BSAVA PetSavers' Research Fellowship – Terms and Conditions (November 2026) ("Terms")

Please note that all correspondence should be sent to the Chair of the BSAVA PetSavers' Grant Awarding Committee ("the Committee"), c/o BSAVA, Woodrow House, Waterwells Business Park, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 2AB.

Definitions

The following definitions shall bear the following meanings:

"Grantee" a principal applicant of a funding application to carry out a research project to which these Terms apply ("Project");

"Mentor" a senior scientist experienced in research supervision and/or post-doctoral career mentorship who will mentor the Grantee;

"Institution" a university or academic research institute.

Introduction

BSAVA PetSavers understands that the period immediately after gaining a postgraduate research qualification when academics are trying to develop an independent research programme is one of the most challenging periods in their career. The aim of the BSAVA PetSavers' Research Fellowship is to support veterinary academics through this period and help them start to establish themselves as independent researchers and/or prepare for a research council fellowship application.

Eligibility

Applicants should be able to clearly explain why a BSAVA PetSavers' Research Fellowship will help them achieve their long-term career goals. Suitability of applicants for the Fellowship can be demonstrated by the following requirements:

- A Qualified Veterinary Professional (Veterinary Surgeon or Registered Veterinary Nurse)
- Completion of a postgraduate research degree (PhD, MRes, or MPhil)
- At an early career stage
    - Within the first 10 years after starting an academic post excluding valid career breaks (i.e. Research Fellow, Lecturer or above) with a research requirement at the time of project commencement.
    - Having received less than £250,000 of funding in competitive grants from sources external to the host institution.
- Having a plan to reach the next stage in their research career.
- Having support from their institution to ensure adequate time and support is available to the Grantee. Specifically:
    - Institutions employing the Grantee will be required to guarantee that a minimum of 50% of the Grantee's contracted time will be dedicated to research for the duration of the grant.
    - A senior scientist with significant experience in research supervision and/or post-doctoral career mentorship will act as Mentor providing active support to the Grantee.
- A project proposal consistent will the mission and aims of BSAVA PetSavers and composed of

‘companion animal clinical research’ as defined below.

BSAVA PetSavers funds companion animal clinical research

A Project will be considered by BSAVA PetSavers to constitute 'companion animal clinical research' if it meets each of the following criteria to a material extent in the reasonable opinion of a majority of the PetSavers’ Grant Awarding Committee:

- The study involves only naturally occurring disease in small animals; there must be no experimental or artificial induction of disease;
- The anticipated results of the study will contribute to the understanding of or potentially result in a change in diagnosis or management of small animal disease;
- The study is supervised by people with appropriate veterinary clinical skills and knowledge;
- Any interventions on animals (including obtaining samples) would be considered part of normal veterinary practice;
- The Grantee must state how the results will directly benefit cats, dogs or other companion animals within the UK. If the benefit is not direct, they must suggest the number of further steps (and at what cost) they believe it will take before a benefit becomes apparent;

By definition, therefore, such research would not require a personal or project licence under the terms of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (“the Act”). **PetSavers does not fund research using experimental animals.**

1. Application timetable

a. The grant call opens on 1st December and closes at midnight on 28th February the following calendar year.
b. Applications will be considered at a BSAVA PetSavers’ Grant Awarding Committee meeting in May of the same year.
c. Applicants will be informed of the Committee’s decision by the end of May.

2. What the grant includes and can be used for

a. The Fellowship offers a maximum grant of £70,000 to be spent over a maximum of two years.
b. Funding can be used for research costs such as consumables, bioinformatics charges, access charges, research-related software, and equipment.
c. The grant can be used to support travel and subsistence required in order to undertake the research or present findings.
d. Up to 30% of the total grant can be used to pay for research-specific salary or stipend costs, and up to 10% of the total grant for research-specific equipment costs.
e. The grant cannot be used to fund Open Access charges (see section 11).

3. Application

a. The Grantee should make the application, but other co-applicants can be included in the application. At least one senior scientist must be included who will act as a Research Mentor to the Grantee.
b. The Grantee must be a Qualified Veterinary Professional (either MRCVS or RVN).
c. The Grantee must hold a research PhD or Research Masters.
d. The Grantee must be based in the UK and the BSAVA PetSavers funded elements must be carried out wholly in the UK. For the avoidance of doubt this does not preclude collaborations which collect samples or clinical data from overseas.
e. The application should be made on the BSAVA PetSavers' Research Fellowship Application Form available from https://www.bsava.com/petsavers/Apply-for-funding/Research-Fellowships
f. Applicants must complete all sections of the application form.
g. The curriculum vitae(s) of all applicants on the grant must be supplied.

A single resubmission can be made of previous grant applications that were rejected by BSAVA PetSavers after being shortlisted. Full details of all changes from the original application must be given.

The Project must be legal under English law. The funding decision of the grant awarding committee is final. Feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants, but no other correspondence will be entered into.

4. Research ethics and use of experimental animals

a. Research using experimental animals is *not* permitted in any work funded by BSAVA PetSavers. This includes work on tissues derived from experimental animals.
b. Work carried out on tissues derived from pet animals during a normal post-mortem examination is allowed, provided that the owners' written and informed consent has first been obtained.
c. BSAVA PetSavers reserves the right to request representations from an appointed ethics committee and/or a local Home Office inspector to satisfy the BSAVA PetSavers' Grant Awarding Committee that the work described does not require a Home Office Licence under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.
d. All applications should indicate whether ethical approval has been obtained and if not what steps will be taken to ensure that the Project achieves ethical approval before commencement. For those without access to ethical approval through a recognised research institution the RCVS Ethical Review Panel can provide ethical approval for practice-based clinical research.
e. Evidence of ethical approval must be provided before awarded funds will be paid out.

5. Responsibilities of the Grantee

a. BSAVA PetSavers provides grants to Grantees and does not act as either employer or principal. Accordingly, BSAVA PetSavers is not responsible for claims (however arising) whether under statute or at common law either by or against any applicant or any party named within an application, nor will it indemnify any of those parties against any form of claim.
b. Each Grantee and those named within the relevant application must accept full responsibility for the management, compliance, monitoring and control of all the research work funded as the result of this grant. This includes the requirements of all regulatory authorities governing the use of radioactive isotopes, pathogenic organisms, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and toxic and hazardous substances. BSAVA PetSavers is not responsible for such matters.

c. The Grantee must ensure that all permanent and temporary staff, subcontractors and students involved in the Project receive training appropriate to their duties, and in accordance with the local legislation and comply with all relevant working codes and recognised practice legislation within the local rules and legislations (including without limitation the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1999 (COSHH), the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations 2000, Approved Codes of Practice associated with any of the above, guidance from the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) or the Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification (ACGM), and any other legal or regulatory requirements that may apply from time to time.

6. Responsibilities of the Mentor

The Mentor must be actively involved with the project and support the Grantee's scientific development. The Mentor must agree to meet with the Grantee at least 4 times yearly to discuss project progress and development opportunities.

7. Responsibilities of the employing Institution

a. The employing Institution will offer reasonable opportunities and support in the scientific development of the Grantee.
b. The employing Institution will guarantee to protect a minimum of 50% of the Grantee's contracted time to allow them to undertake research for the duration of the grant.

8. Acceptance of the grant

a. Grants awarded by BSAVA PetSavers are subject to these Terms. Any amendments subsequent to each relevant grant to the Terms can be made only with the written agreement of both parties.
b. A signed copy of these Terms must be returned to BSAVA PetSavers in order to allow the application to receive full consideration. This must include the signature of the Grantee, the Mentor and an authorised representative of the Institution. Please see Appendix 2 for a list of acceptable authorised representatives. The Institution acts as Sponsor so is contractually responsible to BSAVA PetSavers. No funds can be released until the signed Terms are returned with valid signatures of the Grantee, Mentor and the Institution.
c. The start date of the Project must be within six months from the date of the acceptance letter issued by BSAVA PetSavers, unless written permission has been granted from BSAVA PetSavers for an additional delay. The start date must be confirmed to BSAVA PetSavers prior to commencement together with the estimated duration of the study.

9. Divergence from the original award

a. BSAVA PetSavers understands that scientific developments may lead to a need for the Grantee to modify the aims and directions of the Project. Any such modifications must be notified to BSAVA PetSavers as soon as they become known and must be fully justified in writing.
b. BSAVA PetSavers must be consulted promptly and fully prior to any proposed changes to the original application and reserves the right to withhold further funding should it consider the divergence from the original application to be too great.

10. Progress reports

a. BSAVA PetSavers requires a written report of the Project progress every six months. This must be completed by the Grantee in association with the Mentor. It should be 400–1000 words in length and be completed using the report form available from the BSAVA PetSavers' website.
b. Grantees and co-applicants may be contacted for up to 3 years after the final Project report has been received to request information about the impact of their Project findings and publication details.
c. Applicants will not be permitted to apply for future BSAVA PetSavers' grants unless/until they are up-to-date with Project reports. There may also be a delay in the payment from BSAVA PetSavers of further funds or the reimbursement of monies already paid by the Grantee from BSAVA PetSavers until the report is submitted, where such monies are not already committed and/or the report is not provided within a reasonable timeframe as agreed by the Grantee and BSAVA PetSavers.

11. Publications and publicity

a. BSAVA PetSavers reserves the right to publicise the awarding of grants as it sees fit. When a grant is made the Grantee will be asked to provide a photograph, short CV, and image associated with the Project for publicity purposes. BSAVA PetSavers will comply with all relevant UK data protection and processing regulations (such as, but not necessarily limited to GDPR) in relation to such use of personal data.
b. Each Grantee or co-applicant must complete one article for BSAVA's *Companion* magazine during the period of their grant when requested by BSAVA PetSavers.
c. Grantees must ensure that they notify BSAVA PetSavers of any submissions and acceptances of publications based wholly or partly upon the research funded by the grant and forward an electronic copy of any such publications to BSAVA PetSavers within 30 days of publication.
d. Grantees must consider submitting any publishable works produced as a consequence of this grant to the Journal of Small Animal Practice (JSAP). As a minimum at least one submission should be made to JSAP. If the Grantee is of the opinion that the primary research produced is not appropriate for JSAP then a Review of the topic area can be submitted instead. In this case the review should be properly referenced and balanced and appropriate for the JSAP audience. The grant holder will ensure that any other publications submitted to any other journals acknowledge the contribution of BSAVA PetSavers to the funding.
e. BSAVA will make efforts to promote BSAVA PetSavers-funded papers published in JSAP.
f. Grantees must ensure that the BSAVA PetSavers' contribution to the funding of the Project is suitably acknowledged in a form acceptable to BSAVA PetSavers in all publications. Suggested wording would be: "BSAVA PetSavers (Co)-funded" or "This work was supported by BSAVA PetSavers [grant number xxxx]". Any variation to this wording must be approved in advance by BSAVA PetSavers.
g. We encourage all of our Fellows to publish their BSAVA PetSavers-funded outputs with Gold Open Access where possible. Applications will be looked upon favourably where the host institute commits to covering the costs of Open Access publication. Please note however that no part of this Fellowship award can be used to fund Open Access charges.
h. BSAVA PetSavers recognises that publication of the results of research may need to be delayed for a reasonable period while seeking protection by way of formal registration of intellectual property arising from that research. If there are any such periods of delay, BSAVA PetSavers must be kept regularly informed in writing of the precise position and the reasons.
i. Grantees may be asked to supply BSAVA PetSavers with suitable materials for publicity and promotional purposes.

12. Alumni Group

a. The newly-formed Alumni Group aims to establish a community of past and present BSAVA PetSavers-funded researchers to foster networking, mentoring and being an ambassador for BSAVA PetSavers.
b. On receipt of the final project report, Grantees, Postgraduate Students and others who have played a major role in the project will be invited to become members of the Alumni Group.

13. Equipment

a. Any equipment wholly funded by the BSAVA PetSavers' grant in relation to a Project shall be the property of the Grantee.
b. Any loss resulting whether directly or indirectly from payments made for equipment in advance of delivery will be entirely the responsibility of the Grantee. The Grantee is responsible for adequately insuring and maintaining the equipment so that the Project can be completed.
c. It is the responsibility of the Grantee to maintain the equipment whilst in their care both during and for a period of 12 months after completion of the Project. Disposal is the sole responsibility of the recipient.
d. Should the Grantee move to another institution/practice during the tenure of this grant, this will be considered a divergence to the original award as detailed in section 9a. If the Grantee moves to another institution within three years of the expiry or the termination of a grant and wishes to take the equipment with them, BSAVA PetSavers reserves the right to require that the equipment funded by the grant be transferred after discussion, if necessary, with the institutions concerned.
e. Where equipment is to be jointly funded by PetSavers and the institution, an agreement-in-principle between the Grantee and the institution should be drawn-up and submitted with the application which details the following points:
    i. Ownership proportions
    ii. Equipment description
    iii. Funding sources
    iv. Conditions of ownership transfer, including time frame
    v. Liability and maintenance
    vi. Intellectual property
    vii. Disposal and alternative arrangements
    viii. Termination and dispute resolution

14. Limitations of BSAVA PetSavers' liability

BSAVA PetSavers accepts no responsibility, financially or otherwise, for the expenditure (or liabilities arising out of such expenditure) or other liabilities whether direct or indirect arising out of the Project. The control of expenditure to be funded under this grant must be governed by the normal standards and procedures of the Grantee's Institution and must be covered by the formal audit arrangements that exist within that Institution.

15. Financial arrangements

a. All claims for grant funding must be made in the form of an official invoice raised by the Grantee's Institution quoting full details of the BSAVA PetSavers' award. 75% of funding will be available when BSAVA PetSavers is notified in writing of the start date of the Project and will be paid within 30 Business Days of receipt of a valid invoice, with the remaining 25% being paid within 30 Business

Days after receipt of the final report and a valid invoice (see Appendix 3).

b. A copy of these Terms must be passed by the Grantee to the finance department of their Institution.
c. Should the Grantee move to another institution during the tenure of the grant, the grant may not be transferred unless all parties concerned including BSAVA PetSavers shall previously agree in writing to such a move. BSAVA PetSavers will not be liable in respect of any additional costs as a result of such a move or transfer. In the event that BSAVA PetSavers does not agree to such a move, it shall not be liable to make further payments under the Terms of the grant. Any such decision shall be at the sole discretion of BSAVA PetSavers.
d. All invoices for funding must be sent for the attention of the Finance Department, BSAVA, Woodrow House, 1 Telford Way, Waterwells Business Park, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 2AB or to finance@bsava.com.
e. All invoices must have the reference number of the award; failure to comply with this will result in the invoice being rejected.
f. Travel costs not agreed in the original application will not be covered unless written agreement has been obtained in advance from BSAVA PetSavers as part of a divergence from the original award under section 9a.
g. The amount of any grant does not include any local taxes (including VAT). The recipient is responsible for payment of all local taxes.
h. BSAVA PetSavers does not pay University Full Economic Costings.
i. The first invoice must be received by BSAVA PetSavers within one year of the date of the grant being awarded and the final invoice must be received by BSAVA PetSavers within two years of the proposed Project completion date.
j. Extensions commensurate with the length of the Project originally proposed will be considered if requested in writing to BSAVA PetSavers with adequate justification explanation.
k. BSAVA PetSavers likes to support Grantees during life events; therefore requests for suspension in relation to parental leave or sick leave will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Grant funds will not normally be paid during a period of suspension.
l. Any money not invoiced within two years of the agreed Project completion date will be forfeited and the money used for funding future grants unless an extension to the Project has been agreed in writing with BSAVA PetSavers.

16. Intellectual property and commercial activities

a. BSAVA PetSavers is committed to advancing veterinary healthcare through its support for clinical research. As a charity, BSAVA is under an obligation to ensure that the useful results of each Project that it funds are applied for the public benefit. To meet these objectives, BSAVA PetSavers, together with BSAVA PetSavers-funded Grantees, researchers and their institutions/practices, wish to play an active role in ensuring the protection and exploitation of the Intellectual Property arising out of the Project that it funds. Accordingly, BSAVA PetSavers requires the Grantee to communicate full reports detailing the results of the Project to BSAVA PetSavers at regular intervals. The Institution and Grantees should notify BSAVA PetSavers promptly in writing when Intellectual Property that it deems suitable for protection arises from the grant and take all reasonable steps to ensure that such Intellectual Property is protected and not published or otherwise disclosed publicly prior to protection (whilst at the same time ensuring that potential delays in publication are minimised). BSAVA PetSavers is always interested to hear about research that may stem from the findings obtained from Projects it has funded. Application for any form of Intellectual Property registration of the results of the Project and/or commercial exploitation of those results is encouraged by BSAVA PetSavers but should not be made without the prior written approval of BSAVA PetSavers which may not be unreasonably withheld. Reasons why approval may be refused include, but are not limited to, where BSAVA PetSavers considers that the proposed commercial exploitation would run

counter to its interests and charitable objectives. Any such approval will only be granted subject to the right to share all net revenue received from the exploitation of the arising Intellectual Property, taking into account the proportionate funding contributions of BSAVA PetSavers, the Institution and Grantees and other third party funders, in the proportion of sixty-seven percent (67%) to the Institution and thirty-three percent (33%) to BSAVA PetSavers.
For the purposes of this clause, "net revenue" shall mean the total gross revenue received from the exploitation of the arising Intellectual Property less: (i) patenting, legal, accounting, auditing and other costs relating to the protection, upkeeping and any relevant registration of that Intellectual Property; and (ii) marketing costs specific to the product/service that exploits that Intellectual Property.

b. BSAVA PetSavers shall have the right to audit the relevant accounts and records of the Grantee and co-applicants upon prior reasonable written notice to confirm that there has been an appropriate benefit sharing made in relation to any such exploitation.

17. Termination of a grant

BSAVA PetSavers may, without prejudice to its other rights and remedies, by notice in writing to the Grantee immediately terminate its obligations in relation to the Grant if either the Grantee or any of the co-applicants:

a. is in material or persistent breach of any of its obligations under this Agreement and if that breach is capable of remedy and the Grantee and/or any of the co-applicants has failed to remedy that breach within 30 days after receiving written notice requiring remedy of that breach; or
b. if in the reasonable opinion of BSAVA PetSavers the Project is conducted in a manner which is prejudicial to the reputation of PetSavers; or
c. being a company is unable to pay its debts (within the meaning of section 123 of the Insolvency Act 1986) or becomes insolvent or an order is made or a resolution passed for the administration, winding-up or dissolution of the other (otherwise than for the purposes of a solvent amalgamation or reconstruction) or an administrative or other receiver, manager, liquidator, administrator, trustee or similar officer is appointed over all or any substantial part of the assets of the other or the other enters into or proposes any composition or arrangement with its creditors generally or any analogous event occurs in any applicable jurisdiction; or
d. being an individual a trustee in bankruptcy is appointed or that individual enters into a voluntary arrangement; or
e. any of the events referred to in paragraphs 17 b) or 17 c) is in the reasonable opinion of BSAVA PetSavers about to occur; or
f. if the Grantee ceases or threatens to cease carrying on business, or if the Grantee undergoes a change of control that is in BSAVA PetSavers' reasonable opinion likely to have an adverse effect on the Project.

Notwithstanding the foregoing BSAVA PetSavers will reimburse the Grantee for expenditure properly and directly incurred or committed under the Project up to the termination date but shall not be liable for any other form of loss incurred by the Grantee.

Where a Grantee does not complete the Project, a full written report of the Project to date must be provided by the Grantee within 8 weeks of ceasing work on the Project including the reasons for failure to complete the Project.

The Grantee and their Institution agree to abide by the above Terms:

Name of Primary Applicant / Grantee: _____

Signature:_____ Date: _____

Name of Mentor: _____

Signature:_____ Date: _____

Name of authorized representative of the Institution (with contractual responsibility to BSAVA PetSavers):

_____

Signature:_____ Date: _____

Appendices

Appendix 1

Please see the Guide to Applying for a BSAVA PetSavers Grant.

Appendix 2

List of authorised representatives: Principal, Vice-Chancellor, Dean, Registrar, Secretary, Head of Department, Research Contracts Officer, Bursar, Chief Finance Officer, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Accountant, Practice Owner, Practice Partner.

Appendix 3

Financial payments for the Project:

- 75% of funding will be made available upfront on invoicing and once a letter confirming the start date has been received
- The remaining 25% will be made after receipt of the final report and a valid invoice