Research Committee Internship 2027

Role specification

Cure Parkinson's are inviting applications for early-career researchers to join our grant evaluation research committee.

The Research Committee (RC) review and assess Cure Parkinson's grant funding applications. It is made up of 16-20 world leading research scientists in Parkinson's, including preclinical and clinical experts, industry representatives and people with Parkinson's. The RC is chaired by Professor Ruth Dobson and meets four times a year. There are two online meetings, a hybrid meeting, and an in-person meeting in London at the end of the calendar year, including a dinner after the meeting.

The RC **terms of reference** and details of the current members can be found on our **website.**

The aim of these internships is to provide early career researchers with experience and exposure to the grant review process. **Applicants for these positions must be either a PhD student or be in post-doctoral training in the UK or Europe, working directly on a project related to Parkinson's.** The internship will offer:

- Hands on experience of the research grant review process
- Mentorship with presenting applications
- Networking with leading Parkinson's experts
- A deeper understanding of charitable funding and the Parkinson's research funding landscape

This is a **one-year, unpaid role,** which will involve sitting in on four separate grant review meetings. Three of the meetings will be virtual, and one will take place in person in London, with necessary travel and accommodation expenses provided. Applicants who are invited to sit on the committee will be expected to attend the:

- first meeting (virtual) as an observer to learn about our grant review processes
- second meeting (virtual) as an active and voting member of the committee
- third meeting (virtual) as a secondary presenter on a grant application
- final meeting (in person) as a primary and secondary presenter on multiple grant applications

Interns will be required to sign a standard Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) in order to access confidential information as part of grant applications and to complete a conflict of interest form. Our conflict-of-interest policy can be found **here.**

Interns may also have the opportunity to attend fundraising or engagement events with Cure Parkinson's supporters and people affected by Parkinson's during the year.

ROLE PROFILE

Cure Parkinson's is a medical research charity that funds preclinical and clinical research focused on disease modification in Parkinson's. These projects seek to slow, stop or reverse the progression of this neurodegenerative condition.

We support our projects through funding, awarded via a grant application process. A committee of academics, clinicians, regulatory experts, and people with Parkinson's meets four times per year to evaluate the grant applications we receive via a two-stage application process.

If the RC believe a stage 1 application is within our funding remit and worthy of consideration, it is invited to stage 2 submission and then sent out for external peer- review. At the second meeting, considering the peer-reviews, the committee will decide whether to recommend funding to Cure Parkinson's trustees.

We fund laboratory or clinical research projects with the potential to cure Parkinson's. By "cure" we mean disease modifying therapy or therapies. Our priority is to find a cure for those living with Parkinson's now. This means we only fund research with the potential to slow, stop or reverse the underlying disease progression. We fund clinical trials involving people with Parkinson's, projects that support clinical trials such as sub-studies, and infrastructure projects. We also fund preclinical research investigating therapies that show potential to translate to clinical trials.

We do not fund research which is directed only to symptomatic relief, basic science or early drug development.

A key part of our remit is that we prioritise research which has the potential to translate into clinical testing in people with Parkinson's within five years. Cure Parkinson's funds research internationally and to date has funded research at 42 institutions across 12 countries.



ROLE REQUIREMENTS

This is an open call for applications from UK and Europe based candidates with expertise in either preclinical or clinical Parkinson's research.

Applicants must be:

- A PhD student or in post-doctoral training (later stage PhD students preferable)
- Working in research relating to Parkinson's, specifically in disease modification not symptomatic management
- Engaging in meaningful patient and public engagement and involvement with people with Parkinson's
- Proficient in English
- Available for four committee meetings from January 2027, UK time zone

Please note, this internship requires a specific level of knowledge, experience and expertise in Parkinson's research. While we appreciate the importance and value that technical staff and research assistants provide in delivering research projects, this internship is only suitable for individuals of PhD level and above.

Timing of 2026 Committee Meetings:

- February (online)
- April (hybrid)
- July (online)
- November (in person and dinner)

TO APPLY

Please submit an expression of interest letter (max one page), including a description of your research specialty and CV (max two pages) by 5pm (UK time) Monday 16 November 2026 to research@cureparkinsons.org.uk.

Our 2026 Research Committee interns told us about their experience:

"Participating in the Cure Parkinson's Research Committee Internship has been one of the most rewarding professional development opportunities I have undertaken. It has increased my confidence, given me valuable insight into the funding and review process, and contributed to my career progression."

Dr Emily Atkinson – University College London

"This opportunity is a rare window into the scientific forces driving the Parkinson's disease field, and how these forces are harnessed by experts through thoughtful deliberation and focused decision-making. An invaluable opportunity for any researcher passionate about Parkinson's disease."

Dr Ludo van Hillegondsberg – University of Oxford

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Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Cure Parkinson's is the operating name of The Cure Parkinson's Trust, a registered charity in England and Wales (1111816) and Scotland (SCO44368) and a company limited by guarantee - company number 05539974 (England and Wales).