

UGSA Research Project Grants 2026

1. AIM:

To fund projects in any area of research relevant to the care of women with urogynaecological health concerns, undertaken by UGSA members as the principal researcher.

2. RESEARCH AREAS SUPPORTED

Patient-focused research projects relevant to the above aims that will lead to publishable outcomes and / or provide preliminary data to support further research or application for external research funding.

Areas supported may include biomedical / laboratory, clinical, psychosocial, or quality improvement research.

3. FUNDING

- a. The amount of funding each year will be no more than the interest on the capital held by UGSA each year to a maximum of \$20,000 per grant.
- b. The UGSA Grant Award will be for a period of no more than 2 years.
- c. Budget items supported: equipment, consumables, data analysis, database establishment, laboratory costs, personnel (e.g., statistical support but not the investigators). Funds shall not be used for overhead infrastructure costs.
- d. The administering institution or department must administer the grant on behalf of the recipient.
- e. The UGSA Grant Award Committee ("the Committee") reserves the right to award less than the requested amount if it feels the proposed budget is excessive.
- f. The Committee reserves the right to award NO grant in any given granting period, if in their opinion, there is no suitable applicant.
- g. Applicants should invoice the treasurer of UGSA once ethics approval and governance approvals have been obtained. It is the responsibility of the applicant to invoice UGSA at the appropriate time once the award has been granted.

4. ELIGIBILITY

- a. Eligible applicants must have been financial members of UGSA for a minimum of 2 years.
- b. Only one grant may be held by any one person at a time.
- c. All projects must have appropriate ethics and governance approval before funding commences.

5. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

- a. The proposal must be submitted as a mature research plan including detailed budget and timeline for completion.
- b. Call for submissions will be made by email in early June, with a submission deadline of Wednesday, 30th of September 2026. They will be reviewed by the UGSA Research Committee and the successful recipients will be notified.

6. SELECTION PROCESS

- a. All proposals will be considered against the eligibility criteria and assessed by the members of the Research Committee - 3 or more members - who will make recommendations to the Executive of UGSA.
- b. Selection criteria - The following criteria will be taken into account:
 - i. Scientific quality (60%), including the clarity of the aims and objectives, the strengths and weaknesses of the experimental design, and feasibility.
 - ii. Significance and/or Innovation (10%)
 - iii. Potential for research beyond the pilot study (10%)
 - iv. Budget consideration/expertise/suitability (20%)
- c. The Committee will comprise 3 or more financial members of UGSA proposed by the Executive.

7. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- a. Grant recipients must notify the chair of the Committee at the following time points:
 - i. Ethics approval (no more than 6 months from awarding of grant)
 - ii. Start of project/enrolment of first patient (no more than 12 months from awarding of grant)
 - iii. Completion of data collection (a minimum of 12 months from start of data collection/patient enrolment and to a maximum of 24 months). Any extension to this deadline must be made in writing and are at the discretion of the committee.
 - iv. Final report (no more than 12 months from completion of data collection).
- b. UGSA Executive will keep a register of the research grants allocated and paid with completion of the reporting duties by researchers as set out in 7.1

8. PUBLICATION/DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

- a. It is expected that the results of the research will be presented at a meeting and/or published in appropriate peer-reviewed journals.
- b. UGSA must be acknowledged as a supporter of the research project in any publications or presentations.