**Funding principles**

1. **To support targeted research areas of impact:** It is incumbent on all PharmAlliance partners to maximise research impact and as such, the PARCDT program will target strategic research areas rather than relying solely on ‘bottom up’ investigator-driven proposals. Furthermore, to generate teams that are truly internationally competitive, funding will be focused in areas aligned with each Schools’ strategic plans to provide maximum return and to broaden opportunities for external support.

2. **To support PhD student scholarships rather than postdoctoral or research assistant positions:** The mode of support will be via PhD studentships rather than short-term research projects. Support for PhD studentships will dictate longer-term collaborative relationships between the project PIs and foster close links via co-supervision of the students involved. Funds are only available at UCL and UNC to support student scholarship stipends. At Monash, funds are also available to support student scholarship stipends. Under exceptional circumstances and with appropriate justification, there may be flexibility to use funds to support other aspects of the collaboration where a student already has a scholarship. In all cases, however, typical project (research) costs must be borne by the PIs.

3. **To ‘cluster’ support within a priority area to provide a linked cohort of PharmAlliance PhD students**: To encourage a larger critical mass of activity in priority areas, support will be provided for multiple students within a single research focus area. For example, applications may seek support for one student in each school (i.e., a total of three students) or perhaps one to two students in each of two schools (i.e., total of two to four students). These may not all be directly funded via PARCDT but may seek to add critical mass across schools in areas of strength. This will provide a cluster of activity with the goal of developing a community among the cohort (students plus supervisors). This is a longitudinal, collaborative educational opportunity that would benefit students by teaching both ‘hard’ science and ‘soft’ transferrable skills through regular communication and collaborative professional development (e.g., journal clubs, lab meetings, mentoring, networking). The PARCDT scheme will provide some travel support to promote exchange of participants between schools, further building effective collaborative teams.

**Operation**

* There will be an annual call for applications. Priority will be given to applications in nominated priority areas, however applications in areas outside the priority areas will also be accepted.
* In 2024, the nominated priority areas are:
  + Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  + Social Impact
* Note, Social Impact has broad potential application and might include, but is not limited to, the following:
  + Climate health - Including
    - mechanisms to reduce negative impacts on planetary health such as green chemistry, micro methods, reduced animal use, environmentally degradable drugs and delivery systems
    - better treatments for diseases likely to be more prevalent in a warming world such as zoonotic diseases, cardiovascular disease, mental health and more resilient supply chain and practice models to cope with the increased likelihood of extreme weather patterns.
  + Pandemic preparedness
  + Medication safety
* Applications will identify a cluster of projects across multiple schools with a common theme in one of the priority areas. Funding will be sourced to support domestic PhD student stipends for up to 3 years. Funds are only available at UCL and UNC to support student scholarship stipends. At Monash (where scholarship support is more broadly available), under exceptional circumstances and with appropriate justification, there may be flexibility to use funds to support other aspects of the collaboration (meetings, longer term exchanges, training, etc). In all cases, however, typical project (research) costs must be borne by the PI’s project. Funding to support student travel costs to conduct a component of their research at the partnering school(s) of up to $10,000 per student also will be available if adequately justified.
* Investigators and supported students must be employed primarily by and paid by, or enrolled through the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, UCL School of Pharmacy, or Monash University Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Faculty holding adjunct/honourary or similar appointments are not eligible.
* The number of positions available in any funding round will be determined by budget cycle and confirmed by the Deans, but will consist of at least one student each at Monash, UNC, and UCL.
* PhD students will be eligible when they have approximately 3 years of research remaining in their PhD program (i.e., typically this will be after they have completed coursework requirements and have been admitted to candidacy at UNC, and at the start of candidature at Monash or UCL). The timings do not need to overlap perfectly for all students across the cohort as long as there is a core period where all the students are engaged in the program. Since scholarship support for PhD students will be provided locally by each school, and the mechanisms by which this funding will be obtained differ, applicants will be required to discuss their application plans with their local Research Domain chair during the planning stage and obtain signatures from each participating Research Domain chair **before** submission.
* Applicants are encouraged to structure programs to most effectively leverage the PharmAlliance investment. For example, larger cohorts working in similar areas might be envisaged by the amalgamation of both PharmAlliance-funded PhD students and students/postdoctoral scholars funded by other support mechanisms to build more robust communities where knowledge exchange is promoted. In this aspect it will be possible to combine PhD students funded by PARCDT with self-funded PhD students to bring together a larger team. At the application stage, self-funded students may already have been identified or an intention to recruit an additional self-funded candidate can be included in the application.
* Awardees are expected to present a progress report update at PharmAlliance Week each year (either in person or by zoom). In addition, they may be asked to present updates at other scheduled seminars or events as determined by their school. These presentations will serve to showcase ongoing research, foster collaboration, and assess project milestones.
* Proposals will be assessed by a panel comprising representatives from all three schools and recommendations for funding made to the Deans.

**Publications and Acknowledgements**

All publications and presentations resulting from research supported by the PARCDT Award must include the following acknowledgement:

*“The authors gratefully acknowledge PharmAlliance (an alliance between the pharmacy schools of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Monash University, and University College London) for supporting this research (or ‘work’) through a PharmAlliance Research Clusters for Doctoral Training (PARCDT) award.”*

Publications and presentations must also be reported to the PharmAlliance Program Coordinator for record-keeping and dissemination purposes.

**Visa Requirements and Guidelines**

For team members traveling to the US for research activities, applicants should start the visa process well in advance of their planned travel dates. The application window can vary depending on type of visa and individual circumstances. Generally, it is advisable to apply at least 3-6 months before the intended travel date to allow sufficient time for processing. Below are visa types and purposes:

* **J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa**: Ideal for those participating in research or academic programs. This visa allows individuals to engage in active research.
* **ESTA Visa/B-1 Business Visa**: Suitable for short-term visits to conduct business activities such as conferences or shadowing researchers. This visa does not permit active research or involvement in ANY direct lab duties or research activities.

**Selection criteria**

• Scientific rationale (25%)

• Collaborative team/project staffing: (25%)

• Alignment with PharmAlliance priority areas (15%)

• Communication/collaboration plan including justification for travel, if requested (10%)

• Project outcomes (25%)

*The PharmAlliance community guidelines and commitments are applied to all PharmAlliance activities and initiatives. Please see PharmAlliance.org/about for more information.*

To submit this application, please discuss your proposal with your local [Research Domain Chairs,](https://www.pharmalliance.org/pharmalliance-domains/research-and-enterprise/) complete each of the below application components and submit this form, complete with signatures, via email to [Sophia Mortha](mailto:smortha@live.unc.edu). Please direct any procedural questions about the application or assessment process to [Sophia Mortha](mailto:smortha@live.unc.edu).

**Timeline**

30 September – Open applications

28 February – Applications due

28 March – Award announcements

31 March – Funding available

**Application Components**

Scientific rationale (up to 1 page)

*Please provide rationale for this project. Include background, preliminary data available, and 2-3 aims.*

**Project staffing (up to 0.5 page)**

*Please describe the number of people who will work within this project i.e. PhD students at each site, self-funded students, postdoctoral scholars, and any additional staff that will be committed to this project.*

**Funding sustainability and future grant plans (up to 0.5 page)**

Please provide details on funding sources that will be used to support the proposed research for 3 years. Also include specific grants or funding opportunities the team plans to apply for during the project period to ensure sustained research efforts. This information will help evaluate the long-term viability and potential impact of the project.

**Collaborative team** **statement** (up to 0.5 page)

*Please provide a statement on the team fit and synergistic potential. Additionally, please include short bios from all PIs (*[NIH format](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm)*) at the bottom of this application.*

**Alignment with PharmAlliance strategic priorities (up to 0.5 page)**

*Please refer to the Strategic Priorities outlined in the attached PDF and describe how this project aligns with the named priorities.*

[PharmAlliance Priorities .pdf](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P5ZrO0GUuXglSzgqb6g2Km34G1pFjETc/view?usp=drive_link)

**Communication/collaboration plan including justification for travel, if requested (up to 1 page)**

*Please describe plans to connect and support students and investigators across the international collaboration.*

**Project outcomes (up to 0.5 page)**

*Please describe key project outcomes, including student-centered outcomes from involvement in an international collaboration.*

**Statement from supervisor**

*The most competitive applicants will have already identified students who would benefit from the scholarship and engage in the proposed research. This is due to the delay that a student recruitment period introduces. If the investigators have student(s) in mind for this project, please provide a statement about the suitability of the student(s) for the project (e.g., background, previous research, research interests). If applying with no student(s) in mind, please provide a statement about the ideal candidate(s) for this project (e.g., background, previous research, research interests) and the timeline for recruitment.*

**Bios**

*Please include short bios from all PIs (*[NIH format](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm)*) here.*

**Sign-off from Principal Investigators at each institution**.

*Note – projects must involve at least two of the three PharmAlliance institutions.*

Typed name of PI: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of PI Date

Typed name of PI: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of PI Date

Typed name of PI: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of PI Date

**Sign-off from Research Domain chair or delegate at each institution confirming funding is available should the application be successful.**

Typed name of Research Domain chair or delegate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Research Domain chair or delegate Date

Typed name of Research Domain chair or delegate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Research Domain chair or delegate Date

Typed name of Research Domain chair or delegate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Research Domain chair or delegate Date