

## VALIDATE Pump-Priming Application FAQs

### Eligibility

#### How do I know if I am an Associate VALIDATE member?

Your membership level is stated in your VALIDATE membership approval email. You can also check your membership level via your VALIDATE website members' biography webpage at [www.validate-network.org/validate-network-members](http://www.validate-network.org/validate-network-members), as it is stated there.

#### Can I upgrade my membership level from Affiliate to Associate to be eligible to lead a Pump-Priming Grant?

If you have now passed your PhD (fully completed) then you can apply to upgrade your VALIDATE membership from Affiliate to Associate level. To do so you will need to re-complete the VALIDATE membership application form with your new information (stating your current membership level as 'Affiliate' and ticking the box to apply for Associate membership) and submit it to [VALIDATE@ndm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:VALIDATE@ndm.ox.ac.uk) along with your updated CV and publications list. Your upgrade application will then be reviewed by the Management Team against the criteria for Associate membership.

#### Can I apply for a Pump-Priming Grant if I have already received other funding from VALIDATE?

You can apply for a Pump-Priming Grant if you have already been awarded any VALIDATE funding before (e.g. VALIDATE Fellowship, travel grant, pump-priming grant, training grant). Obviously, though, if you currently hold a VALIDATE Fellowship or other Pump-Priming Grant you cannot claim more than 100% of your salary for any given year and you must have enough time to complete both pieces of work if you have both a Fellowship and are part of a Pump-priming grant.

#### Can I apply for a Pump-Priming Grant if I already have funding from other funders?

Yes, however, the projects must be different (i.e. you cannot be funded for one project twice), and you must have enough time to successfully complete both projects. I

#### Can bioinformaticians apply for VALIDATE Pump-Priming Grants?

Yes (and it is fine to collaborate with some experimental researchers if that improves your project).

#### I have two positions, one at a HIC institute and one at an LMIC institute – do I count as HIC or LMIC for this application?

Which institute pays your salary? That institute will count as your host institute for your application – so if this institute is in a HIC then you are HIC; if it is in a LMIC then you are LMIC.

#### Can I switch institutes during my Pump-Priming Grant?

This would be unusual – your initial host institute should be agreeing to host you for the 12-month project as part of your application. However, this is allowable in extenuating circumstances as we understand that you may need to move for external reasons, such as a spouse/partner changing job location.

#### Is there an age limit for lead applicants, or a restriction on number of years post-PhD?

If an eligibility criterion is not mentioned in the 'funding eligibility' section of the Pump-Priming guidance form (e.g. age), then we do not have criteria/limits for that characteristic.

**My VALIDATE membership application is still in progress; can I apply for a pump-priming grant?**

Yes, as long as your membership application is submitted before your grant application then we can run these in parallel (although this is not ideal and is to be avoided wherever possible).

**Do you fund PhD/MSc students?**

We do not award Pump-Priming Grants to cover any costs related to a postgraduate or undergraduate project or student.

## **Collaborators**

**Can you include a collaborator who is not getting direct funding from the project?**

Yes, as long as they are relevant to your project.

**Can I include industry collaborations?**

Yes, absolutely.

**Can I include collaborators who are non-VALIDATE members?**

No, all Pump-Priming project applicants need to be VALIDATE members. VALIDATE is free to join, so potential collaborators can apply for VALIDATE membership in order to be eligible.

**Can I include collaborators who are VALIDATE Investigator or Affiliate members?**

Yes, collaborators can be any VALIDATE membership level – Investigator, Associate or Affiliate.

**Can I include a collaborator who is not getting direct funding from the project?**

Yes, as long as they are relevant and providing a meaningful contribution to the project.

## **Science**

For all questions about whether your research idea fits VALIDATE's funding remit, please read our Pump-Priming call guidance document where the remit for this call's science is explained.

**My project was rejected in a prior grant round. Can I re-apply with the same project in another round?**

Yes, but obviously you will need to have addressed the feedback as to why your project was not funded previously, and to have substantially improved your project.

## **Budget**

**How much of my salary do I have to include on this grant?**

If your salary can be paid elsewhere (i.e. by your institute) then you do not need to include costs for your salary in your VALIDATE Pump-Priming budget, but you must state who is paying your salary as an in-kind contribution to the project in the Resource Justification of your application form – and whoever is paying your salary must be happy for you to be spending your time focussed on your Pump-Priming project if you are successful in your application.

**Is it possible to include salary for a Research Assistant or student?**

Yes. RA support is allowed, if you can fit it within your budget. However, we would expect the applicant to largely be performing the lab work themselves as they should be dedicating their time and focus to the Pump Priming project.

**In the project budget is there a minimum/maximum amount per line/category?**

No. Your total budget must come in under the overall maximum budget but, other than indirect/overheads, there is no set limit for cost categories (there is a limit on the percentage of overheads you can charge – please see the call guidance document for details).

## **Travel / Training**

### **How long can applicants stay or get training at another lab within the Pump-Priming project?**

A visit of up to six months would be allowed (all at once, or spread across the one-year project period).

## **The Application Form – General Questions**

### **Do you need references in the project description?**

You should use references where appropriate in the project description. They do not count in the word count.

## **Supporting Documents**

### **What font/size of font should I use for my CV and publications?**

Anything legible; not smaller than size 10.

### **Do I need a consent letter from my Senior Scientist mentor/sponsor?**

You should have discussed your application and got agreement from your 'Senior Scientist mentor/sponsor' (usually based at your institute) named in section 1 of the form.

## **Grant Award Process**

### **Will the complete budget be allocated to the host institute after contract, or will this be done in parts?**

Please see the Pump-Priming guidance document.

### **Is it possible to postpone the Pump-Priming project start date?**

We would expect Pump-Priming projects to start within two months of the award letter being sent to successful applicants, subject to contracts being signed. We will expect lead applicants to push their contracts teams to ensure this happens as quickly as possible. However, we understand that sometimes contracts take a bit longer or there may be extenuating circumstances.

## **Other Questions**

### **Is it possible to share past successful Pump-Priming applications and their project titles?**

You can see all our previous and current Pump-Priming project titles and details on our website at [www.validate-network.org/funded-pump-priming-projects](http://www.validate-network.org/funded-pump-priming-projects).