

Welcome



RSTMH
DEDICATED TO GLOBAL HEALTH SINCE 1907

Early Career Grants 2024

Application Guidance Webinar

Tuesday 20th February 2024

Agenda



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- Welcome
- Introduction to RSTMH
- Early Career Grants Programme – an overview
- Eligibility and scope
- Application form
- Review process & maximising success
- Top tips!
- Further information
- Q&A

Who we are and what we do



RSTMH
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- Established in 1907 in the UK
- A membership body for people working in or interested in tropical medicine and global health
- A charity, membership through a subscription
- Over 1,700 members in more than 100 countries
- Network of 20,000 researchers and professionals,
- Team of 8 with almost 1,000 volunteers

What we aim to do and how



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- We aim to save lives, eliminate disease, improve equity and access to health
- We achieve our aims by
 - Supporting and helping our members' careers
 - Trying to bring about change in research, funding, policy or awareness
 - Through the strengths of our members collective knowledge and expertise
 - Using our unique position as an independent organisation

The activities we deliver



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- Two peer-reviewed journals – *Transactions* monthly for members and *International Health* every 2 months for all
- Global meetings and events
- Global early career grants for researchers and professionals
- Travel scholarships for our events
- Medals and awards to celebrate success (for members)
- Guidance and training for all and additional for members
- www.growglobal.health website for courses, funds, jobs, PHD, research and voluntary placements

Member benefits



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- **NEW:** Members have unique access to RSTMH funded Early Career Grants
- Access to our peer-reviewed journal, Transactions, a 10% discount on open access fees for our journals
- Eligibility to nominate and be nominated for our medals & awards
- Discounted rates to RSTMH meetings and events as well as access to our travel scholarships for our events
- Access to our Country Ambassador & Student Ambassador programmes
- A fortnightly newsletter that contains exclusive news & opportunities
- Opportunities to be part of, and shape a global community

Member pricing



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Membership types

A one-year subscription costs £90 (£105 if you opt to receive *Transactions* in hard copy), discounted to £30 for those working in low- and middle-income countries, £40 for early careers, and £20 for students and retired professionals. We also offer preferential rates for multi-year subscriptions.

- Electronic access only (1 year) - £90
- Electronic access only (3 years) - £250
- Electronic access only (5 years) - £400
- Electronic plus print access (1 year) - £105
- Electronic plus print access (3 years) - £285
- Electronic plus print access (5 years) - £475
- Low and lower-middle income country - £30
- Early career - £40
- Retired - £20
- Retired Fellow - £10
- Student - £20

Sign up by 31st Mar and receive 20% discount with code
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Any questions on RSTMH membership?

Early Career Grants Programme



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- Early Career Grants Programme is for early career researchers and professionals working, studying tropical medicine or global health
- The grants are up to £5,000 for projects lasting up to 1 year
- For those without research funding in their name of £5,000 or more
- Applicants can be of any nationality, based anywhere, from a range of disciplines and sectors, conducting research from lab to policy

Nationalities of 2023 applicants

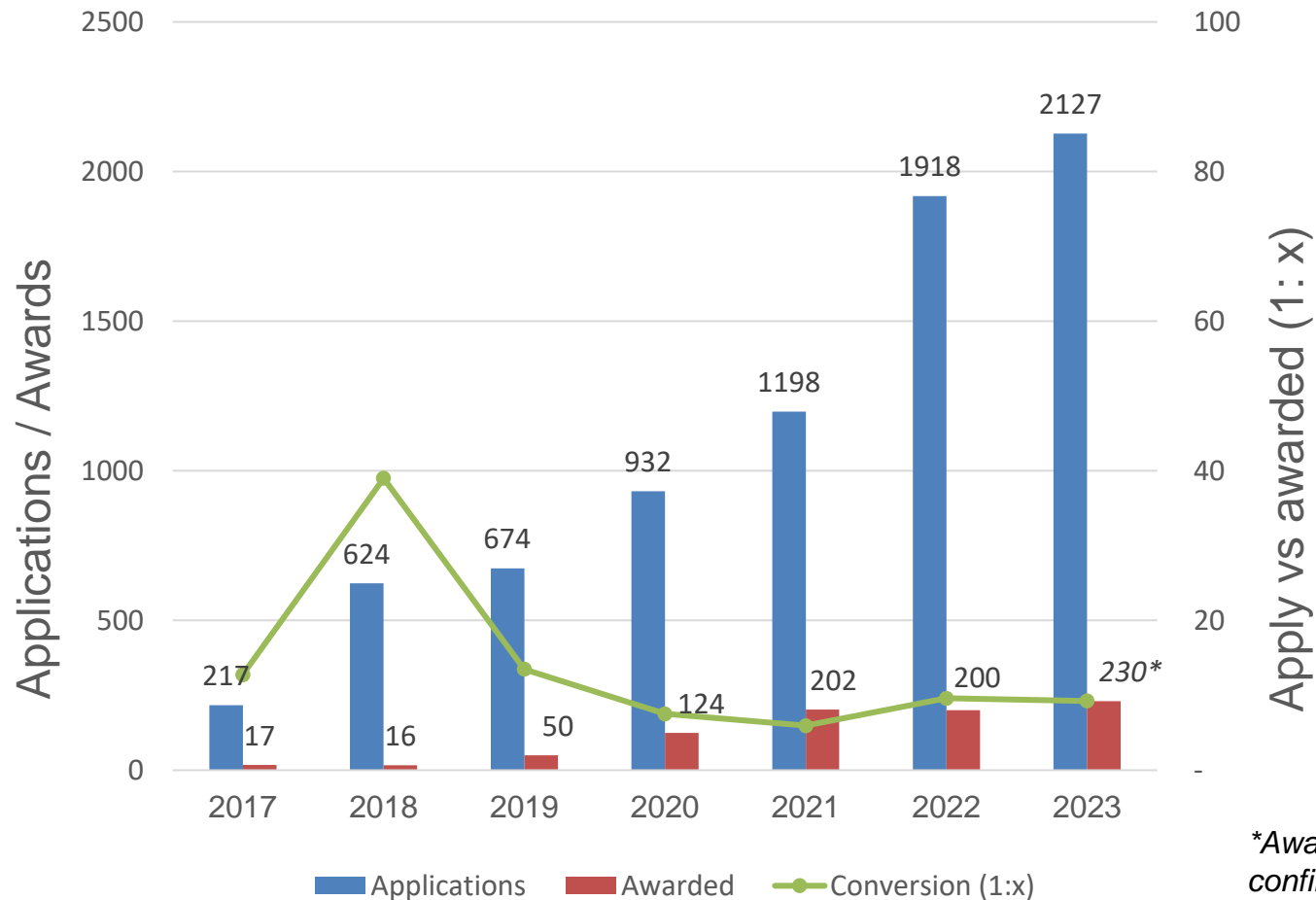


Early Career Grants Programme



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Snapshot of applicants and awardees 2017- 2023

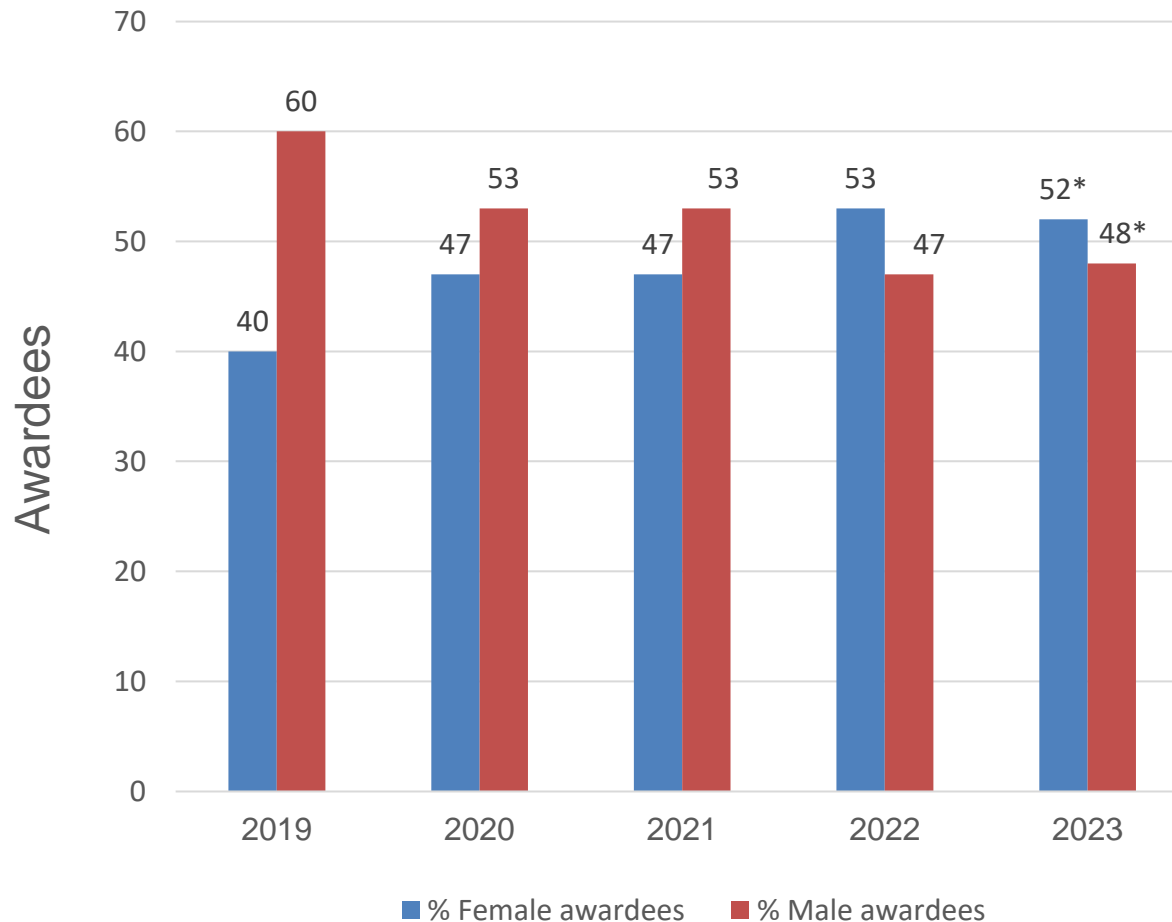


Early Career Grants Programme



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Awardee % split by gender



**Awardees still being confirmed - % may change*

Early Career definition



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- You **should not have had** research funding in your own name before of £5,000 or more, or equivalent in other currencies
- You **should be able to**
 - Carry out research under adequate supervision
 - Have the ambition to develop knowledge of research methodologies and discipline
 - Have demonstrated a good understanding of a field of study
 - Demonstrate the ability to produce data under supervision
 - Use critical analysis, evaluation and be able to synthesise new and complex ideas
 - Competently explain the outcome of their research and value thereof to colleagues

Eligibility



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Who can apply?

- Anyone in Early Career stage with a research topic related to global health or tropical medicine
- More experienced professionals NEW to research
- RSTMH Members and non-members
- Previously declined applicants
- Individuals who have received an RSTMH travel grant
- Students – grant can only fund project however (not tuition fees)

Who can't apply?

- Individuals not at early career stage (as per our definition)
- Previous awardees of an RSTMH Early Career Grant/Small Grant
- Supervisors of an ongoing RSTMH Grant or applicant this year
- Global Assessors who want to review ECG applications this year

Eligibility continued



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You will need

- A personal bank account
- Contact details – same email and phone number for next 2 years
- A **supportive** supervisor for the duration of your project
- References from your Supervisor & Senior member from your organisation **by the deadline**
- To start your project between Sept and Dec 2024
- To complete the form in english

You cannot

- Submit more than one application per person per year
- Apply as part of a pair, a group or an institution
- Get funding for a project that has been started or completed
- Change your project once awarded – location, methodology, timing
- Transfer the grant to someone else or to your institution

Scope of grants

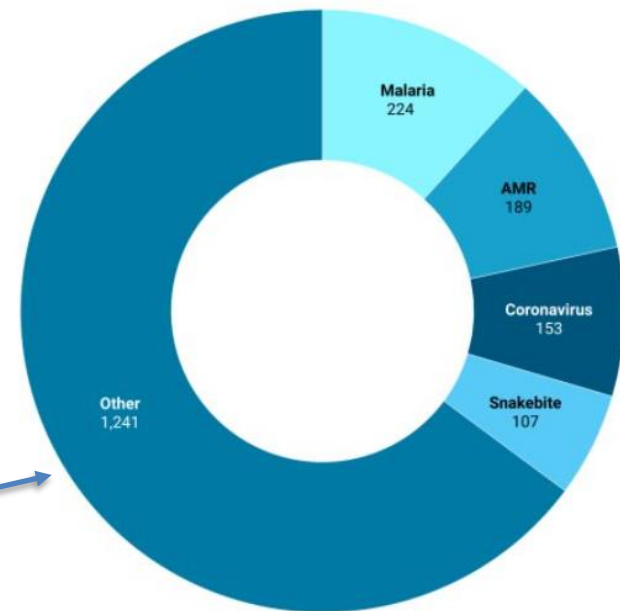


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- Projects can be clinical or scientific research and/or fieldwork, either as stand-alone projects or distinct elements within a larger project.
- Applications can be on any disease or health area of tropical medicine or global health that affects low resource settings, so could include
 - Infectious diseases
 - NTDs
 - Non-communicable diseases
 - Malaria, TB and HIV
 - Climate change
 - Comorbidities
 - Maternal and child health
 - AMR and drug resistance
 - One health and planetary health

Disease areas

Malaria AMR Coronavirus Snakebite Other



2022 awarded: 2/3 topics fell into 'other' categories e.g. cancer, One Health, Zoonotic infections, diabetes, climate change, NCD etc

Scope of grants



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Confirmed partners for 2024. More to follow...



Timeline



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Stages	Dates
Open for applications	22 January 2024
Deadline for applications	22 April 2024 (12pm BST)
Assessment period	May – August 2024
Funding payments made	September 2024
Project start	By December 2024
Project finish	By December 2025
Reports due	By March 2026

Please note: If you are not able to deliver your project or report to these timings (notwithstanding unexpected changes) then please do consider whether you should apply this year.

Application form



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Split into 5 sections:

1. Personal details
2. Qualifications/experience
3. Project details
4. Personal statement: How would an Early Career grant impact your career?
5. Referee details

Application form



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1. Your personal details

2. Membership - Applications can be submitted from non-members but, if successful, membership fees would be paid for by a donor for period of project. Existing RSTMH members eligible for RSTMH grants

1. Personal email address - Used for all communications relating to your application and if successful, an Early Career Grant. Needs to be valid for next 2 years.

2. Your qualifications and (professional) experience

1. Employing organisation - You should ideally be employed to apply for a grant, but we do consider applications from individuals who aren't e.g., students. Please provide details of supporting organization/institution if you are not

1. Experience, achievements and qualifications - This is predominantly for those early in their overall careers. We expect applicants to have not received research funding in their own name before and be able to fulfil the eligibility criteria. Please be honest about your experience

Application form



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3. Your project

- **Title of project (20 words)** - Make it clear, descriptive and concise
- **Non-technical description (100 words)** - Provide a summary of your project for people who are not familiar with your subject
- **Project start and end date** - The project should start between September and December 2024 and be completed within a year
- **Research project in a laboratory** - This is to determine the extent of lab use in your project
- **Detailed project statement (1500 words)** – Suggested headings in the form
- **References (1000 words)** – Suggested style in the form
- **Progress stages of research** - State the progress you aim to reach for your project every quarter (March – December 2025), and any potential challenges which may impede progress
- **Other research funding in your name before** - Please provide information of all other research grant awards

Application form - Budget



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Example of a good project budget (GBP £)

Budget item	Quantity	Unit cost (£)	Total amount (£)	Rationale
2 training days for 6 research assistants	2	£50	£100	This will cover meals and transport refund for the research assistants and facilitators during the 2-day training sessions.
Payment of research assistants for data collection	6	£36.50	£2,190	Each research assistant will be paid £36.5 per day for 10 days of data collection. This will compensate them for their time and efforts in collecting data.
Participant compensation per interview	35	£3	£105	Participants for the 35 qualitative interviews will be compensated £3 each for their time during the study.
Hiring research supervisors	2	£400	£800	Each research supervisor will be paid £400 for supervising and assisting the research assistants during the data collection exercise.
Designing and printing materials	1	£250	£250	This will cover the cost of designing and printing educational materials, which will be used to sensitize the community about snakebites and their prevention.
Hiring tablets	8	£6.25	£50	8 tablets will be hired for data collection as they will help in recording and storing data
Fuel expenses	500	£0.50	£250	Cover fuel costs for the research team in moving to and from the study area (4 cars, 125 miles each at £0.50 per mile)
Ethical review	1	£250	£250	This will cover the cost of obtaining ethical approval from the Institutional Review Board, which is mandatory for any research involving human participants.
Total			£3,995	

- Budgets should be clear, with as much detail as possible. Use headings in form!
- Keep receipts...
- Eligible and ineligible costs in [Terms & Conditions](#)

Application form - UPDATE



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4. How would an Early Career grant impact your career?

- **Impact on your career (200 words)** - Please tell us how carrying out this project would help you to progress your career. This can include new roles or additional funding as well as developing new skills, networks or experiences. **An opportunity to talk about YOU**

5. Referee details

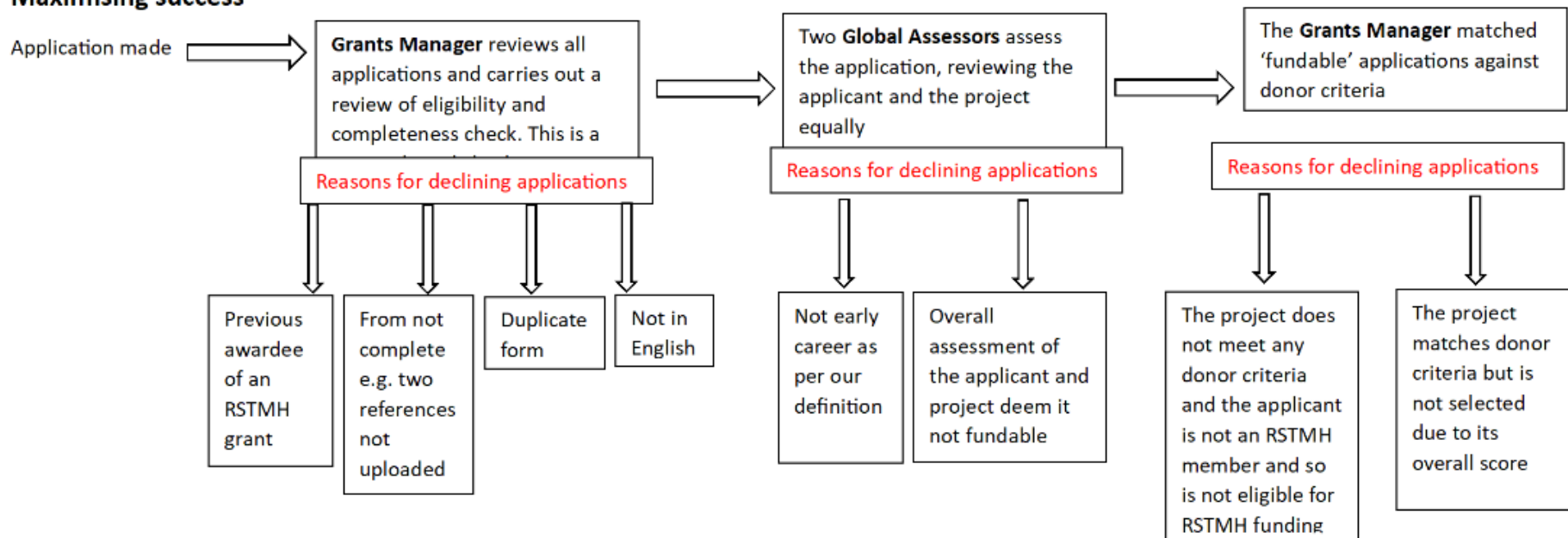
- Referees:
 - First reference – supervisor for the duration of this research project
 - Second reference – senior member of your employing organization
 - Deadlines – references uploaded before the deadline on the 22nd April
- Submission:
 - Your referees will NOT be emailed until you click the "Apply" button
 - Applicants are responsible for ensuring references are submitted directly to Submittable by the closing date (22nd April)
 - Applications without two completed references submitted by deadline **will be declined**

Review stages and maximising success



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Maximising success



Review process



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- **Global Assessors**
 - At least two assessors review the applications submitted to the Early Career Grants Programme and decide whether they are suitable for grants.
 - They have expertise from a wide range of disciplines including medicine, academic research, public health, law, statistics and modelling, health economics, social sciences and the humanities.
 - Common issues that prevent them from scoring highly – difficult to understand the project, flow of the form, budget or timeframe doesn't add up, not compelling information about the applicant
- **Assess application on the criteria below:**
 - Early career status
 - Validity of the research question
 - Quality of the project design and methodology
 - Feasibility of delivering the research outcomes
 - Accuracy and reasonableness of the budget
 - Impact of your research project
 - Value for money
- **Feedback is not supplied**

Top tips from past awardees



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You really want to communicate what added value your project has. Another way to think about this is to ask yourself what would be lost if your project did not get funded. Why is this such a great opportunity that cannot be missed? - and why are you so well positioned to make this happen.

...Start early - do not think you have all the time!

Your ideas do not need to be all perfect because RSTMH and other partners know that you are in your early career as a researcher. However, keep the ideas brief and clear, the word is succinct! Send your proposals to other colleagues to get reviews and inputs, use your network! Also, use the guidance on the RSTMH website

Request one or two colleagues who are not in their field of research to read through their write-up. Often such colleagues ask good questions especially where the project write-up is not clear to them. So, if your colleagues do not understand what you have written, it implies that others could also struggle to understand

The budget is a translation of your methodology - take time to reflect on your planned experiments and be realistic to yourself. Do not be over ambitious

Add collaborators to your project who could support for instance by donating some reagents or services like sequencing and offer some technical advice

Thank you - Time for questions

Resources/further information

- www.rstmh.org/grants
 - [Terms and Conditions](#)
 - [FAQs](#)
 - [Guidance page](#): Examples of good project statements, previously awarded projects, more to follow...
- Guidance sessions for members on key elements of the application process on 20 March
- Any questions? Email nisreen.hamad@rstmh.org (membership) / sian.tatbak@rstmh.org (grants)

Become an RSTMH Member: Sign up by 31st Mar and receive 20% discount with code **GRANTS2024**