



QuEST Seed Funding Call 2025

Imperial's Centre for Quantum Engineering Science and Technology ([QuEST](#)) is currently offering researchers the opportunity to apply for funding for short term (2-3 month) research projects aligned to QuEST's research activities. Priority in this call will be given to those with a focus on quantum for health care. The overarching aim of QuEST is to translate discoveries in quantum science into transformative quantum technologies.

We expect to fund 6 proposals of up to £5k each, for projects that run between 1st August to 31st October 2025.

Please read the full details below before submitting your application. Your application should be submitted to quantum@imperial.ac.uk no later than Monday 21st July using the

QuEST Seed Funding Application Form.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel chaired by Prof Peter Haynes, QuEST Director and representatives from each of QuEST's three strategic research areas.

Eligibility criteria

- This call is open to all Imperial College academics, research fellows and PDRAs. (Fellows and PDRAs must have permission from their supervisor/line manager).
- The proposed research activity should either:
 - (1) If academic staff, the project must involve a new collaboration and therefore be led by two principal investigators who have not worked together before, i.e. they have not published papers or worked on the same grant. Either the collaboration should be cross-disciplinary (i.e. the investigators come from different departments) or one of the investigators should not have worked on quantum before.
 - (2) If an early career researcher, the proposed research activity should be outside of your supervisor's topic area and/or you should consider working with a new academic, group, lab or industrial partner to develop it.
- The proposed activity must be aligned with QuEST's overarching aim and research areas, in this call priority will be given to projects that have a quantum for health care focus or application.
- The work will be performed at Imperial College London.
- The activity must not already have funding from other existing schemes.

Application

- Applications must be made via the application form by Monday 21st July.
- A clear breakdown of costs with justification must be included in the form. (Eligible costs are shown below, note that only direct costs are allowed, not overheads or academic staff costs)
- All proposals should be pitched at a level as to be understood by a non-specialist.

Funding

- The maximum budget per applicant is £5,000.
- Funds may be used for consumables, software, training, facilities access charges, lab visits or to set up events (eg. setting up a workshop on a particular topic).
- Funds cannot be used to cover salary or conference travel.
- All expenditure must be incurred by 31st October 2025. Any unspent funds will become eligible for reallocation by QuEST after this date.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Alignment with QuEST's overarching aim and research areas. Priority will be given to those with a quantum for health care focus.
2. Scientific excellence of the idea.
3. Feasibility of the proposal to be carried out in the time permitted.
4. Justification of budget.

Conditions of Acceptance

Award recipients will be required to:

- Create a brief summary of their activity for the QuEST web site.
- Provide a summary of the activity on completion with details of the outcomes and next steps.
- Provide a financial breakdown of how the funds were spent.
- Present a short talk to QuEST members on the project.

Timeline

24 June 2025 – Call opens

21 July 2025 – Deadline for proposals to be submitted to quantum@imperial.ac.uk

29 July 2025 – Notification of outcome

01 August 2025 to 31 October 2025 – Project window