

IMMEDIATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Huo Family Foundation (HFF) is establishing a research portfolio on the Impact of Digital Technology on Brain Development, Social Behaviours and Mental Health in Young People.

We plan to issue an open call for multi-year research proposals in early 2025.

Whilst HFF prepare this major call, HFF Trustees have provided an allocation totalling up to £250k/\$330k for small pilot grants (up to £25k/\$33k per proposal) for early-career researchers investigating the impact of digital technology on young people. More details are provided below.

Please share this document with relevant colleagues.

The Foundation

HFF is a grant-giving foundation based in London. Its mission is to support education, communities and the pursuit of knowledge. The Foundation's current focus is in three main areas: education; the arts; and scientific research. Since its inception in 2009, it has pledged over \$70M to impactful projects in the UK, US and China. Through its donations, the Foundation hopes to improve the prospects of individuals, and to support the work of organisations seeking to ensure a safe and successful future for all society. More information is available at <https://huofamilyfoundation.org/>.

Small pilot grants of up to £25k/\$33k

A long-standing interest of HFF has been on the impact of digital technology on young people. The rapid rise and use of this technology has permeated much of society and transformed the way many humans interact. Despite a broad array of research efforts, the full implications - both positive and negative - on human physiology, psychology, behaviour and mental health remain unclear.

These small grants are available to:

- postdoctoral researchers (within five years of completing PhD) and new lecturers/assistant professors (within two years of taking up their permanent/tenure-track position)
- based at colleges, universities and research institutes in the UK or the US
- carrying out foundational/discovery research
- in the broad remit of the impact digital technology on brain development, social behaviours and mental health in young people (children, adolescents and young adults)

We welcome applications from researchers in all relevant fields such as neuroscience, psychology, psychiatry, epidemiology, public health, social science and economics.

Funds can be used for the following purposes:

- preliminary pump-priming and pilot research studies to help researchers to secure subsequent funding from HFF or other major grant-giving bodies
- exchange trips for the researcher to learn new techniques in a different laboratory or to develop a new research collaboration
- cover a brief salary period to bridge between the end of one external grant and the beginning of another grant or a new position in a relevant topic area

Other key points include:

- Each grant can be up to £25k/\$33k and must be fully spent by end of December 2025
- Start date can be from 1 January 2025 and must be completed by 31 December 2025
- As stated above, proposals should focus on enabling foundational/discovery research
- We will not consider proposals related to digital mental health interventions or clinical service provision/reorganisation
- The activity enabled by the grant should not include work involving animals
- Grant funds are not permitted to be used for overhead or indirect costs
- Postdoctoral researchers can either hold the grant directly or indirectly via their named Principal Investigator/mentor at the same institution.

There is no *pro forma* application form. Applications should detail:

- the proposed work and how it fits with the scientific remit
- how it will enable the early-career researcher to progress and develop their career
- a brief budget breakdown and short justification
- the proposed start and end date

The total length should be a maximum of two sides of A4/letter. In addition, applicants should include a short (one page) CV/résumé.

Applications should be emailed to science@huofamilyfoundation.org by 23.59 (UK time), 17 November 2024.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome in early December 2024.

For any queries on this scheme, please contact science@huofamilyfoundation.org