



VALIDATE Pump-Priming Application FAQs

Do all project collaborators need to VALIDATE members?

Yes, all individuals need to be VALIDATE members.

My VALIDATE membership application is still in progress; can I apply for a pump-priming grant?

Yes, as long as your membership application is submitted before your grant application then we can run these in parallel (although this is not ideal and is to be avoided wherever possible).

Do you need references in the project description and if so do they count in the word count?

You should use references where appropriate in the project description. They do not count in the word count.

Can you include a collaborator who is not getting direct funding from the project?

Yes, as long as they are relevant and providing a meaningful contribution to the project.

For Q8, who counts as an 'Early Career Researcher'?

Anyone who is a VALIDATE Associate member. We do not have a time limit on the period since your PhD to count as an ECR.

Do you fund PhD/MSc students?

We do not award pump-priming grants to cover any costs related to a postgraduate or undergraduate project or student.

My project was rejected in a prior grant round. Can I re-apply with the same project in another round?

Yes, but obviously you will need to have addressed the feedback as to why your project was not funded previously, and to have substantially improved your project.

Which type of costs are allowed for PI salaries?

PIs should only charge Directly Allocated salary costs (i.e. following the usual MRC rules).

If a member of staff is funded part-time on the project, does their institute need to keep timesheets?

Yes, timesheets will need to be kept if a salary is part-time on the grant.

For non-LMIC projects, which are funded at 80%, do the 20% matched funds have to be split per institute or per project?

The matched funds can be across the overall project, rather than 20% per institute, if all collaborating institutes agree to this.

Do projects have to have a UK partner?

As VALIDATE is funded by the UK MRC, one collaborator on the project must be based at a UK institute (they do not have to receive monetary funding but must contribute meaningfully to the project).