COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE FOR PAEDIATRIC HIV EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (CIPHER) GRANT PROGRAMME

Frequently Asked Questions

I obtained my MD or PhD over 10 years ago, but have had research training in infectious diseases within the last 10 years. Am I eligible?

No, to be eligible, applicants must be early-stage investigators who have obtained their MD or PhD within the last 10 years. However, we encourage you to consider approaching one of your colleagues who meets the eligibility criteria and could submit a Letter of Intent as PI. There might be an interest to apply for the grant and work with you on the research project.

I obtained my MD or PhD over 10 years ago, but obtained an MA or MPH within the last 10 years. Am I eligible?

No, to be eligible, applicants must be early-stage investigators who have obtained their MD or PhD within the last 10 years. However, we encourage you to consider approaching one of your colleagues who meets the eligibility criteria and could submit a Letter of Intent as PI. There might be an interest to apply for the grant and work with you on the research project.

I do not have an MD or PhD. Am I eligible?

No, to be eligible, applicants must have an MD or PhD. However, we encourage you to consider approaching one of your colleagues who meets the eligibility criteria and could submit a Letter of Intent as PI. There might be an interest to apply for the grant and work with you on the research project.

I received my PhD two months ago and I will start my post-doctoral fellowship at an academic institution in January 2015. Am I eligible?

Applicants are only eligible if they have a qualifying position by the time of the Letter of Intent submission deadline (by 31 October 2014).

I have previously received grants and served as a principal investigator for a non-training research project. Am I eligible?

No, to be eligible, applicants have to serve for the first time as a principal investigator for a non-training research grant. Please write to cipher@iasociety.org to check if previous grants will be considered as training research grants.
I have previously received a fellowship grant to conduct a small study. Am I eligible?
Yes, fellowships will be considered as training grants and do not conflict with the eligibility of the applicant.

I am serving as a co-principal investigator for a research project. Am I eligible?
Yes, applicants, who are or have been co-principal investigators are allowed to apply, given that the applicants serve for the first time as primary principal investigators for a non-training research grant.

I received a doctoral degree more than 10 years ago, but I have never served as principal investigator for a research project. Am I eligible?
No, applicants must have received their terminal research degree within the past 10 years.

I am a medical doctor with research experience, but I have never received formal research training. Am I eligible?
Yes, applicants with a medical doctor degree (e.g., MD, MBBS) are eligible, if they can prove in their Letters of Intent an adequate understanding of the research methodology necessary to conduct the proposed project.

I am not working at an academic institution, but for a non-governmental organization providing health care for HIV-infected children. Am I eligible?
Yes, applicants with an established position at an organization with adequate infrastructure to undertake the proposed research activities are eligible.

Do I have to have a mentor to submit the Letter of Intent?
No, a mentor and a mentorship plan is only required for the Full Proposal submission phase. However, we recommend that applicants identify a potential mentor at an early stage of the application process in order to receive the input and support of the mentor in developing the research plan.

Are there any restrictions regarding the choice of mentor?
Mentors must have a track record in the field relevant to the proposed area of research and must be able to provide time to support the investigator. A long-distance mentorship relation is allowed, if the mentor plan is able to demonstrate that sufficient guidance and support can be provided by the mentor. Detailed information about the expertise of the mentor (CV and list of publications) and the planned mentorship (mentorship plan) will be requested in the Full Proposal and will be assessed during the review process.
Can I have more than one mentor?

An applicant can have up to two mentors to allow them to combine the expertise of internationally recognized scientists and the continuous on-site support of a locally established researcher.

Can an institution submit a Letter of Intent?

No, the Letter of Intent has to be submitted by the principle investigator, who will be solely responsible for planning, directing and executing the proposed project of the study. However, the principal investigator must be affiliated with a qualifying institution and is encouraged to work with a mentor and his/her institution and its partners to develop the research plan.

Is every study in the field of paediatric HIV research eligible?

No, only operational and clinical research that addresses identified gaps in paediatric HIV research that impede optimal HIV diagnosis, prevention, treatment and care for infants, children and adolescents affected by HIV in resource-limited settings is eligible. The CIPHER Grant Programme is intended to support research that can contribute to broader scientific efforts by answering parts of larger questions within these identified research priorities. Please refer to the list of eligible research topics.

The cohort of my study are young women aged 19 to 25. Would they still be considered as adolescents and would my study be eligible?

No, the age limit for adolescents is 19 years and therefore the study would not be eligible.

Will the CIPHER Grant Programme provide funding for meta-analyses and systematic reviews?

Yes, besides original clinical and operational research studies, the CIPHER Grant Programme will consider meta-analyses and systematic reviews if they have the potential to make a unique contribution to the eligible research questions. In addition, the CIPHER Grant Programme will fund the generation of important preliminary data that can help secure more substantial research funding for paediatric HIV research.

What does the CIPHER Grant include?

Grants: Awards will be funded for up to two years and for up to $75,000 per year (including direct research costs and applicable indirect costs). Second-year funding is contingent upon demonstration of satisfactory progress during year one. The CIPHER Grant Programme encourages collaborations between different study sites and institutions; at least 80% of the direct grant expenses have to be spent in low- and middle-income countries. Award funds may be used for salaries, technical support, laboratory supplies, equipment or other research-related costs. An institution’s indirect cost is limited to a maximum of 10%.

Ceremony: CIPHER Grants will be awarded at an awards ceremony at the 8th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (IAS 2015), to be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 19 July to 22 July 2015. The grantees will be invited to attend the conference and the awards ceremony and present their research projects. The IAS will be responsible for providing them with air travel (economy), accommodation, conference registration and per diems for the duration of the conference.
Other events involving the grantees, such as networking lunches, may be organized in conjunction with IAS 2015.

**Can part of the funds be used for salary costs or training?**

Yes, award funds may be used for salaries and training. The funds used to pay for staff must be consistent with the time that the staff spend on the research project.

**I would like to propose a small study, which would only take several months to complete. Is this possible?**

Yes, we anticipate that the nature and scope of the proposed research will vary from application to application, and therefore, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will also vary.

**I am planning to conduct a study in a high-income country, which could lead to improved treatment for children in resource-limited settings. Would my research project be considered for funding, even though the funds will be spent in a high-income country?**

No, at least 80% of the direct grant expenses have to be spent in low- and middle-income countries.