

Translation Fund FAQs

- [Can I make several Translation Award applications at once?](#)
- [My previous application was unsuccessful. Can I submit it again?](#)
- [I'm developing a healthcare technology in an area that's not commercially attractive. Can I apply?](#)

The Wellcome Trust and other funding companies

- [Do you co-fund translation projects with other funders?](#)
- [I don't know whether to apply to the Wellcome Trust or to Syncona. What's the difference between your support criteria?](#)
- [My university spin-out company is looking for funding. Should I apply for a Translation Award or approach Syncona?](#)

After a successful application

- [What are the arrangements for funding?](#)
- [What's your policy on publishing results from Translation Award projects?](#)
- [Do you expect a share of revenues or equity if a technology is commercially successful?](#)
- [Do I need your consent to exploit Wellcome-funded intellectual property?](#)
- [How should my company or organisation ask permission to exploit Wellcome-funded intellectual property?](#)
- [Are inventors rewarded for Wellcome-funded intellectual property that's exploited?](#)
- [What happens if my project doesn't meet its milestones?](#)

Can I make several Translation Award applications at once?

Yes. We consider each application on its own merit. Principal investigators will need to show how they'll commit enough time to each project.

My previous application was unsuccessful. Can I submit it again?

No. We can't accept resubmissions.

You're welcome to reapply but you must show how your new proposal is different to the previous one. We reserve the right not to process an application if it's too similar to one we've declined before.

I'm developing a healthcare technology in an area that's not commercially attractive. Can I apply?

Yes. We're committed to translating research into practical health benefits. We recognise that this can be a problem in areas that industry neglects because of the lack of return on investment.

Where possible, we find imaginative ways forward for developing these technologies. For example, it might be possible to partner with an NGO or a public–private partnership (eg the Medicines for Malaria Venture).

Do you co-fund translation projects with other funders?

Yes, we're willing to co-fund in certain circumstances. We don't usually support projects that already have substantial professional investment.

If you have a specific question about co-funding, [contact us](#) to discuss your situation.

I don't know whether to apply to the Wellcome Trust or to Syncona. What's the difference between your support criteria?

Syncona provides long-term capital to emerging healthcare technologies and companies. It works in partnership with academics, inventors, entrepreneurs, and healthcare providers and companies.

Syncona is likely to make individual investments of up to £20 million. It invests for financial returns.

Innovations at the Wellcome Trust focuses on a technology's potential impact on healthcare. It provides funding to bridge the gap between basic research and early clinical development or field studies.

Innovations awards typically range from £500,000 to £5 million. It only funds in areas of unmet medical need.

Revenue return to Wellcome isn't the most important factor in our funding decisions. But Innovations funding should result in a product or outcome that's attractive to other parties.

If you have more questions about Syncona, please email them directly (contact@synconapartners.com).

My university spin-out company is looking for funding. Should I apply for a Translation Award or approach Syncona?

Your university's technology transfer office can help you choose the best option for fundraising. You're also welcome to [contact us](#) for advice on your specific circumstances.

What are the arrangements for funding?

We fund **not-for-profit organisations** using a modified version of our standard grant conditions. We fund most **companies** under a convertible loan agreement.

Our funding agreements cover arrangements for intellectual property management. This is different to our grant conditions to let us take a direct role in translating any outcomes, where appropriate.

What's your policy on publishing results from Translation Award projects?

Usually, publishing or releasing associated research findings should happen once patent protection of the intellectual property is in place. This is to avoid deterring downstream investors.

We encourage Wellcome-funded researchers to share their findings for maximum public benefit.

For more information, see [our policy on intellectual property and patenting](#).

Do you expect a share of revenues or equity if a technology is commercially successful?

Yes. As a charity, we have a responsibility to claim a share of any financial benefits in the following circumstances:

- a company is formed
- a licensing agreement is entered into.

The Translation Fund improves healthcare through the development of new technologies and products. Many of these will fail to reach the market, so we make awards with no expectation of a financial return.

Any money we receive from revenues will be channelled back into our charitable mission.

Do I need your consent to exploit Wellcome-funded intellectual property?

Yes. As a charity, we're obliged to maximise the public benefit of the research we fund. We ask you to seek our consent so we can make sure that exploitation is an appropriate way to do this.

How should my company or organisation ask permission to exploit Wellcome-funded intellectual property?

Not-for-profit organisations – please [contact us](#) to discuss the exploitation activity you're planning.

Companies – this will be addressed under the convertible loan agreement. Please see [the template agreement under forms and guidance](#).

For Translation and Strategic Translation Awards granted before July 2013, please read the consent application form, consent and revenue/equity-sharing agreement, and the revenue-sharing calculator. [Download these documents](#)

Are inventors rewarded for Wellcome-funded intellectual property that's exploited?

Each organisation should compensate its inventors according to the organisation's own inventors' reward scheme.

Equity transactions are different because inventors are usually given founders' shares. You should contact your organisation or technology transfer office for information.

What happens if my project doesn't meet its milestones?

Your project milestones form part of your funding agreement. If a project misses a milestone without a contingency plan in place, we may end the funding.

Funding recipients should consider how long their milestones are when entering into related contractual commitments.

In the event of early termination:

- you don't have to pay back the cost of commitments made before the termination date
- you can make legitimate redundancy payments using the award money.

See [the termination policy under forms and guidance](#) for more information.