RCVS Research Grants Application Form 2026

Introduction and Background

Thank you for your interest in the new RCVS Mind Matters Research Grants.

Since 2019, we have awarded £195,000 in research grants focussed on veterinary mental health and are pleased to be able to offer further opportunities to support high-quality research. There are two grants available:

- One £15,000 Impact Grant (aimed at established researchers); and,
- One £5,000 Discovery Grant (aimed at postgraduate and early career researchers but open to all)

You will be required to complete and submit this application form in full, in order to apply. Please ensure you read through the applicant guide, and terms and conditions prior to completing this application form. Deadline for applications is **11:59pm on 22 March 2026** and all applications should be emailed to **researchgrants@rcvs.org.uk**

This application form will require you to complete the following two sections:
- Key information, including:
    - Detail of applicants;
    - Declaration of conflict of interest;
    - Statement of organisational support; and
    - Declaration.

- Full research proposal, including:
    - background, literature, and rationale;
    - research question and aims/objectives;
    - impact
    - research design and methods/methodology;
    - ethical considerations;
    - outcomes and outputs;
    - resources, budget and project plan; and
    - reference list.

This first section will be removed prior to judging. Please do not include any personal and/or identifying information in any other part of the form.

If you have any questions regarding this form, require the form in a different format, or need support in applying, please email researchgrants@rcvs.org.uk or visit the RCVS Mind Matters website for further information.

Part 1: Key Information

Lead applicant information	
The lead applicant will need to be employed by a UK-based university/HEI, NHS organisation or research institute (which will act as the 'host institute') Where a postgraduate researcher is applying for a grant, they will need to be a co-applicant, and an academic supervisor will need to be the lead applicant.	
Full name	
Qualifications (for example MSc, PhD)	
ORCID number (If you do not have a ORCID number, you can set one up at ORCID)	
Job title/role	
Work email address	
Work telephone number	
Host institute name	
Registered legal address	
Company or charity number	
Have you previously applied for a grant with the RCVS? If yes, please provide brief details.	

Career history (current/most recent first)			
From	To	Position	Organisation

Relevant education/training				
From	To	Qualification	Subject	Organisation

Additional co-applicant Information The co-applicant will need to be employed or affiliated with a UK university/HEI, NHS organisation or research institute.	
Are you a postgraduate or early career researcher?	
Full name	
Qualifications (for example MSc, PhD)	
ORCID number (If you do not have a ORCID number, you can set one up at ORCID)	
Job title/role	
Work email address	
Work telephone number	
Organisation name (if same as Lead Applicant, state as above, but if separate, please add details)	
Registered legal address	
Registered company or charity number	
Have you previously applied for a grant with the RCVS? If yes, please provide brief details.	

Career history (current/most recent first)			
From	To	Position	Organisation

Relevant education/training				
From	To	Qualification	Subject	Organisation

Additional co-applicant information The co-applicant will need to be employed or affiliated with a UK University/HEI, NHS organisation or research institute.	
Are you a postgraduate or early career researcher?	
Full name	
Qualifications (for example MSc, PhD)	
ORCID number (If you do not have a ORCID number, you can set one up at ORCID)	
Job title/role	
Work email address	
Work telephone number	
Organisation name (if same as Lead Applicant, state as above, but if separate, please add details)	
Registered legal address	
Registered company or charity number	
Have you previously applied for a grant with the RCVS? If yes, please provide brief details	

Career history (current/most recent first)			
From	To	Position	Organisation

Relevant education/Training				
From	To	Qualification	Subject	Organisation

Additional collaborators (not co-applicants) - please refer to applicant guide, and terms and conditions for further information about collaborators.

Please note we do not require statements of support from collaborators at this stage.

Full names, work email addresses, job titles/organisations, and role within the project.	

Why are you applying for this research grant? (250 words maximum)

Add text here

Approval of project from host institute (250 words maximum)

This should come from a duly authorised person with senior leadership responsibility within the 'host institute' for example head of research, dean, director of school, head of department. This should be brief but functional. The authorised person may wish to review the Ts&Cs governing the grant beforehand. Please note that we reserve the right to contact the individual to clarify any information.

Full Name	
Signature	
Institution	
Job title	
Work telephone number	
Work email address	

Add text here

How did you hear about the RCVS research Grant? (Tick all that apply)	
Word of mouth	
From my employer	
RCVS / MMI communication	
RCVS / MMI social media	
Previous applicants	Please provide details
Other (please specify):	

Conflicts of interest Please declare any financial and professional conflicts of interest below, for all applicants. Please see guide for further information.	
Lead applicant	
Co-applicant	
Co-applicant	

Declaration
- I confirm that I have completed all parts of the application (including the template project hours, budget and timeline sheet), and that the information provided is true, accurate, and my/our own work, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has not been used, and that no material omissions have been made.
- I confirm I have read the applicant guide, and the terms and conditions in full.

Signed by (Lead Applicant)	
Print name	
Signed by (Co-Applicant)	
Print name	
Signed by (Co-Applicant)	
Print name	
Date	XX/XX/2026

Part 2: Research proposal

Full assessment criteria can be found within the applicant guide and later in this document, but in short, we are looking at three key areas:

- Relevance, feasibility and originality;
- quality and inclusiveness, and
- potential for impact and clear outputs.

Which research grant are you applying for? (Please tick one)	
Impact Grant **Total Value: £15,000** Aimed at established researchers who are looking to undertake a medium sized project.	
Discovery Grant **Total Value: £5,000** Aimed at postgraduate and early career researchers, who are looking to undertake a small-scale study (yet open to all)	

Please ensure that you do not include any personal or identifiable information within this section, for example your names or the name of your Host Institute. Applicants who do not remove personal and/or identifiable information will have their proposal returned to them and given 3 working days to make amendments. Where amendments are not made, we reserve the right to reject the application.

Section A1: Background and literature Criteria: Identifies relevant background and research evidence to justify a clear and robust rationale.	
Proposed project title	
Please give a short summary of your study **(Word limit: 150 words)**	
Background, literature and rationale *Clearly outline relevant background, literature or evidence, and highlight how this study will help to fill the knowledge gaps you have identified* **(Word limit: 350 words)**	
For Assessors only	

Section A2: MMI research areas of focus
Criteria: Identifies relevant background and research evidence to justify a clear and robust rationale. The assessors will consider submissions on any topic relevant to veterinary professionals' mental health which link with one of the below themes.

Area	Tick one
a) Self-harm and suicide prevention in the veterinary community	
b) Mental health in veterinary education and early careers	
c) Veterinary workplaces, leadership and mental health	
Please outline how your proposal aligns with the theme/area of focus you have selected (Max 200 words)	

Section B: Research question, aims and objectives
Criteria: Articulates a clear, original, and robust research question, (alongside aims/objectives) that is relevant to the veterinary professions in the UK, and the RCVS areas of focus.

Research question and study aims/objectives	Research aim:
Please clearly identify up to three primary study aims/objectives and a research question(s).	Research objectives: Research question(s):
For Assessors only	

Section C

Section C: Research design and methods/methodology. Criteria: Evidence sound scientific inquiry through a robust research design and methodology.	
Please describe your study design and proposed methods. **(Word limit: 500 words)**	
Please describe your conceptual or theoretical framework (where applicable). **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
Please detail your approach to sampling/participant recruitment (if applicable). Please ensure that you have considered the sample size. **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
Please describe how data analysis will be conducted and what approaches will be taken. **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
What key challenges/limitations have been identified for this study? How might they be managed/mitigated? **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
For Assessors only	

Section D: Ethical considerations
Criteria: Identifies all relevant ethical considerations, and demonstrates sound judgment in mitigating risks.

Clearly outline all ethical considerations associated with this study. How will the research team ensure this study is ethically sound? **(Word limit: 400 words)**	
How will ethical considerations be reviewed and monitored throughout the study?	
Identify the approach to ethical approval and expected timelines for gaining approval. **(Word limit: 150 words)** *If already approved, please give the name of the approval body and number/ID (this should be a recognised UK-based university/Higher Education Institute, NHS organisation or research institute).*	
Identify and outline the research ethics guidance you have selected to inform your approach.	
How will you ensure Informed consent? What will this entail? (where relevant) **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
Clearly outline the key risks associated with this study. How will they be minimised/managed? Who will be overseeing these? **(Word limit: 250 words)**	

Clearly outline your data management procedures for the project, including the handling of personal/sensitive data, compliance with GDPR and data protection (including data retention plans) **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
How will you ensure confidentiality/anonymity of participants? **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
Equality, diversity and inclusion should be an integral part of your study. How do you plan for your study to be inclusive? **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
Please describe how study participants rights and welfare (if applicable) will be safeguarded *Please consider the entire research process.* **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
Researching mental health can be emotionally challenging. Clearly outline your plan and processes for ensuring members of the research team are appropriately supported throughout the duration of the project (for example this may involve working practices, debriefings, signposting to available internal support services such as EAP/Counselling/MHFA's and external organisations). **(Word limit: 250 words)**	

For Assessors only	

Section E: Resources, financial and project planning Criteria: Illustrates a clear and feasible project plan and budget, which constitutes good value for money and makes the most effective use of time and resources.	
Our grants typically run for 18-24 months. Using our template project Gantt chart, please provide a detailed estimated timeline for the study, indicating start date, key milestones and proposed duration.	
Depending on the grant you are applying for (for example Discovery or Impact), please provide a detailed estimated budget breakdown as to how the research grant fund will be utilised, and the number of hours that each member of the research team will spend working on the project. Please use the template project budget and hours sheet to do this. *The project budget should include the Full Economic Cost (FEC), so we can get a complete picture of the total cost of the research.*	
Please outline any other support, either financial or in kind, that has been requested or agreed from other individuals and/or organisations (for example other grants/funding applied for, university/organisation support).	Please refer to the full terms and conditions for more information about eligibility regarding additional funding.
For Assessors only	

Section F: Impact, outcomes and outputs Criteria: Demonstrates clear potential for impact/contribution to the field of knowledge, and utilises outcomes to inform conclusions, recommendations and/or future activity.	
Please summarise the potential impact of the proposed research. **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
Please summarise how impact and the quality of the research will be evaluated (both short and long term) **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
Please summarise the proposed accessible outputs for this research (for example open access publishing, events, conferences, CPD). This should include a detailed plan for communicating findings widely within the veterinary professions, potential support you may require from the RCVS, and any proposed conferences and publications. **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
Please give an outline of how you anticipate the outcomes/findings from your study will translate into supporting practice and/or policy? (This may include RCVS, wider sector bodies and others) **(Word limit: 250 words)**	
For Assessors only	

Please include any further relevant information below (maximum 350 words).
Add text here

Reference list
Add text here

Thank you for completing this form.

Please email the completed form to: researchgrants@rcvs.org.uk by **11:59pm GMT on Sunday 22 March 2026.**

We will send an acknowledgement of receipt for all applications.