

Research Committee Internship 2026

Cure Parkinson's are inviting applications for early-career researchers to join our grant evaluation research committee.

The Research Committee (RC) are a group of 16-20 volunteers that review and assess Cure Parkinson's grant funding applications. It is made up of world leading research scientists in Parkinson's, including preclinical and clinical experts, industry representatives and people with Parkinson's. The RC meets four times a year. There are two online meetings, a hybrid meeting, and an in-person meeting in London at the end of the calendar year, including a dinner after the meeting.

The RC [terms of reference](#) and details of the current members can be found on our [website](#).

The aim of these internships is to provide early career researchers with experience and exposure to the grant review process. **Applicants for these positions must be either a PhD student or be in post-doctoral training in the UK or Europe, working directly on a project related to Parkinson's.** The internship will offer:

- Hands on experience of the research grant review process
- Mentorship with presenting applications
- Networking with leading Parkinson's experts
- A deeper understanding of charitable funding and the Parkinson's research funding landscape

This is a **one-year, unpaid role**, which will involve sitting in on four separate grant review meetings. Three of the meetings will be virtual, and one will take place in person in London, with necessary travel and accommodation expenses provided. Applicants who are invited to sit on the committee will be expected to attend the

- first meeting (virtual) as an observer to learn about our grant review processes.
- second meeting (virtual) as an active and voting member of the committee.
- third meeting (virtual) as a secondary presenter on a grant application.
- final meeting (in person) as a primary and secondary presenter on multiple grant applications.

Interns will be required to sign a standard Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) in order to access confidential information as part of grant applications and to complete a conflict of interest form. Our conflict-of-interest policy can be found [here](#).

Role Profile

Cure Parkinson's is a medical research charity that funds preclinical and clinical research focused on disease modification in Parkinson's. These projects seek to slow, stop or reverse the progression of this neurodegenerative condition.

We support our projects through funding, awarded via a grant application process. A committee of academics, clinicians, regulatory experts, and people with Parkinson's meets four times per year to evaluate the grant applications we receive via a two-stage application process.

If the RC believe a stage 1 application is within our funding remit and worthy of consideration, it is invited to stage 2 submission and then sent out for external peer-review. At the second meeting, considering the peer-reviews, the committee will decide whether to recommend funding to Cure Parkinson's trustees.

We fund laboratory or clinical research projects with the potential to cure Parkinson's. By "cure" we mean disease modifying therapy or therapies. Our priority is to find a cure for those living with Parkinson's now. This means we only fund research with the potential to slow, stop or reverse the underlying disease progression. We fund clinical trials involving people with Parkinson's, projects that support clinical trials such as sub-studies and infrastructure projects. We also fund preclinical research investigating therapies that show potential to translate to clinical trials.

We do not fund research which is directed only to symptomatic relief, basic science or early drug development

A key part of our remit is that we prioritise research which has the potential to translate into clinical testing in people with Parkinson's within five years. Cure Parkinson's funds research internationally and to date has funded research at 42 institutions across 12 countries.

Role Requirements

This is an open call for applications from UK and Europe based candidates with expertise in either preclinical or clinical Parkinson's research.

Applicants must be:

- A PhD student or in post-doctoral training (later stage PhD students preferable)
- Working in research relating to Parkinson's
- Engaging in meaningful patient and public engagement and involvement with people with Parkinson's
- Proficient in English
- Available for four committee meetings from January 2026, UK time zone

Please note, this internship requires a specific level of knowledge, experience and expertise in Parkinson's research. While we appreciate the importance and value that technical staff and research assistants provide in delivering research projects, this internship is only suitable for individuals of PhD level and above.

Timing of 2026 Committee Meetings:

February (online)

April (hybrid)

July (online)

November (in person and dinner)

The Application Process

Please submit an expression of interest letter (max one page), including a description of your research specialty and CV (max two pages) by 5pm (UK time) Monday 1 December 2025 to research@cureparkinsons.org.uk

Our 2025 Research Committee interns told us about their experience:

"The CP internship was a fantastic behind the scenes opportunity to understand in detail how the grant application process works. I found the discussions among the committee members to be very insightful and it really highlighted to me the importance of having a realistic project timeframe. I would highly recommend that early career researchers (ECRs) apply for the research committee position as I found it to be a valuable experience." - Áine Heffernan, University of Edinburgh

"It has been a real privilege to work with the Cure Parkinson's research committee as an intern this year. I have learnt a huge amount about the process and rigor involved in reviewing research proposals, and just how important this work is to ensuring funds are spent on the research most likely to generate positive outcomes for people with Parkinson's. I have no doubt that the experience has supported me to meaningfully contribute to a grant committee as a permanent member in the future and has overall made me a more competent researcher." - Dr Katie Lloyd, University of Bristol

"For those considering applying to the internship scheme, in order to make the most of it, it is really important to remain open to new concepts and methodologies whilst using your own expertise to remain constructively critical. I would recommend this opportunity to anybody who is considering becoming an independent researcher in the future." - Dr James Conway, University College London