



# Introduction

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**Application forms are available from the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 with a closing date of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Since being founded, the Psoriasis Association has awarded millions of pounds in grants to research projects across the UK. The Psoriasis Association launched its first studentship grant in 2007 to support the training of graduate students leading to the presentation of a PhD. The Psoriasis Association is pleased to continue the commitment to the next generation of psoriasis researchers and offer a new round of PhD studentship grants in 2019.

The Psoriasis Association will consider applications that have clear relevance to their aim (to promote and fund research into the causes, nature and care of psoriasis and to publish and disseminate the results of that research) and contain a rigorous research focus. Applications that also address one of the Psoriasis PSP Top 10 research priorities will be looked on favourably and, providing the applications are of high scientific quality and good value for money, we expect to fund at least one PhD Studentship that meets this criteria.

The Psoriasis Association has a panel of specialists on their Medical and Research Committee who are tasked with analysing the quality and standard of the applications, along with the scientific merit of the research project, its suitability as a PhD project, and the research and training environment provided by the host department. The Medical and Research Committee are further supported by external peer reviewers who assess the quality of the applications, and the Experts by Experience Committee (made up of individuals who have experience of living with psoriasis) who assess the relevance and practicalities of the applications for people with psoriasis. Recommendations are then made to the Trustees of the Psoriasis Association who ultimately decide which projects / studentships are to be funded, at their meeting in March 2020.

## About the Award

- The Psoriasis Association PhD Studentship Grant is available to any UK based research institution seeking to fund research into psoriasis at a PhD Student level.
- The Psoriasis Association does not accept applications directly from prospective students.
- The Psoriasis Association will pay a fixed amount of £85,500 (£28,500 per year over 3 years).
- A travel bursary of up to £1,000 per successful PhD Student per grant may be requested towards costs associated with travel and registration for conferences. These must be fully justified and the PhD Student encouraged to present their work at the conference attended.



- An outreach grant of up to £500 is available per successful PhD Student per grant to allow the student to organise, carry out, or take part in science outreach events about psoriasis and psoriasis research. All costs must be fully justified and an application form is available on request.
- No more than one application can be submitted by a principal applicant per application round.
- No top ups or extensions are available for any reason.
- The maximum duration of the studentship is 3 years.
- Studentships must be activated within 12 months of the award letter.
- Studentship funding is claimed by authorised finance departments submitting invoices at annual intervals.
- The studentship will be subject to annual review when a scientific and lay report are to be submitted. Continuation is dependent on satisfactory progress.
- The Psoriasis Association's support is to be acknowledged in any relevant papers or presentations and copies forwarded to the Psoriasis Association office.
- A bound copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Psoriasis Association on completion of the PhD, for their library.
- Research outputs from the project must be recorded and submitted to Researchfish on an annual basis for the duration of the grant and for a minimum of two years following the end of the grant.

**The Psoriasis Association Medical and Research Committee has a conflict of interest policy. Applicants do not have the right to request inclusion or exclusion of particular members of the Committee from the deliberations on their applications.**

As part of the award process, the Psoriasis Association Medical and Research Committee use the following criteria when reviewing applications:-

- Value to patients with psoriasis
- Relevance to patients with psoriasis
- Relevance to the '[Psoriasis Top 10](#)' research priorities
- Scientific quality
- Value for money and appropriate costing
- Training environment
- Record of Principal Investigator reliability with previous Psoriasis Association research grants

### **Application procedures**

- The Psoriasis Association is seeking projects that are technically feasible and have aims that are achievable in a three year period.
- The funding of the PhD Studentships is possible due to individuals with psoriasis making donations. For this reason, the Psoriasis Association holds the lay application



in high regards as it demonstrates the ability to explain the research to those for whom it is intended. In addition, the lay application will be reviewed and scored by the Experts by Experience Committee whose scores are weighted as equal to the peer reviewers and Medical & Research Committee.

- Applicants should clearly demonstrate the quality of the training environment on offer and the training content of the proposed research project.
- Applications will only be accepted on an official Psoriasis Association PhD Application form. The original format and layout must not be altered. Complete using a clear typeface and preferably using a font no smaller than 11 point. The Psoriasis Association Medical and Research Committee, External Peer Reviewers, and Experts by Experience Committee consider clarity and accuracy, especially with regard to spelling, to be very important.
- Applications must be e-mailed and posted on or before the deadline date (6<sup>th</sup> December 2019). No excuses / explanations for the late arrival of applications will be considered nor are we able to insert additional sheets/forgotten appendices to an application once it has been submitted.
- The information that you provide as part of your application will be held securely by the Psoriasis Association and made available to reviewers involved in our Research Grants process. Unsuccessful applications will be destroyed after a period of two years, however, aggregate data will be kept for Psoriasis Association records.



## **Closing Date 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

### **E-mailing your Studentship Application**

Please e-mail the completed form by 23.59 on the deadline date of **6<sup>th</sup> December 2019**. If an application is not received by this deadline it will not be processed and there will be no exceptions to this rule.

**E-mail: [research@psoriasis-association.org.uk](mailto:research@psoriasis-association.org.uk)**

### **Posting your application**

You must also send the **original** single sided application form (completed in minimum font size 11pt) **containing all relevant wet signatures, together with 10 copies** to:

**Secretary  
Research Committee  
The Psoriasis Association  
Dick Coles House  
2 Queensbridge  
Northampton  
NN4 7BF**

To be postmarked on or before **6<sup>th</sup> December 2019**. If sent on the deadline date postage must be first class or a courier used. All attachments should also be copied and securely stapled to the back of each copy of the application form.

The Psoriasis Association will acknowledge receipt of each application once the paper copy has arrived. No further correspondence will be entered into until we inform you of the result of your application, unless further clarification is requested by the Research Committee.