

GOSH Charity National Research Project Grants

Scheme Guidance

About GOSH Charity

Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity (GOSH Charity) is the UK's largest dedicated funder of child health research. We are committed to accelerating paediatric health research and transforming the lives of seriously ill children through research-led care. Under our 2023-2028 [Research Strategy](#), we will invest at least £70m into paediatric disease research.

National Research Project Grants Overview

The National Research Project Grants (formerly known as the National Funding Call) is the UK's largest regular funding scheme dedicated towards research projects into rare or complex paediatric disease and the Charity's longest running response-mode funding scheme. £2.5 million is available to support eligible child health research project grant applications from researchers across the UK.

The Charity's new [Grant Management System](#) has now launched. All applicants are required to submit their outline applications through the Grant Management System. We will only accept and consider applications submitted through the Grant Management System.

Please refer to [Appendix 1](#) for guidance on how to access and use the new system.

Remit

GOSH Charity is inviting project grant applications for proposals focusing on paediatric rare or complex disease. The call will support research across the spectrum of medical conditions affecting the foetus, neonates and children directly, as well as pregnancy disorders that affect the child.

For the purposes of this call, we apply the following definitions:

- Rare: prevalence of less than 1 in 2,000 in the UK.
- Ultra-rare: prevalence of less than 1 in 50,000 in the UK.
- Complex: a condition which is multi-system, multimorbidity, with multiple aetiologies and requiring multidisciplinary care.

All projects must aim to improve understanding of the disease or associated conditions, or to improve outcomes for the affected child. Proposals will be expected to have the potential to lead to new medical developments or improved healthcare (e.g. diagnostic tools or novel interventions) through laboratory and/or clinically based research. Qualitative and mixed-methods research projects, including healthcare management for specific childhood conditions or groups of closely related conditions, are also welcomed. Applicants must clearly articulate the route to clinical application and potential for patient benefit, regardless of where their proposed studies are positioned along the basic-to-applied research continuum.

If you are in any doubt regarding the remit eligibility of your proposed project, please contact the Grant Funding Team at grantenquiries@gms.grants.org.

Eligibility

This is a national funding call that is open to independent researchers based anywhere in the UK. You do not need to have a co-applicant or collaborator from Great Ormond Street Hospital or UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health to be eligible to apply. Investigators can apply to this call as a lead applicant if they:

- Are an independent researcher who holds a salaried academic research post or a research fellowship.
- Are able to employ a team and, if applying for a lab-based project, able to access dedicated laboratory space to enable delivery of the project.
- Have authority to financially manage their own grants (in collaboration with the finance teams at the organisation).

Your salary must be covered through to the end of the grant period, or a supporting letter must be provided by your organisation guaranteeing your continued employment throughout the duration of the grant. Exemptions apply for applicants that hold early career fellowships; please see 'Fellowship Holders' in the Eligible Costs section for more information.

Researchers may only submit one application as lead applicant, so we recommend that you submit your strongest project proposal. You may, however, be named a co-applicant on other applications to the same call, provided you would be able to deliver against both projects if they were funded.

Early Career Researchers

As a way of increasing and maintaining capacity in this critical research area, we are particularly interested in supporting projects from promising applicants at an early career stage. To this end, while we are committed to supporting high-quality research regardless of career stage, if a funding decision is required between applications of equivalent quality that are deemed *equally competitive*, those from early career researchers (ECRs) will be prioritised.

For the purpose of this call, we would consider an ECR as someone:

- Who holds a PhD or has equivalent experience.
- Who has attracted less than £350,000 total grant income as PI (excluding income for their own salary such as fellowships).
- Who does not hold a tenured academic position.

Funding Available

A total of **£2.5 million** is available for the 2026/27 round of the National Research Project Grants. Total costs between £50,000 and £350,000 per application will be considered, for a maximum project duration of 36 months.

Eligible Costs

These grants will cover direct research costs associated with the project. Examples of eligible costs include:

- Salaries for research staff, including post-doctoral research associates, research assistants, research nurses, technicians, statisticians, technologists, methodologists,

etc. This excludes PhD studentships, consultant programmed activities and the apprenticeship levy. The salary of the lead applicant is not usually eligible for funding through this scheme, but exemptions apply under certain conditions for applicants that hold early career fellowships – please see the ‘Fellowship Holders’ section below.

- Consumables costs.
- Animal costs.
- Equipment costs for items essential to the project. Please note that single equipment items costing more than £10,000 should be discussed with the Grants Team prior to submission and would generally be expected to be co-funded at 50% by the applicant’s institution. Where there is an option to borrow or share an existing equipment item, this should always be pursued before proposing to purchase a new item.
- Travel and conference fees. We allow funding for attending relevant conferences up to £5000 across the whole grant. Additionally, £5000 is available across the whole grant for organising a conference or workshop in a relevant rare disease area. Please note that plans for the conference/workshop must be aligned with the overall research proposal, and that this cost must be part of the total award of up to £350,000.
- Patient and public involvement, engagement and participation. Examples include honorarium payments for time and/or expenses incurred when attending in-person meetings. Please refer to [NIHR payment guidance for researchers and professionals](#). Costs incurred prior to an award may not be requested.

National Research Project Grants will not cover medical costs or any other costs that should be covered by the NHS.

The examples provided above are not an exhaustive list and all costs requested should be carefully considered and fully justified within the application. If you are in any doubt regarding the eligibility of a proposed cost, please contact the Grants Team at grantenquiries@gms.grants.org.

Fellowship Holders

Typically, lead applicants must have their salary covered until the end of the grant. We offer exemptions for early career fellowship holders, who can cost a pre-defined portion of salary if applying as lead applicant. This will only be permitted if the Project Grant would extend past the end of fellowship funding and will be limited to a maximum of 50% of the grant duration.

For example, if an applicant is applying for a 3-year project, they would be able to cost up to 18 months of their salary to the grant. If their fellowship does not fully cover the remaining 18 months of the project duration, salary will need to be funded from other sources and details of this must be provided in the application form.

Lead applicant salary costs will only be permitted where applicants have contacted the Grant Funding Team (grantenquiries@gms.grants.org) to confirm eligibility prior to submission.

Research Partners

We are delighted to extend the reach of this call by offering, in association with our research partners, the possibility of joint funding for projects focusing on their respective areas of interest. This year we are proud to partner with a number of rare disease charities:

- [Action for A-T](#) – Ataxia telangiectasia.
- [DEBRA UK](#) - Epidermolysis bullosa.
- [Myotubular Trust](#) – Myotubular and centronuclear myopathy.
- [The Norrie Disease Foundation](#) – Norrie disease.

All applications that fit the remit of the call, including those focusing on one of the research partner areas, will be assessed in open competition through the same stringent assessment process. Meeting the requirements of any of our research partners will not be used as a criterion to score applications.

If an application in a partner disease area is shortlisted, the outline application will be shared with the relevant partner. Our research partners may choose to offer support from a Lived Experience Expert perspective to shortlisted applications relevant to their disease area if they wish, ahead of full application submission. Please note this engagement is optional by the partner charity. Within the application form, we ask for confirmation that you are happy for your application to be shared with, and for you to be contacted by, our research partners if your application is relevant to their disease area and has been shortlisted.

If your application receives a fundable score and is deemed competitive, the co-funding arrangements with the research partners will be formalised after the award decision is made, i.e. the research partner will only have the option to co-fund a relevant application if it has been selected for an award.

Application Process

Applications will be managed by GOSH Charity. GOSH Charity is a member of the Academy of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) and as such, we ensure the research we fund meets the highest possible standards of quality, accountability, transparency, and openness. The application will involve a two-stage process: an initial outline application and, if shortlisted, invitation to a full application stage that will include external peer review.

Applicants requiring any reasonable adjustments to support completion of their application are encouraged to contact the Grants Team at grantenquiries@gms.grants.org, as early as possible.

Applications

Our new [Grant Management System](#) is **now live**. From this point, applicants must enter and submit their responses through the new system, including transferring any answers prepared in advance.

As this is a new system, we **strongly encourage** applicants to access the system and begin preparing their application as early as possible, and to allow additional time before the submission deadline in case any issues arise and support is needed.

For step-by-step guidance on accessing the [Grant Management System](#), registering or logging in, starting an application, sharing access with co-applicants or collaborators, and navigating the application form, please see [Appendix 1](#).

All applications must be submitted via the [Grant Management System](#). The deadline for submission on our [Grant Management System](#) is **3pm, Thursday 16 July 2026**.

Signatories and co-applicants must be added to the application prior to submission. You should allow ample time for your application – particularly its financial details – to be reviewed by your host institution's research office or equivalent entity *before submission*.

We have been experiencing technical issues with signatory emails for those that do not already have an account when added to this section. So, we strongly recommend asking your signatories to create an account in the system (if they don't already have one) before adding them to the application.

Please note that signatory sign-off must occur before the final deadline of 16 July 2026, so ensure that you leave plenty of time for submission ahead of the deadline.

Full details about the application process and timelines can be found in the table below:

National Research Project Grants 2026-27 Timeline	
w/c 4 May 2026	National Research Project Grants outline application questions are published
15 May 2026	Applicant Guidance Webinar
Mid-June 2026	Outline applications open on grant management system
3pm, 16 July 2026	Deadline for outline applications
August 2026	Review of eligible outline applications by Research Assessment Panel (RAP)
September 2026	Shortlisted applicants invited to submit a full application
Mid-October 2026	Deadline for full applications
October - early December 2026	External peer review of full applications
Mid- December 2026 - mid January 2027	Rebuttal period – invitation to rebut peer review comments
Early February 2027	Research Patient Insight Panel Meeting – review of lay summaries and PPIE plans
February 2027	RAP Meeting – Final review of applications and funding recommendations made
March 2027	Funding awarded by the Charity's Grants and Impact Committee
Late March 2027	Issuing of Grant Award Letters

Assessment

GOSH Charity assesses research applications using three key criteria:

- 1. Scientific quality.** GOSH Charity is committed to funding only the highest quality scientific research. For all applications, we consider whether proposals are underpinned by a good scientific rationale; whether the proposed approach, methodology and analyses are sound; and whether the research is competitive in the national and international landscapes. Applicant teams are also assessed on whether they have sufficient expertise to carry out the intended research.
- 2. Patient benefit.** While we recognise that many projects will be in early-stage research and so will not have direct impact on patients for some time, it is essential that the research will, in time, have a positive impact on children with rare or complex health conditions. Clinical need, PPIE activities, and opportunities for downstream development are all considered under this metric.
- 3. Deliverability.** We need to ensure that all the research we fund can be successfully delivered. We expect applications to have clearly defined project plans, timelines and milestones with defined risks and plans for their mitigation. We consider whether the requested costs are appropriate and sufficient to deliver the research. Finally, we consider sustainability and whether applicants have clear plans for continuing to take the work through the research pipeline to clinical delivery.

In order to be funded, applications will need to score sufficiently highly against each of these three metrics. All applications are reviewed equally, regardless of the rare disease studied. Every rare paediatric condition is important to GOSH Charity, and weighting is not added to funding decisions based on the number of patients impacted.

All applications are assessed by the GOSH Charity [Research Assessment Panel](#) with input from a lived experience panel – the GOSH Charity Research Patient Insight Panel. These Panels have a different role to play in the assessment process, as summarised below.

Research Assessment Panel

The role of the [Research Assessment Panel](#) is to assess research funding applications for the National Research Project Grants and provide recommendations on which proposals are of the highest scientific quality, with the greatest potential for patient benefit and alignment with the Charity's Research Strategy. RAP includes around 15 clinician or scientist members who are external to GOSH, GOS ICH, or GOSH Charity, and whose expertise covers a wide spread of clinical and paediatric health areas.

RAP are responsible for making the shortlisting and final funding recommendations.

Research Patient Insight Panel

The role of the Research Patient Insight Panel is to provide perspective based on lived experience of paediatric healthcare. This Panel helps the Charity ensure we fund research which will have the maximum benefit for patients with rare or complex health conditions, that the research is suitably described for sharing with the public.

Lived experience experts will assess specific parts of applications for the National Research Project Grants, namely the lay summaries and PPIE sections. Their scores will feed into the scientific review by the Research Assessment Panel, who will make the final funding recommendations. Feedback given by the Research Patient Insight Panel may dictate conditions of award, which applicants will need to act on to receive an award.

COVID-19 Statement

As funders, we have signed a cross-funder statement coordinated by the Academy of Medical Sciences, on the COVID-19 institutional memory: how we as funders will look to fairly remember and recognise the impacts of COVID-19 on grant applicants' work in the future.

As part of this statement, we would like to reassure our research community that we are aware of the immediate and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on research activities. Any disruptions to research activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be taken into consideration by our panels and committees when assessing an individual applicant's record of outputs, research achievements, and career progression in future grant rounds.

You can read and download the full statement [here](#).

Reasonable Adjustments

We want to ensure our application process is accessible to all who wish to apply. Therefore, if you require any additional support or reasonable adjustments to complete your application, please contact the GOSH Charity Grants Team at grantenquiries@gms.grants.org.

Diversity Monitoring

Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity strives to reflect the communities in which it operates. We are committed to a policy of Equal Opportunities and applications for funding are welcome regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, ethnic origin, or religious belief.

The information we collect in application forms helps us to:

- Monitor who is applying for and benefiting from our funding.
- Identify potential barriers to accessing our funding opportunities.
- Assess whether inequalities in funding outcomes exist.
- Improve our processes to ensure our funding is fair, inclusive, and representative.

This information is handled in line with [our privacy policy](#).

The Charity may share anonymised, aggregated data with our senior leadership team, committees and trustees, and with other funders or other sector bodies for the purpose of sector research and analysis. In the future, we may publish anonymised, aggregated data on our website.

Further Information

If you have any questions about the scheme or your application, please contact the GOSH Charity Grants Team at grantenquiries@gms.grants.org.

The deadline for submission of outline applications is 3pm, Thursday 16 July 2026.

Appendix 1: Guidance for creating an application using the new Grant Management System

As this is a new system and this will be the first funding process through the new system, we strongly encourage applicants to access the system and begin preparing their application as early as possible, and to allow additional time before the submission deadline in case of any technical issues and support being required.

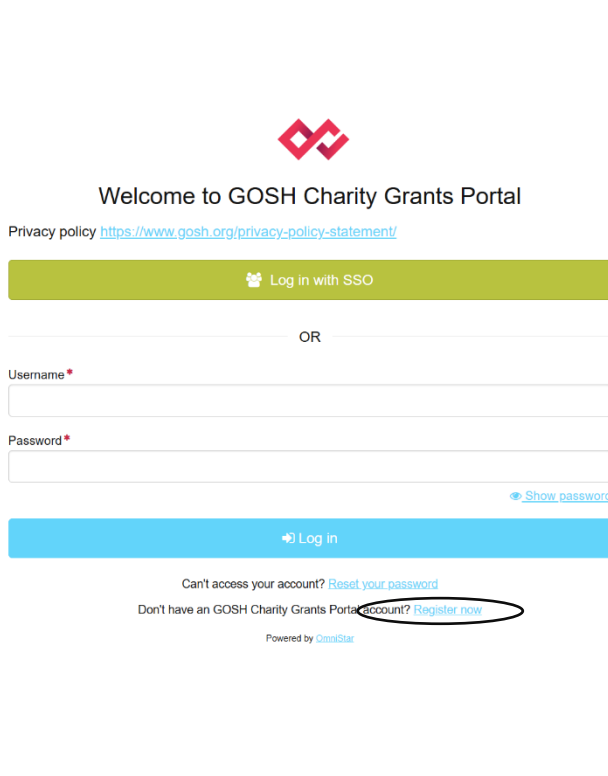
If you experience any issues, please contact the Grants Team as early as possible so that we can provide support (grantenquiries@gms.grants.org).

Logging in or registering

When you access the Grant Management System, you will be asked to log in.

If you previously had an account with us on our old system, please select Reset your password to access your account on the new system.

If you have not previously had an account with us, please select Register now to create a new account.



The screenshot shows the 'Welcome to GOSH Charity Grants Portal' page. It features a red diamond logo at the top. Below the welcome message is a link to the privacy policy: <https://www.gosh.org/privacy-policy-statement/>. There is a green button labeled 'Log in with SSO'. Below this is an 'OR' separator. The login section includes fields for 'Username' and 'Password', with a 'Show password' link next to the password field. A blue 'Log in' button is at the bottom of the login section. Below the login button are two links: 'Can't access your account? [Reset your password](#)' and 'Don't have an GOSH Charity Grants Portal account? [Register now](#)'. At the very bottom, it says 'Powered by [ControlStar](#)'.

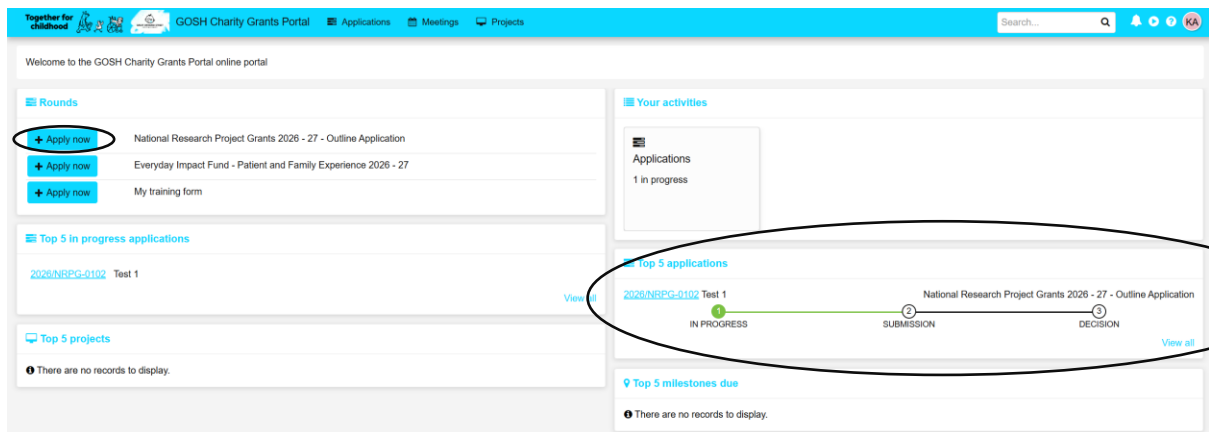


Grant application portal dashboard

Once you have logged in, you will be taken to the grant application portal dashboard.

To start a new application, select Apply now.

You will also be able to see any applications that are currently in progress, provided that you are either the lead applicant or you have been given view or edit access to an application.



Application Form

Once you have selected Apply now, you will be taken to the application form.

You can move through the application form by selecting Next at the bottom of each page, or by using the tabs on the left-hand side of the screen to move between sections.

You can save your application as you work through the form. You can also preview your application as a PDF before submitting.

Together for childhood  GOSH Charity Grants Portal [Navigate to home](#) [Help](#) [Meetings](#) [Projects](#) [KA](#)

Application > 2026/NRPG-0102 - Test 1 [Invite user to register or share application](#)

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Lead Applicant Details

COVID- 19 (Optional)

Co-Applicant Details

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Proposed Investigation

Public & Patient Involvement Activities

Financial Support Required

Declaration and Signatures

Introduction

GOSH Charity is inviting project grant applications for paediatric health research studies focusing on complex or rare diseases. The call will support research across the spectrum of medical conditions affecting the foetus, neonates and children directly, as well as pregnancy disorders that affect the child.

All projects must aim to improve understanding of the disease or associated conditions or to improve outcomes for the affected child. Proposals will be expected to have the potential to lead to new medical developments or improved healthcare (e.g. diagnostic tools, novel interventions) through laboratory and/or clinically based research. Qualitative and mixed-methods research projects, including healthcare management and service delivery for specific childhood diseases/conditions or groups of closely related conditions, are also welcomed. Applicants must clearly articulate the route to clinical application and/or potential for patient benefit, regardless of where their proposed studies are positioned along the basic-to-applied research continuum.

Application Approval and Sign off

Please allow plenty of time for internal approvals prior to the deadline. It is important to note that submitting the application form via the submission button means the form has been sent to signatories for final approval and not yet GOSH Charity. The application form is only received by GOSH Charity once all signatories have signed off the application. Please see below for an overview of the process.

- 1) Applicant starts application and assigns signatories
- 2) Applicants submit application
- 3) Application goes to signatories for approval
- 4) Signatories give final sign-off on the application (this must occur on or before the final submission deadline)

Further information and questions

For full details of the call, including eligibility and allowed costs, please refer to our website. For any questions about applying to this call, please contact the Grants team at Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity on grantsenquiries@gosh.org.

Consent for Publicity and Promotion

If your application is successful, GOSH Charity may share your name, award details, and project outcomes for promotional purposes. This could include use on our website, social media, newsletters, press releases, or other communications. Full details for successful applications will be set out in the Terms & Conditions.

Where did you hear about this funding call?

☐ GOSH Charity Website

☐ Your University

☐ Colleague

☐ Directly from the charity

☐ From a research partner charity

☐ Other

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Applicant details

In the application form, the lead applicant and any co-applicants will be asked to provide their **Position**. This field is not mandatory, but applicants may use it to enter their current salaried job title.

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Lead Applicant Details

Investigators can apply to this call as a lead applicant if they:

- Are an independent researcher who holds a salaried academic research post or a research fellowship.
- Are able to employ a team and, if applying for a lab-based project, able to access dedicated laboratory space to enable delivery of the project.
- Have authority to financially manage their own grants (in collaboration with the finance teams at the organisation)
- Please contact the GOSH Charity Grants team at grants@gosh.org should you have any further questions or to discuss your eligibility.

Lead Applicant

Title First name Family name Email

Address

Position Institution Department

☐ I have searched for the **position** and need to add it manually ☐ I have searched for the **institution** and need to add it manually

Please upload a PDF copy of your CV (1 page maximum) *

[Drop files to attach, or browse](#)

Please only include up to five of your most relevant publications and any recent grant income related to this proposal.

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Are you applying to this grant with a co-applicant? *

☒ Yes ☐ No

Co - Applicant Details

Please add the names of any co-applicants and invite them to participate in the application. A co-applicant is someone who has input into the project. A maximum of five co-applicants can be added. Please click "Add Contact" and search for the person as they may currently exist in our system. If the co-applicant cannot be found on the system it will ask you to "Add Person", then enter their name and email address and invite them to register.

Co - Applicant

[Search Name](#)

[Add contact](#)

☐ I have searched for the contact and need to add it manually

Title First name Family name Email

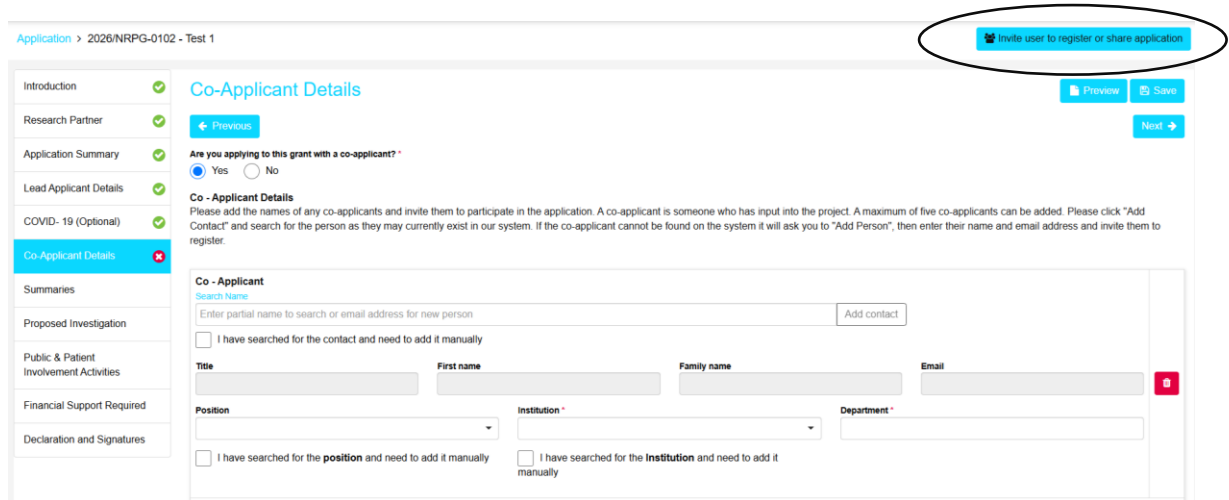
Position Institution Department

☐ I have searched for the **position** and need to add it manually ☐ I have searched for the **institution** and need to add it manually

[Add Person](#)

If your application includes one or more co-applicants, you can add their details to the application form.

Please note that adding a co-applicant to the form does not automatically give them access to the application. To allow a co-applicant or collaborator to view or edit the application, you must use the Invite user to register or share application function.



Inviting users to register or share an application

The Invite user to register or share application allows you to collaborate with others by sharing your application.

Using this function, you can control whether another user has view or edit access to the application.

If the individual already has an account, the system will share the application with them. If they do not yet have an account, the system will invite them to register. The system will automatically identify which action is required.

