Synthesising the Evidence Grant 2026

Top tips and FAQs

The RCOT Research and Innovation Fund has offered a range of research grants annually since 2007. Over the years, 229 proposals have been submitted to the RCOT Research and Innovation Fund and 72 grants have been awarded. Each year, the Research and Innovation Fund Panel highlights points for general feedback to applicants. We have developed these points into a list of ‘top tips’ and FAQs which we hope will be helpful as you prepare your application.

**Top Tips**

* Be mindful of the submission criteria and deadline, and allow sufficient time for obtaining signatures of any co-applicants, calculation of financial costings, any institutional sign off required and peer review. This can take longer than anticipated!
* Describe how your proposed review addresses one or more of the [Top 10 research priorities](https://www.rcot.co.uk/top-10) for occupational therapy in the UK.
* Consider whether your proposal represents good value for money.
* Be realistic about what can be achieved, and not too ambitious. Build on your existing research strengths and ensure that you have appropriate support to successfully complete a high-quality systematic review.
* Make it explicit within your proposal what you are intending to do and how. Keep it simple and focused. Include sufficient detail and ensure it is clearly explained.
* Understand the deliverables required if your proposal is successful.

**FAQs**

**Q: What funding aspects can be included within my costings for a proposed Synthesising the Evidence Grant?**

A: We expect the funding section of the application form to include actual costs related to undertaking the project – for example, staff time costs, administrative costs and materials. You can also include costs for open access publishing. As a registered charity we do not fund university overheads. The RCOT Research and Innovation Fund Panel will discuss whether the costs proposed seem reasonable for the work planned.

**Q: Would attendance at a conference be covered by a RCOT Research and Innovation Fund grant?**

A: Yes - subject to an overall maximum of £500 for a Synthesising the Evidence Grant.

**Q:** **Is it necessary to have a co-applicant to apply for a Synthesising the Evidence Grant?**

A: No, it is not necessary to include a co-applicant in your application. However, most reviews have a small research team to support the work, and you should consider whether you need mentorship, additional expertise or support to carry out your review.

**Further help and advice**

If you’d like to discuss your project proposal, particularly if you have a question about the application process, please contact Angie Thompson, RCOT Research and Development Officer, in the first instance at: angie.thompson@rcot.co.uk or telephone: 020 3141 4615.

**Finally ….**

You can find other funding opportunities through the R&D Bulletin and discuss research opportunities and issues with other RCOT members via our online community Research Connect. You can find out how to access both [here](https://www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/research-and-development#research-networking).