, but I am going to have to delay the start, is this allowed?

If you encounter problems that may result in a delay to the start of your Award, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss this. Please see our scheme pages for the appropriate scheme leads and their contact details.

Will I be able to apply for a supplement or costed extension to my Award?

We acknowledge that Covid-19 may be impacting on your original research plans. We are currently discussing the financial implications of this with the funders of our schemes.

I would like to change my research plans, in light of the wider impact of Covid-19. Can I apply to do this?

Yes, permission to change your Award objectives or activities can be requested. You will need to make a formal request and further information on this process is available from your scheme lead, details of which can be found on our individual scheme pages. Please note that all amendment requests should be submitted to the scheme lead before the changes are implemented.

Where costs have been incurred for travel and/or events but these have subsequently been cancelled, due to Covid-19, can I still claim these costs against my Award?

Where grant-related travel and events are cancelled, due to Covid-19, and the costs are non-refundable or cannot be claimed on insurance, associated costs may be claimed in good faith against the award.

If my Award supports staff (in addition to myself) and they cannot access the facilities required to conduct their research or activities, how will this affect them?

Providing the Award remains active, the Academy will continue to pay all our Awards in line with current agreed schedules and invoicing procedures. We expect salaries and stipends (where provided by the Award) to be passed on accordingly.

Career events

Can I still access the Academy's mentoring scheme?

Yes, Academy staff are working remotely and our mentoring scheme is available to eligible candidates.

Is the Academy's Clinical Academics in Training Annual Conference (CATAC) still going ahead?

Unfortunately, all face-to-face Academy [events](#) and meetings are now postponed or cancelled until researchers are able to return to their work places and we are able to travel freely. The 2020 Clinical Academics in Training Annual Conference ([CATAC](#)) has been postponed, all applicants who have submitted abstracts will be contacted and we will update our webpage as soon as a new date to hold the event in 2021 is agreed.

Is the Academy's Winter Science Meeting still going ahead?

At the current time, we expect this meeting to go ahead as a face-to-face meeting in November 2020, however, this is subject to ongoing review.

Will the Academy's career development events continue online?

Yes, where possible we will move smaller events and meetings to take place on digital platforms. Please contact organisers of these events directly for more information. We will also continue to provide career support through our ongoing series of [webinars](#). We recently ran a webinar on [Mentoring and Leadership](#) that you can watch back if you missed it. We are also interested to hear from you about which topics you would like to learn more about, through a webinar series, via this [survey](#).