

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

Of a Grant from the Lord Dowding Fund for Humane Research



Topics Supported

The Lord Dowding Fund is a department of the National Anti-Vivisection Society. We believe that animal-based research is totally inapplicable to medical progress, and has often retarded it. The Fund supports research aimed at replacing the use of laboratory animals.

Financial support is given for a wide range of projects including, for example, pure and applied research in the fields of biology, human and veterinary medicine, toxicology and teaching. A wide range of techniques is supported, including cell/tissue/organ culture, computer simulation, mathematical modelling, quantum pharmacology, chemical separation/analysis, epidemiology and genetic engineering.

Funding Available

Each application is considered on individual merits. As a general guideline, funding in the past has ranged from the purchase of simple one-off items of equipment through to complete funding of particularly interesting projects, including salaries for two or three years.

A first application should not exceed £75,000. Grants may be approved for a one year period, with renewal subject to satisfactory progress having been made.

Since its inception in 1973, the Fund has made grants totalling approaching £2 million.

1. Terms & Conditions, Restrictions

By completing an application to the Lord Dowding Fund for a grant, the applicant agrees to the following terms and conditions, in the event of a successful application.

These conditions, together with the completed application form, and the media guidelines, all form the contract between the applicant and the Lord Dowding Fund:

1.1. 'On Costs' or Overheads

As a non-profit organisation, supported entirely by public donations, the Lord Dowding Fund does not pay overheads or 'on-costs'.

1.2. UK-Based Projects

For practical reasons, only applications from researchers working within the UK will be considered.

1.3. Technical Restrictions

Applications are more likely to succeed if the project involves no animal tissues. A document entitled 'The Use of Animal-Derived Ingredients' is available from Lord Dowding Fund, which details the remit of the Fund on this subject, and provides alternative options to the use of animal-derived ingredients in research. It includes:

- Details of the Lord Dowding Fund's conditions and restrictions on the use of animal-derived ingredients, and why such a position is held
- A list of suppliers of monoclonal antibodies produced by methods which are suitable for use in projects awarded by the Fund
- A source list of serum-free media suppliers whose products can be used as alternatives to foetal calf serum for use in projects supported by the Fund

This document can be obtained directly from the Lord Dowding Fund, or found online at <http://navs.org.uk/research/grants/>.

It is unlikely that a grant will be approved for the use of animal tissues in culture. Preference will always be given to research using human tissues, except in cases of veterinary research where tissues from a naturally sick animal, whose individual disease is being studied as part of a course of treatment, are more appropriate.

Under no circumstances will research be sponsored where embryonated eggs (human or animal) are to be used, nor where a disease has been artificially induced into an animal during the course of veterinary research.

1.4 UK Licence to Experiment on Animals

Applicants must not hold a current licence under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986; or have held one in the past five years, or intend to apply for one in the foreseeable future. No animals must have been used in experiments outside the UK in the past five years.

1.5 Applications & Supervisors

Applications on behalf of junior scientists (graduate students, research assistants) must be made by a senior scientist (PhD supervisor or head of research group).

1.6 Progress Reports

Grantholders are required to supply six-monthly progress reports on their work, which will be treated as confidential unless the work has already been published. If a project has not yet got underway, a brief summary of the status of the research is required by the grantholder.

Reports are due in January and June each year, and applicants will be reminded of this requirement as the reports become due.

Upon completion of the project, a final technical report will be required. Final payment will be withheld until this is received.

1.7 Published Papers

Applicants will also supply a copy of any paper or article that they have published during their period of support from the Fund.

1.8 Publicity and Publications

The Lord Dowding Fund reserves the right to use abstracts from the grantholder's report in future publications, including the LDF Summary of Research Projects and for any other publicity purposes (please refer to the Media Guidelines – Section 7 of this document).

The Lord Dowding Fund reserves the right to publicise its funding of the grantholder's project as it deems appropriate and has final approval upon publicity material released (please refer to the Media Guidelines).

2. How to Apply

Applications for funding must be accompanied by:

- 2.1 A completed application form
- 2.2 Details of the proposed work, including estimates of the proposed duration and total costings. Where laboratory expendables are requested (e.g. glassware, reagents), an estimate of quantities required and prices must be supplied.
- 2.3 An estimate of relevance of the project to our primary aim, which is replacing the use of animals in biomedical research. This should include referenced details of the animal experiments that the project is designed to replace, and estimated numbers and species of animals involved.
- 2.4 A signed covering letter on institution-headed paper
- 2.5 A full CV for each applicant and any person for whom a salary is requested.
- 2.6 Names of appropriate scientific/medical referees.

3. The Application Process

The Lord Dowding Fund reserves the right to submit applications for peer review. Following further study and approval by the Fund's scientific department, applications are forwarded with recommendations to our board, which meets quarterly. For this reason there will be a delay of two to three months from receipt of the application.

Early application is essential, since it is sometimes necessary to take up references, raise queries, or we may request a visit to your premises to meet either the main applicant or all applicants. The board's decision is final.

Please do not contact us by telephone to chase progress. You will be informed immediately a decision is reached. If no decision has been reached but queries have been raised, you will be contacted immediately.

4. Payment

In the event of your application being successful, please note the following conditions which relate to the method of payment:

SALARIES are paid on a quarterly basis, upon receipt of your invoice, either in arrears or in advance.

RUNNING EXPENSES (equipment, reagents, etc) are paid when required, one month after receipt of your invoice.

5. Patents, Commercial Applications, Liability

Although the Lord Dowding Fund is a non-profit making organisation, the Fund expects to receive appropriate consideration, as investors, in any commercial benefits or enterprise arising out of projects developed with the Fund's financial support. Likewise, the Fund will need to take steps to protect itself from any potential liabilities arising from the application of any discoveries or developments arising from the Fund's financial support. The Fund will discuss, and make appropriate arrangements with grantholders, on a case-by-case basis.

6. Project Default

If, during the course of the project, either progress or reporting is unsatisfactory, the Lord Dowding Fund reserves the right to cancel the remainder of the funding.

If, during the course of the project, the grant-holder fails to adhere to the Terms and Conditions of Acceptance, the Lord Dowding Fund reserves the right to cancel the remainder of the funding.

MEDIA GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS:

7. Guidelines

Lord Dowding Fund (LDF) grantholders are required to respect the policies and aims of the organisation and not to contradict those policies and aims within any media interviews set up by the LDF Public Relations Department, in order to promote an LDF project.

Grantholders are not required to comment upon LDF policies and aims; comments should be restricted to their own project.

8. LDF Policies and Aims

- To support, sponsor and fund better methods of scientific and medical research for testing projects and curing disease which replace the use of animals.
- To promote and assist research for the purpose of showing that work on animals is harmful and unnecessary to humanity.
- Animal-based methods of research are flawed and consequently unreliable. The work of the LDF has shown that due to physiological, structural, and psychological differences between species, animal experiments are unreliable, unethical and unnecessary.
- The LDF is working towards ending the use of all animals in research. We do not in fact promote the '3 Rs' policy of reduction, refinement and replacement, although this does not preclude us from funding projects which might come into the '3Rs' category if we feel such projects are helpful to our ultimate aims.

We respect the views of grantholders who may disagree with this, and in return ask that grantholders accord similar respect to the reputation and views of the Fund in public, and do not comment upon policy matters such as this in public fora arranged by us to promote the work and projects of the Lord Dowding Fund.

LDF grantholders are not required to speak on behalf of the LDF; indeed, it is undesirable for grantholders to become involved in discussions about our policies and beliefs.

However, interviews about non-animal research methods, and specific projects, are encouraged and welcomed.

Please refer questions of policy directly to the LDF Public Relations Department.

LDF grantholders are required to ensure that the support of the LDF is acknowledged in any media interviews.

9. Conditions

Photography:

The LDF requires its grantholders to participate in photoshoots to provide material for publicity purposes: for the organisation's magazine, leaflets, press and television publicity. The grantholder may recommend which shots they feel most suitable for use but the final choice must remain with the LDF Public Relations Department, who are best placed to understand the needs of different media.

While it is acceptable for a grantholder to recommend which material may be most useful, the final decision remains with the LDF.

Press releases and publicity material:

Press releases are written, approved and distributed by the LDF PR Department. Only quotes attributed to grantholders will be subject to approval by the grantholder. Exceptions will be made if the grantholder's quote is not in line with LDF policies and aims.

The grantholder is invited to provide comments on the content of the press release, if necessary, but final approval rests with the LDF.

The LDF reserves the right to publicise the grantholder's report, in part or in full, as appropriate.

Third parties:

Third parties do not have final approval on LDF publicity campaigns or material, including the public relations departments of educational establishments.

If requested, the LDF is willing to work with third party public relations teams, and keep them informed of media activity, copying to them press releases as a matter of courtesy. Comments and suggestions will be taken on board. However, final approval upon published material submitted to the media remains with the LDF.

Third parties should request contact with the LDF PR Department at the onset of a project in order for good communications to be established.

10. Background

Founded in 1973, the Lord Dowding Fund for Humane Research has awarded grants totalling over £1m to researchers working on a wide range of fields including microsurgery, toxicity testing of dental fillings, breast and lung cancer, product safety testing, Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, cot deaths, cataracts, kidney research, cell culture, computer-aided drug design, biotechnology, brain damage, and computer teaching packages which replace the use of animals in education of students at school and university level.

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