

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. However, due to the on-going travel issues in many countries, the launch of the next round of the [Daniel Turnberg Travel Fellowships](#) has been delayed until at least the summer of 2022. 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 have or may continue to impact on your original research plans. Depending on how your award is funded, it may be possible to apply for a costed extension for replacement costs, due to the pandemic. The Academy will contact award holders who are eligible to apply. If you would like to discuss this, please see our scheme pages for the appropriate scheme leads and their contact details.

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, our mentoring scheme is available to eligible candidates.

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

Following the postponement of the 2020 conference, the next Clinical Academics in Training Annual Conference (CATAC) will be held on Thursday 19 May 2022. CATAC 2022 will be an in-person event in Bristol, with live-streamed talks. We are now closed for submission of abstracts and will be opening for non-competing attendees to register in March 2022.

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

During the pandemic, the Academy's Winter Science Meeting has been replaced by a virtual calendar of events, linked to our [PILLAR](#) portal, for all award holders. Events will continue to be held virtually in 2022 and beyond, we continue to review and may offer some events in person in the future.

What is PILLAR and should I expect to be invited to join?

[PILLAR](#) (Promoting Innovation, Learning, Leadership And Resilience in the research community) was launched in November 2020. The programme aims to support both our grant awardees and programme participants in a virtual setting, equipping them with the skills and knowledge that they need to navigate their career. Through live sessions, recorded content and a host of resources, all permanently available in an exclusive online space (the PILLAR portal), we engage our community and encourage conversations. This programme is a valuable addition to the funding and training our scheme participants receive.

All existing awardees, successful applicants and programme participants are invited to join the community. If you are eligible and would like to join PILLAR, and have yet to be contacted, please contact the team via pillar@acmedsci.ac.uk

Will the Academy's career development events continue online?

Yes, we plan to continue offering our career development events on digital platforms as our experience over the last two years has shown that virtual events widen access and participation and provide a platform for interactive discussions and learning. Going forward, we will operate a mixed model of virtual and some in person hybrid sessions where appropriate for the aims of the event.