# Grand Challenges: FAQs

Click the black arrow next to a question to view the answer

### Q: What is a “Place Based Impact Acceleration Account (PBIAA)”?

In 2022, EPSRC announced this new type of consortia funding to enhance place-based impact activities from existing and emerging clusters, driving regional growth. You can read more about the scheme, including the other funded PBIAAs, on the [EPSRC website](https://www.ukri.org/news/41-million-to-enhance-uk-research-and-innovation-clusters/). The funding is aimed to accelerate the impact of existing research outputs obtained from UKRI research.

### Q: How do I apply for this funding?

A: Complete the application form and email it to [TayHealthTech@hw.ac.uk](mailto:TayHealthTech@hw.ac.uk) by the deadline on 17 February at 13:00 GMT.

### Q: What is the timeline for the application process?

The call launches on **2 December 2024**.  
The deadline is **17 February 2025, 13:00 GMT**.

Information webinars will be held and recorded before and after the winter break. Check the [project website](http://www.tayhealthtech.org.uk) for further details and registration.   
The review team will have two weeks to review the applications before meeting in the first week of March to make final funding decisions. Applicants will be informed by mid-March 2025.

### Q: Who is eligible for Grand Challenge funding from Tay Health Tech?

A: The project lead must be employed at one of the six collaborative partners of Tay Health Tech: Heriot-Watt University, Universities of Dundee, Glasgow and St Andrews, Edinburgh Napier University, and NHS Tayside. As this is a translation and innovation challenge, **this is not a research project**, therefore applicants do not need to be researchers, but would need to specify the proposed team and roles involved in the project.

### Q: How do I contact you?

A: Please email [TayHealthTech@hw.ac.uk](mailto:TayHealthTech@hw.ac.uk) with any questions, and your query will be forwarded to the best person to answer. Allow at least two working days before receiving a reply.

### Q: Can I include a project partner based at an organisation outside the Tay Health Tech collaborators?

A: Yes. Any project partners outside the Tay Health Tech collaborators will have to come with their own funding regarding salary costs of any staff on the project. This would be considered in-kind support for the application; other in-kind support is also welcome. We strongly encourage you to consider what makes your application stronger and have measurable benefit or engagement in the Tayside region. That may be through the inclusion of academics outside the collaboration, or partners outside academia. Please do talk to your institution’s commercialisation team to agree the approach to be taken on elements such as intellectual property in advance of submitting your application.

Industry partners may also be interested in the other work of Tay Health Tech, including CPD on medical device regulation, and mentoring, all of which will be on the Tay Health Tech website when applicable.

### Q: Who owns the IP in any collaboration?

A: That will be between you and your collaborators; Tay Health Tech has no requirements there. In the first instance you should speak with your organisation’s commercialisation team, or (for colleagues in the NHS) to NHS Tayside Innovation.

### Q: Can you include more than one Tay Health Tech collaborator on a bid?

A: Yes.

### Q: I am a Co-Investigator on Tay Health Tech, can I be part of a bid?

A: Yes you can! You will need to recuse yourself from the decision-making process and declare any conflicts of interest when the Steering Board is deciding on who will be awarded funds.

### Q: Can I include overhead costs in my bid?

A: No, we are unable to cover overhead or indirect costs such as Estates. We also cannot cover academic time but will cover researcher salaries. If the project involves the NHS as a partner, consider what resource is available, as there will be limited ability to absorb overhead costs.

### Q: What costs are eligible?

A: Consumables, computing time, access to equipment, travel, subsistence and hospitality are all eligible and can be covered at 100% FEC. These should be booked and purchased according to your organisation’s policies, to ensure effective use of budget.

Staff costs at 100% FEC are eligible: in university partners we can only cover researchers, not academics; in the NHS we can cover staff costs for sessions dedicated to the project, or backfill.

### Q: What are you looking for when the application asks for a Trusted Research plan?

A: ‘Trusted research’ is a research and innovation sector term for protecting the UK’s intellectual property, sensitive research, people and infrastructure from potential theft, manipulation and exploitation, including through interference by hostile actors. You can find out more about Trusted Research on the [UKRI website](https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/good-research-resource-hub/trusted-research-and-innovation/), and through the [NPSA guidance for Academia](https://www.npsa.gov.uk/trusted-research-academia).

Your Trusted Research plan should include how your project will meet the relevant UK requirements, identifying areas of possible concern. You are expected to also follow the direction of your institution’s policies relating to Trusted Research and Responsible Research and carry out your own due diligence checks in advance of submitting the application.

### Q: Does my device or technology need to have been initially funded by EPSRC?

A: No. It needs to fit with the remit of EPSRC (Engineering & Physical Sciences), but can have been initially funded from any other source, whether charity, university, Wellcome, other UKRI bodies etc.

### Q: What benefit to the ‘place’ are you looking for?

A: You must be able to demonstrate direct benefit to the ‘place’. This should be beyond the employment of a researcher on the project, and beyond general benefit to the NHS nationwide. It could be through the manufacturing of a device in the region; links with NHS Tayside, NHS Tayside Innovation Hub or the Tayside Innovation MedTech Ecosystem (TIME); application of your technology specifically in the NHS Tayside region; collaboration with an industrial partner within the Tayside region, etc.

### Q: Can I use this funding to pay for my patent application?

A: No, unfortunately we are unable to provide costs for patent applications but we can provide costs for evidencing the market and need for protecting IP. You should approach your organisation in the first instance whenever you require funds for patent applications.

### Q: Will this fund the use of Artificial Intelligence?

A: This will largely depend on what level of AI your proposal refers to. If you are looking at data processing, then no. If the AI is supporting a new diagnostic tool that requires going down the regulatory pathway, then yes. Please contact us to discuss before submitting your proposal so we can confirm your proposal is eligible.

### Q: How will you be evaluating the applications?

A: The Tay Health Tech support team will first check that the application is eligible. If ineligible elements are found, we may contact you and invite you to resubmit, but the resubmission must be before the deadline, so please submit or ask us questions with plenty of time in advance of the deadline. Each application will be allocated an academic introducer, who will review the application and present it at a special meeting of the Steering Board. You can see more information on our Steering Board on our website.

### Q: How many projects will you be funding?

A: We have £995,000 for this funding call and expect to fund a mixture of large and small projects, across all themes. We have no target in terms of number of projects for any particular theme or stream of funding.

### Q: Why are you collecting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion data at the application stage?

A: As UKRI points out: “Research and innovation need diversity. Equality, diversity and inclusion are essential for the creative, collaborative, dynamic research and innovation system needed to improve our understanding of ourselves and the world around us, and to harness that knowledge in the service of society.”  
We collect EDI data to be able to analyse our reach and our diversity. Each application will be given a reference number, and that number will be linked to the EDI data collected so that we can anonymously analyse applications and successes. Please be assured that EDI data collected will NOT be available to reviewers.

### Q: When can I ask questions, is there a deadline?

A: No, ask any time.

### Q: Is a technology that applies directly to hospital setting eligible?

A: If the technology moves patients from inpatient to outpatient care, or moving to a community hospital rather than large central hospital, that would be eligible. It should ‘shift left’.

### Q: Is a technology that reduces the time taken for reporting results eligible?

A: It’s unlikely, but email us with more information and we’d be able to advise.

### Q: How many applications are allowed per applicant?

A: There is no limit, but bear in mind that we will have moderation and be taking a portfolio approach to try to achieve a spread across the Grand Challenges and across applicant organisations.

### Q: Can PhD students apply?

A: Yes, but they would need to include an academic on the proposal and it must not distract from their doctoral work. Tay Health Tech cannot pay for studentships. Doctoral students can be employed as researchers on a Grand Challenge, again with the requirement that it does not take them from their doctoral work.

### Q: What is the Technology Readiness Level expected by the end of the project, products in patient’s hands?

A: We understand how long the process can take to get products to patients, so unless you’re already nearly there, we’re expecting this funding to help you get closer to that point, but not necessarily there.

### Q: Would a technology that provides early diagnosis, therefore reducing long-term costs on the NHS, eligible?

A: Yes. Anything that can reduce the frequency of hospital visits, or provide a quicker turnaround of a patient in hospital, prevent them needing hospital in the first place, reduce the burden on clinicians and nurses would be eligible. That would include technology on Ambulances to help triage before getting to the hospital.

### Q: Can this funding be used to expand on previously funded work?

A: It cannot be used to do further research with no evidence of impact in clinical settings, but can be used to expand or enhance the Technology Readiness Level and the engagement of it in the community and health care professionals.

### Q: What PPIE advice and guidance is available?

A: Tay Health Tech is creating a Citizen’s Assembly of about 30 people from across Tayside, and projects will be able to pose questions to them, have them do reviews, give you their lived expertise and offer guidance on questions you have. The PPIE Coordinator is available for questions and advice throughout the projects. For more in depth inclusion of patient expertise, we’d suggest approaching [SHARE](http://www.registerforshare.org) to ascertain costs for utilising SHARE’s register of patients interested in participating in health research.

### Q: I work part-time, can my project take longer than the durations listed?

A: We consider this to be important under our EDI obligations so yes, if you work part-time, you can extend the duration of your project. For example, if you work a 0.5FTE you could take up to 12 months for one of the smaller projects. The only limitation is that funds must be spent before 31 May 2027, so please take this into consideration.

### Q: I work for NHS Tayside, whose salary can the project cover?

A: We can fund salaries in NHS Tayside, but only to either provide backfill or to cover sessions dedicated to the project, regardless of role. Applications will be reviewed and assessed based on, in part, value for money, so consideration should be given as to the expected spend on salaries relative to the rest of the award.