**University of Manchester**

**Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health**

**School of Health Sciences**

**Division of Informatics, Imaging and Data Sciences (Imaging Facilities)**

**MR imaging grants – policy and process**

The University's Imaging Facilities offer researchers and clinicians access to leading-edge PET, MR and PET-MR facilities, equipment and staff in order to produce high quality research that will inform the identification of effective new treatments and the targeted use of treatment for greatest patient benefit.

The Facilities are particularly keen to offer colleagues an opportunity to undertake free MR research studies, which will be subsidised by the Division of Informatics, Imaging and Data Sciences, on one of the three MR only scanners in the Facilities. Given the current financial climate, the number of free research studies unfortunately has to be limited to a maximum of 6 studies receiving a maximum of 20 free scanning hours each per annum.

The aim of MR imaging grants is to collect pilot data to inform a new grant application for external funding. We also welcome applications from PhD students but it should be noted that these grants are not the primary source of funding for PhD imaging studies.

MR imaging grants cannot be used to subsidise studies which are not sufficiently funded to cover the imaging requirements.

The Imaging Facilities currently welcomes applications for studies to use the following scanners:

* 1.5T Philips scanner at the Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre (WMIC)
* 3T Philips scanner at the Manchester Clinical Research Facility (MCRF)
* 3T Philips scanner at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust (SRFT)

Colleagues interested in applying should note that the 3T scanner at the MCRF is particularly busy and scanning on funded studies will take precedence over MR imaging grant studies.

For colleagues interested in using the 3T scanner at SRFT, this scanner is due to be decommissioned in mid-2019 although the University and SRFT are in negotiation on purchasing a replacement 3T scanner.

Please note the following:

1. The Imaging Facilities offers a maximum of 20 hours of free human scanning to successful applicants.
2. If applicants need additional time on the scanner(s) to develop sequences before the ethically approved study starts, you will need to follow the process for applying for development time as this will fall under the Imaging Facilities’ ethics for healthy volunteer development scanning.
3. If applicants need to use phantoms to develop sequences before the ethically approved study starts, you will need to follow the process for applying for phantom time).
4. We particularly welcome applications to use the 1.5T scanner at WMIC.
5. If you have already secured funding for any aspect of the MR imaging grant application, you are **unlikely** to be successful in being awarded an MR imaging grant.
6. Scanning on all MR imaging grants must commence within 6 months of the date of the award. Failure to do so will require a re-submission of the application and success with a re-application cannot be guaranteed.
7. All scanning on approved MR imaging grants must be completed within 12 months of the date of the award of the MR imaging grant.
8. The Imaging Facilities reserves the right to cancel bookings for MR imaging grant studies should a funded study require the same scanning appointment.
9. No transfers of scan hours can be permitted between MR imaging grants or onto other approved research studies.
10. The scheme does not include the cost of contrast agents, involvement of staff time from the Imaging Facilities to develop protocols and methodology (cost dependent on the member of staff and time involvement) and to set up the study internally (£297). These costs must be covered by the home School of the applicant and it is recommended that applicants secure this funding **before** applying for an MR imaging grant.
11. The home School must also provide, at its own cost, a clinician to cover any MR scans which involve the administration of an MR contrast agent.
12. MR imaging grant applications will only be accepted from University of Manchester employed staff (i.e. with a substantive employment contract). Honorary contract holders are not eligible to apply.
13. For PhD student projects, the PI must submit the MR imaging grant application.
14. Study teams must have their own regulatory approvals for studies funded by MR imaging grants.
15. Successful applicants will be required to provide follow-up information on publications and grant applications.

How to apply

There will be two calls for proposals in each financial year and colleagues wishing to apply for an MR imaging grant must submit a completed application form to Denise Ogden (denise.ogden@manchester.ac.uk).

Applications will then be reviewed by University colleagues and prioritised according to the following criteria:

* Scientific merit
* Follow-on plans (publications, grant applications)
* Scanner and staff availability