



Pump-Priming Funding Scheme Guidance for Applicants

The Population Health Agent-based Simulation nEtworK (PHASE) is a [UK Prevention Research Partnership](#) funded research network that supports the use of agent-based simulation models (ABMs) in addressing population health challenges. PHASE brings together researchers, computer software developers, policymakers, and voluntary organisations who are interested in understanding the complexities underlying public health challenges. For more information about PHASE please visit our website: <http://phasenetwork.org>.

What is the aim of the PHASE pump-priming funding scheme?

The PHASE pump-priming funding scheme aims to foster collaborations between those with ABM skills and those researching and tackling non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and support the development of agent-based modelling projects that provide insights and evidence to tackle NCDs.

A total of £100,000 is available to support proof of concept and exploratory work, with the intention that research teams will then be in a strong position to apply for and secure further funding from other sources to develop and/or apply the model on larger scale. Individual projects can apply for up to £25,000 and can be up to 12 months duration. In addition to funding, applicants can request support from a PHASE Research Assistant with modelling expertise to support the delivery of their project.

Key information

- Maximum award per project: **£25,000**
- Project duration: up to **12 months**
- Deadline for applications: **24 September 2021**
- Project start date: **On or before 1 Jan 2022**

What types of project are within scope for funding?

Projects must be relevant to reduction in levels of, and inequalities in, NCDs within the UK context. We strongly encourage projects that map onto the [UKPRP priority behaviours and diseases](#), including 'upstream determinants' or risk factors for NCDs including the built and natural environment, employment, education, welfare, transport, health and social care and communication systems, as illustrated by the [Research Consortia and Networks](#) UKPRP have funded. Projects might include (but are not limited to):

- Working with evidence-users to identify a question(s) relevant to NCD prevention that ABM would help with and/or explore relevant model parameters.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your project idea please get in touch with the PHASE team: info@phasenetwork.org

- Developing an early/promising prototype model for a particular NCD prevention purpose.
- Refining, repurposing or extending an existing ABM with a focus on NCD prevention.
- Application of an existing ABM to test plausible policy scenarios to support NCD prevention.

Research teams must include those with expertise in creating ABMs and those with expertise in NCDs, with an adequate range and balance of roles, skills, knowledge and modelling experience to meet the demands of the project.

The team must include evidence users who will support the application of the research evidence in policy and practice. Evidence users should not be exclusively academic, and may include local or national government, health services, third sector organisations and/or private sector companies.

For support in identifying appropriate team members, please get in touch with the PHASE team by emailing info@phasenetwork.org.

What research assistant support is available to projects?

In addition to funding, applicants can request support from a PHASE Research Assistant with modelling expertise to support the delivery of their project. The research assistant can support a range of tasks, including (but not limited to):

- Developing and delivering workshops for evidence-users;
- Writing model code and documentation;
- Analysis of model outputs;
- Identifying appropriate data sources to inform model development;
- Writing publications;
- Writing funding applications to support future development of research project.

Applications should clearly explain how much research assistant time is required, up to a maximum of 25 days (approx. 5 weeks) across the duration of the project and define in the justification of resources section how this time will be used. We will endeavour to meet the research assistant support needs set out in the proposal for all successful applications, but some flexibility in timings may be required in order to support all funded projects. This will be discussed on a case-by-case basis with successful project teams.

The PHASE research assistant will be based at the University of Glasgow. We expect that the majority of research assistant support will be provided remotely; any project requirements for research assistant travel will be dependent on current government guidelines and should be justified in the application. Costs will need to be met by the project budget. PHASE can provide facilities to support teleconference meetings using Zoom, Skype or phone.

Who can apply?

- Applicants must be members of PHASE. You can join the network by signing up via the website: <http://phasenetwork.org/contact/>. There are no fees associated with network membership.

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- The lead applicant must be employed within a UK-based organisation. A maximum of three applications will be accepted per organisation.
- Early-career researchers (within eight years of receiving a PhD) are welcome to apply as the lead applicant, as long as appropriate support and expertise from a more senior academic is identified within the team.
- International collaborators are welcome as members of the research team, but are not eligible to apply as the lead applicant.
- Research team members from the private sector are encouraged, but this is not a requirement. When establishing a collaboration with a private sector partner(s), you and your potential collaborator(s) must refer to the UKPRP principles for working with industry and the associated guidance for working with industry (<https://mrc.ukri.org/documents/pdf/ukprp-principles-for-working-with-industry/>).

What outputs are expected from the project?

- The project team will be expected to keep PHASE up to date on project plans, process and findings via liaison with the PHASE Network Coordinator as appropriate.
- Final reports will not be required. Instead, the project must provide the following outputs within 6 months of the end of funding:
 - A publicly accessible model and/or code
 - At least one preprint or published paper describing the project findings or modelling process
 - A proposal for further development of the project and an outline of plans to secure further funding to continue the work (or confirmation of a submitted funding application or funding that has already been secured).
- All project outputs (e.g. models, publications) must adhere to PHASE best practice and reporting standards.
- The project team will also be expected to work with PHASE to communicate the project plans and outputs in suitable formats for a range of audiences including academics and evidence users (e.g. presentations at PHASE events and workshops; website content).

What project costs are eligible within the funding scheme?

- PHASE pump-priming funds can be used to cover the full direct cost of staff and non-staff project costs.
- Staff costs may include academic and non-academic team members and consultancy fees for collaborators.
- Non-staff costs may include (but are not limited to) research-related travel and subsistence, event or workshop costs, research expenses, small equipment, facility use, data/software purchases, consumables and training course fees.
- Funding can be used to cover stipends for short-term studentships to support project work.

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- Funding cannot be used to cover indirect and estate costs for Higher Education Institutions (HEI) or overheads for non-HEI organisations.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be reviewed by an expert panel included members of the PHASE management team and advisory board. Panel members will review each application based on the following criteria:

- Does the project address NCD prevention, with a focus on the UKPRP priority disease and behaviours?
- Is the project idea innovative and likely to lead to a significant new understanding and/or impact?
- Does the project create new connections between simulation and public health communities, including evidence users?
- Is there a clear and viable plan for developing further research, applying for further funding or for broader application within policy / practice following this project?
- Is the proposed project plan feasible and technically sound?
- Is the project achievable within the proposed timeframe and budget?
- Are there appropriate plans for engaging with evidence-users and for sharing and dissemination of project outputs to support impact?
- Does the project team have the relevant skills and expertise to deliver the project?

How can I apply?

Please download and complete the application form available on the PHASE website: phasenetwork.org/funding/.

A maximum of five A4 pages is allowed. The project description should be a maximum of three pages, and one further page describing and justifying the project costs is required. Up to one further page can be used for references (optional). Text should be Arial 11pt, with minimum 1.5cm margins.

We do not require CVs for project team members or letters of support.

Completed applications should be submitted as a single pdf document by email to info@phasenetwork.org by 5pm, Friday 24 September 2021.

Key dates

28th July 2021	2 nd Funding call opens
24 Sept 2021	Funding call closes
31 October 2021	Funding decision announced
01 January 2022	Funded projects to start on or before this date

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