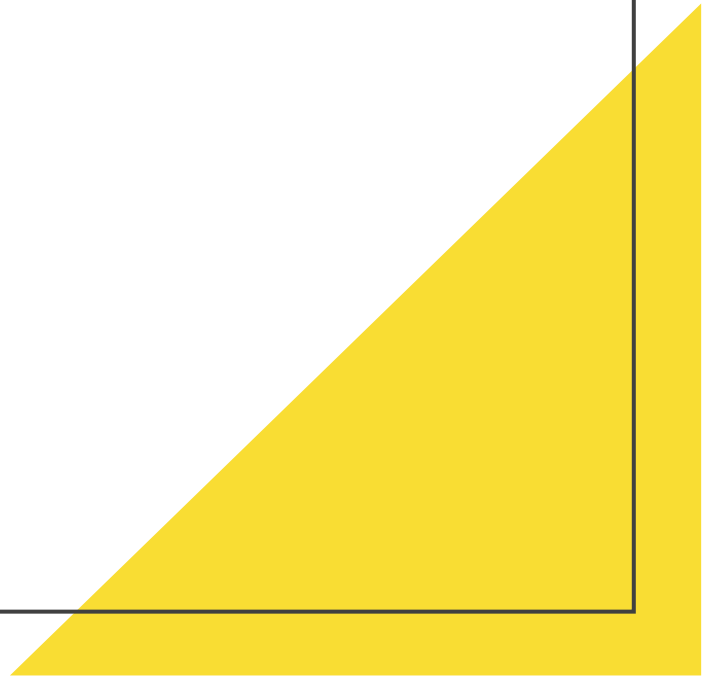




The Sir Jules Thorn  
CHARITABLE TRUST

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The Sir Jules Thorn Award for  
Biomedical Research



# About the Sir Jules Thorn Award

For over 20 years, the Trust has supported world-leading translational research projects through the Sir Jules Thorn Award.

The Award provides a grant of up to £1.7 million to support a five-year programme of translational biomedical research selected following a competition among applicants sponsored by the UK's leading medical schools and NHS organisations.

UK medical schools and NHS organisations are normally able to submit one application annually, selected following an internal competition.

The Award is open to biomedical research in any discipline or disease area.

# Eligibility - Organisations

Applications for the Sir Jules Thorn Award are welcome from UK medical schools and NHS Organisations with only one application allowed per eligible institution/organisation.

The research must have a justifiable claim to be at the leading edge of international science and must be led by a clearly identified Principal Applicant.

Each organisation will have its own internal selection process to ensure that all potential candidates are given fair and due consideration and to ensure that the highest calibre candidate and application go forward to the Trust.

The organisation must demonstrate:

- a) track record in internationally competitive, cutting-edge clinical translational research,
- b) adequate infrastructure support
- c) the commitment of internal resources to support the Principal Applicant and the proposed research programme.

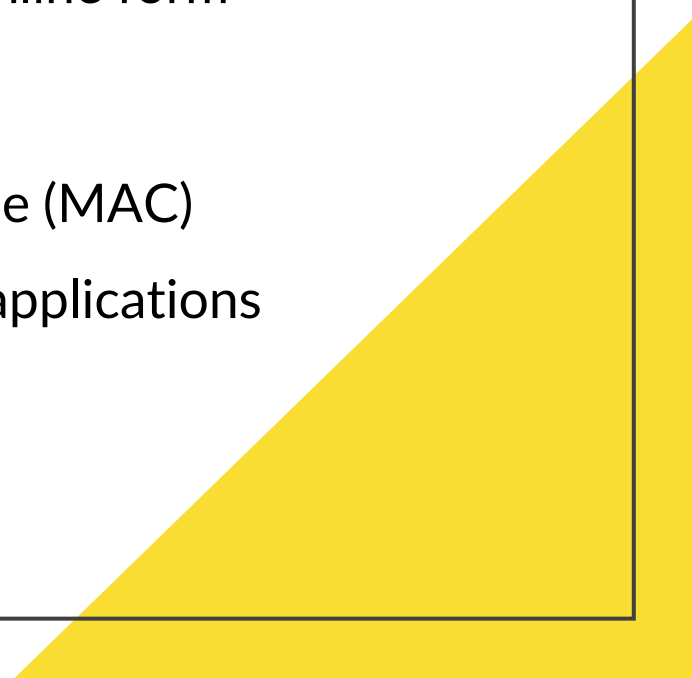
# Eligibility – Principal Applicant

The Principal Applicant (PA or PI) of outstanding quality in the early years of an established research and academic career.

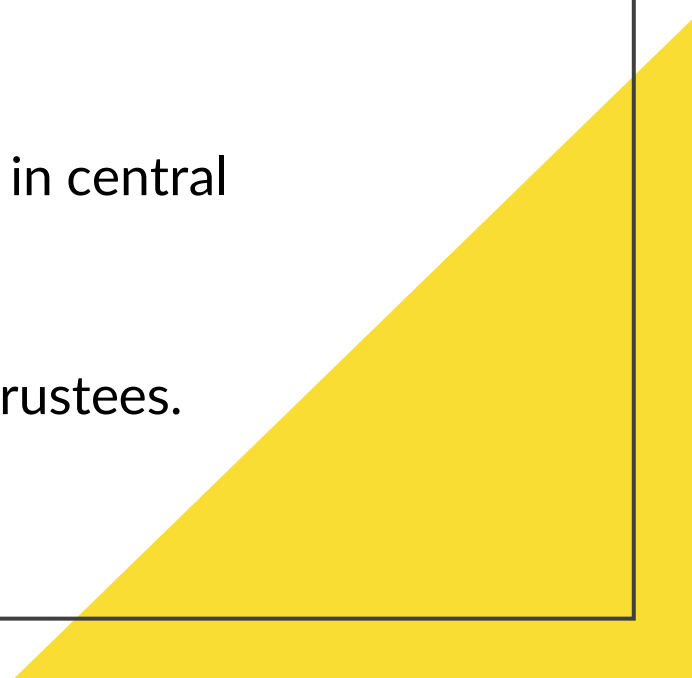
Not prescriptive, but the focus of the Award means shortlisted candidates have typically:

- applied to the Trust 7-10 years after completion of their PhD
- held posts at Senior Lecturer or Reader level or, in some cases, have recently been appointed to a professorial post.
- established a strong track record of independent research, previously supported by competitive, peer-reviewed fellowships from funders such as Wellcome, the MRC or NIHR
- been PI for one or more research grants with a value <£500K - or been named as co-investigators on larger awards - from similarly prestigious funders.

# Process

1. Internal selection process: each organisation will select an application to put forward for the Sir Jules Thorn Award.
  2. Preliminary applications: applications are submitted via an online form to the Sir Jules Thorn Trust.
  3. Longlisted applications: the SJT Medical Research Committee (MAC) review the preliminary applications and create a long list of applications to move forward.
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# Process

4. Full applications: longlisted applications are invited to submit a full application. Once received, SJT has the applications independently peer-reviewed, and MAC assesses the full applications and peer reviews to create a shortlist.
  5. Interviews: Shortlisted applicants are invited to an interview in central London with MAC and expert interviewers.
  6. Award: MAC make a recommendation to the SJT Board of Trustees.
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# Key Dates

This has been updated for the 2024 Award.

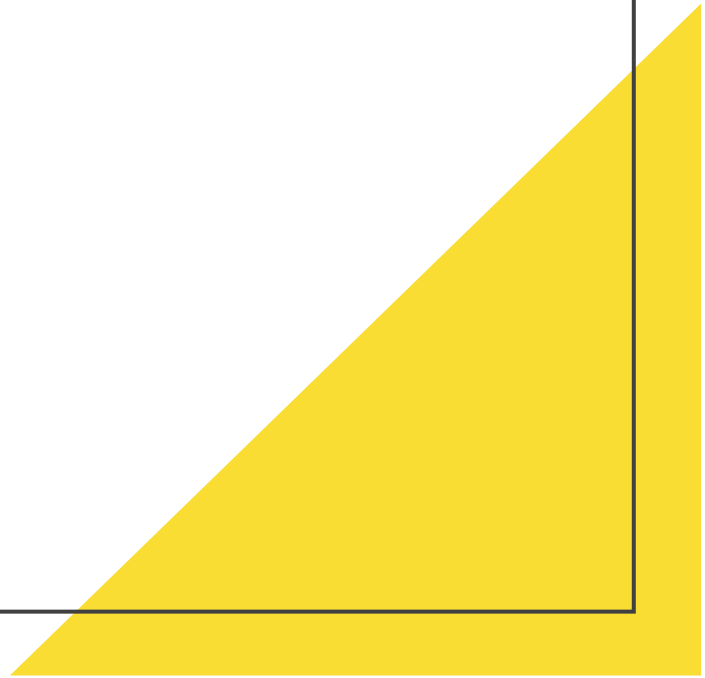
Preliminary Applications due: 18 December 2023

Full Applications due: 24 March 2024

Interview Invitations sent: September 2024

Interview date: October/November 2024

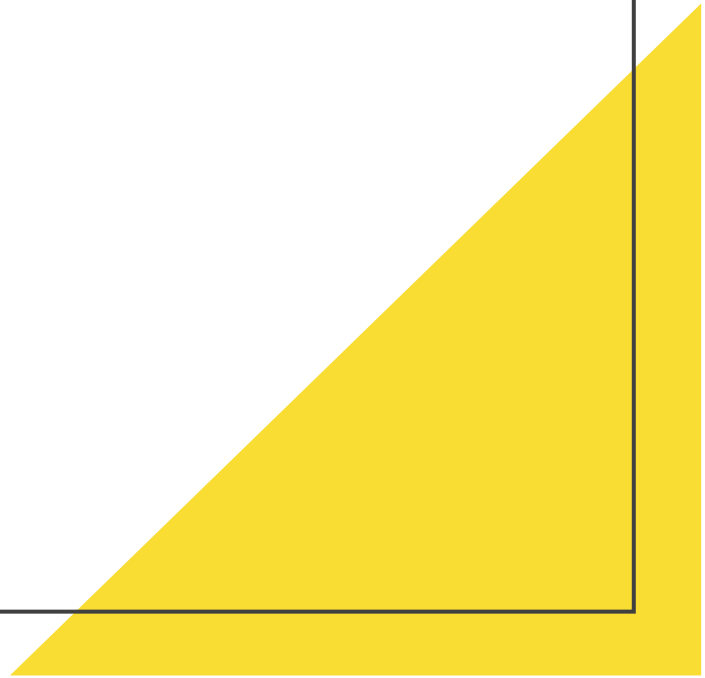
Award date: November 2024



# Time Commitment

This has been updated for the 2024 Award.

The work set out in the proposal must be the Principal Applicant's major commitment; comprising at least 50% of their research time.





# Post Award

The Trust pays the Award in arrears when invoices and financial backing information are submitted quarterly or biannually. The timing is agreed between the Trust and the PI's organisation.

An annual report is due at the end of each year of the Award. Payments may be withheld if the report is not submitted.

A final year report is due at the project completion.

The Trust reserves the right to request reports for five years after the completion date to gather impact data for the project.

# Suggestions for applications

The following types of proposals do well at review:

- A research programme that will be transformative and will make a very distinctive contribution that SJT can support.
- A clear timescale and trajectory in terms of how the research will benefit patients – this can be longer than the 5 years that the award covers but the pathway must be clear.
- The project should address a defined unmet need in a clinical group for which there will be a practical outcome.
- SJT accepts projects with an element of risk if it is well planned for, in order to reach ground-breaking outcomes.

Applicants should avoid the following:

- A research programme that focuses only on clinical application (i.e., a clinical trial) or only on mechanistic/pre-clinical work.

# FAQ's

## **What is the funding cap and how long is the Award?**

Applications for up to £1.7M of direct research costs up to five years are permitted.

## **What institutional commitment is required?**

The PI's institution is required to fund the PI's salary and cover indirect costs (overheads). In addition, there must be a visible strategic commitment to the research by the host institution.

## **What type of translational research does this Award fund?**

This Award funds translational research at the experimental medicine/first-in-human stage. Applications that balance applied translational work with some mechanism-based research tend to do well. Those that focus only on preclinical/mechanistic work or only on clinical application tend to fare less well.

# FAQ's

## **Can I submit a project that already has partial funding?**

The Trust will not support applications to supplement an existing project supported by other funding bodies. Applications submitted concurrently to other funders will be accepted but following shortlisting by the Trust would be conditional upon any such applications being withdrawn unless the Trust agrees otherwise. It is essential that any related applications are noted in the application form.

## **Can I apply for retrospective funding?**

The Trust will not support applications to cover expenditures already incurred.

## **What is the Trust's position on testing on animals?**

The Trust is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) and supports AMRC's Position statement on the use of animals in research.

*[...Whilst not all AMRC members fund research using animals as part of their strategy, they all support the principle of using animals in research, when necessary, to advance understanding and treatment of serious health conditions, where there is no alternative that can be used....]*

# FAQ's

## **What is the Trust's position on commercial partners?**

The Trust recognises that large-scale translation may require future investment from industry, but our charitable status means we can only fund work for public benefit. We cannot make awards which might - directly or indirectly - contribute to a commercial profit for a company. Applications therefore cannot be considered if a commercial company is supplying a cash grant, equipment, materials, drugs etc. at no cost in return for commercial use of the findings of the project.

Any future commercialisation of the research will be covered in an IP Agreement with the university, based on standard terms recommended by the AMRC.



# The Sir Jules Thorn

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### Questions?

Richard Benson, Trust Director – [email](#)

Allison Balsamo, Grants Manager – [email](#)