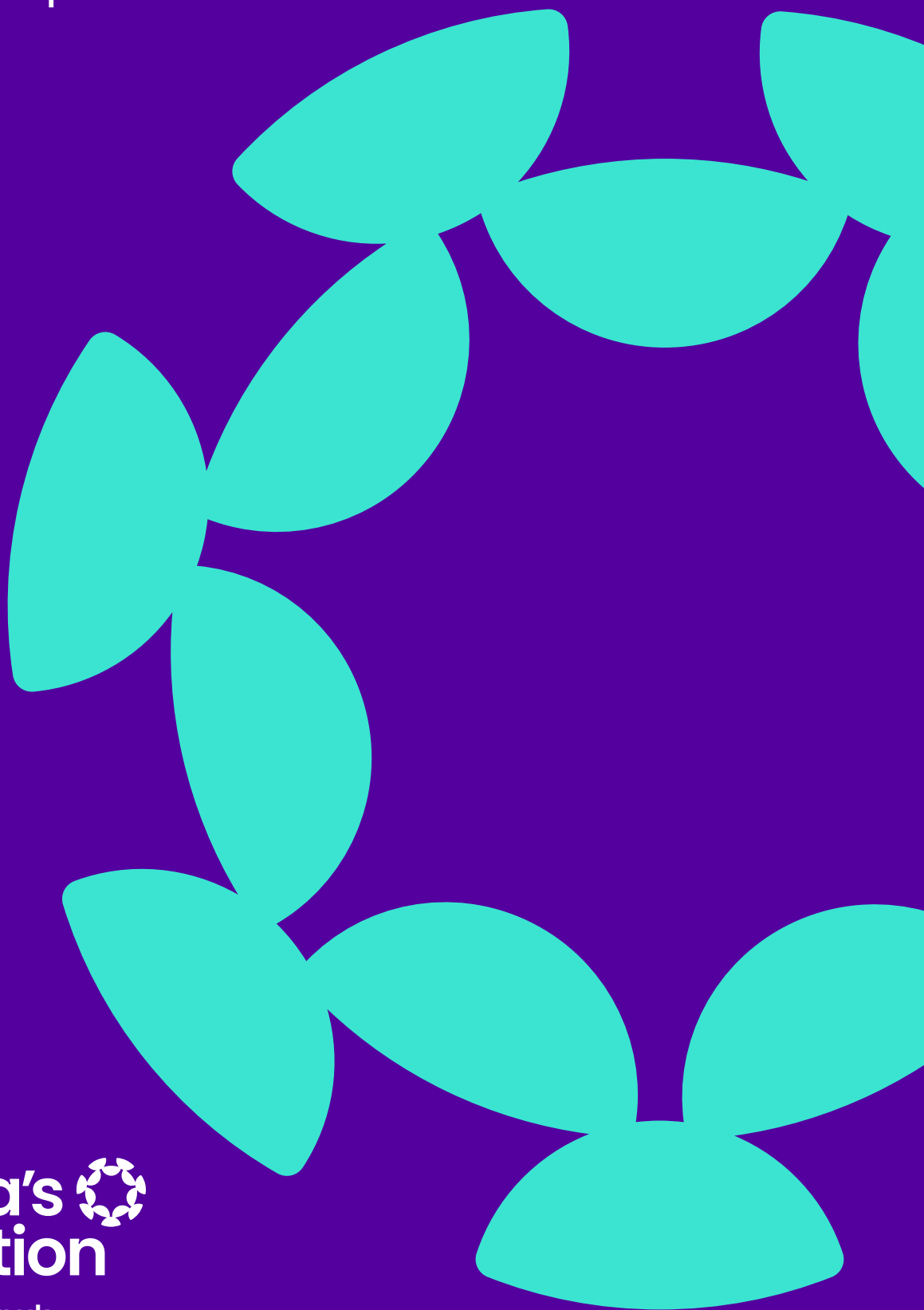


NATASHA'S PRIZE

A future without food allergy

Application pack



Natasha's 
Foundation

natashasprize.org.uk

natashasfoundation.org.uk

About Natasha's Prize

Natasha's Prize is a landmark £10 million (\$13.5 million) investment into global research to create a future without food allergy.

10 years after the death of 15-year-old Natasha Ednan-Laperouse, Natasha's Foundation has launched Natasha's Prize to unite the world's brightest scientific minds to develop solutions to the food allergy epidemic which affects 220 million people worldwide.¹

It represents the largest fund for food allergy research ever awarded in the UK and leading scientists believe it could transform the food allergy landscape for future generations.

Food allergy is increasing at an alarming rate, with cases in the UK doubling over the past decade and millions affected worldwide.²

Established in Natasha's memory after she died from a severe allergic reaction to sesame, Natasha's Prize is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to turn the tide on food allergy.

It will focus on preventing food allergy before it starts: during the first 1,000 days, from conception to age 2, which is a critical period for scientific intervention.

Natasha's Prize: The research question

What interventions can be made in the first 1,000 days, from conception to age 2, that could stop food allergy developing in the first place?

Bright minds. Bold ideas. Breakthrough solutions.



The need for a Global Food Allergy Science Alliance

Food allergy is a complex problem that requires bold, interdisciplinary collaboration to address it holistically, with a strong focus on prevention, global equity and meaningful interventions.

Natasha's Prize aims to build a Global Food Allergy Science Alliance, bringing together leading experts from a wide range of disciplines – including allergists, microbiologists, engineers, AI specialists, epidemiologists and environmental scientists – to advance high-impact research and generate breakthrough solutions.

Successful applicants will work collaboratively to develop bold ideas that could transform how food allergy is understood, prevented and managed for future generations.

Professor Sir Stephen Holgate CBE, Natasha's Prize Director and Clinical Professor of Immunopharmacology and Honorary Consultant Physician at the University of Southampton, said:

"With a complex condition like food allergy we need a completely new approach, involving people from all different disciplines and that is what Natasha's Prize is seeking to achieve."

There have been so many encouraging new developments in our understanding of food allergy

over the past few years. However, we will launch Natasha's Prize with open minds.

The solution could be an intervention that primes the immune system to avoid food allergy, or preventative lifestyle changes.

But we don't want to prejudice the brainstorming process. We want to think creatively, boldly and without constraints. We could go in a completely different direction that we cannot yet anticipate."

Finding ways to prevent food allergy is an ambitious target. But with the right minds on the case, backed by proper funding, the Foundation believes it is also an achievable one.

People with food allergy, and their loved ones, live with fear every single day.

Natasha's Prize offers the hope that future generations will be able to live free from this fear.

Natasha's Foundation is proud to be an introductory member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), and thanks them for their support with Natasha's Prize



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Natasha's Prize: Application timeline and key dates

Step 1 Apply

- **Monday 1 June 2026**
Applications open

Natasha's Prize begins with a global call-out for ambitious researchers, innovators, and experts from different disciplines who believe they can help solve the mystery of food allergy prevention.

Individuals will apply through an online form outlining their expertise, ideas, and potential contribution to bold, high-impact research.

You can apply by scanning this QR code >>



Further information on who should apply, application eligibility criteria and process can be found on pages 8-12.

- **6pm, Friday 3 July 2026**
Applications close

- **July 2026**
Applications assessed

Thinkery participants are selected through an independent, peer-reviewed process based on expertise, diversity and potential contribution.

- **Friday 31 July 2026**
Applicants selected for the Thinkery will be notified.

Step 2 Attend the Thinkery

- **9am, Tuesday 20 October to 5pm, Thursday 22 October 2026**
Location: Windsor, Berkshire, England, UK.

Applicants selected through peer-review by the Prize Scientific Advisory Panel will attend the facilitated Thinkery (our research sandpit) to develop collaborative, interdisciplinary research ideas.

What is the Thinkery?

The Thinkery is a 3-day in-person research sandpit. Up to 35 applicants from around the world will be brought together and asked to work collaboratively across different fields of expertise, to develop innovative ideas and breakthrough solutions aimed at preventing food allergy before it starts.

While you will initially apply to Natasha's Prize as an individual, during the Thinkery you will be asked to form teams. It is within those teams that you will be invited to progress to the next stage.

Further information on the Thinkery can be found on pages 14-15.

Step 3 Full proposals

- **Monday 1 March 2027**
Deadline for full proposals

Following the Thinkery, the teams will be invited to submit fuller and more detailed full proposals.

- **April 2027**
Assessment and peer-review of full proposals.

These proposals will undergo further assessment and peer review by the Scientific Advisory Panel, with support from additional experts where relevant to the proposal, and will be evaluated on scientific excellence, feasibility, innovation, and their potential to deliver meaningful real-world impact.

Award of Natasha's Prize

- **Spring 2027**

In Spring 2027, the Scientific Advisory Panel will make recommendations to the Natasha's Foundation Trustees, who will make the final funding decisions.

- **May 2027**
Natasha's Foundation agrees the Prize winners, who will be notified.

- **Tuesday 1 June 2027**
Natasha's Prize winners announced.

In the Appendices you can read further details on Natasha's Prize process and governance.

- **Natasha's Prize Research Strategy**
- **Governance Framework**
- **Conflict of interest policy**
- **Expert peer review process**
- **Animal research policy**
- **Expense policy**
- **Summary of terms of grant agreement**

Step 1: People

Natasha's Prize: Who should apply

Natasha's Prize is a global initiative open to experts from every discipline. We therefore welcome applications from around the world.

Who we are looking for:

1. Clinical and paediatric care

Paediatric allergists, obstetricians, neonatologists, perinatologists, dieticians, frontline clinicians.

2. Immunology and biological mechanisms

Mucosal and innate immunologists, molecular biologists, biochemists, geneticists, epigeneticists, pharmacologists.

3. Environmental and planetary health

Environmental scientists, toxicologists, climate and biodiversity experts, urban planners, planetary health researchers.

4. Data, AI and computational science

Health data scientists, computer scientists, mathematicians, bioinformaticians, omics specialists, AI experts, biostatisticians.

5. Nutrition, microbiome and metabolomics

Nutritionists, food scientists, microbiologists, metabolomics and metagenomics experts.

6. Epidemiology and public health

Epidemiologists, public health specialists, birth cohort researchers, clinical trialists, Bayesian Statisticians.

This reflects the principle that complex health challenges require coordinated expertise across biological, environmental and data-driven domains.

Natasha's Prize might focus on interconnected research areas, including harnessing combinations of immune development, microbiology and microbiomes, clues from the environment, epigenetics, dietetics and nutrition, artificial intelligence, chemical biology, microbiology/microbiome research (dysbiosis), gastroenterology,

neurobiology, molecular biology, genetics and epigenetics, bioengineering, computational biology, data science and population health.

We encourage applicants to think broadly about interdisciplinarity, including disciplines beyond those already identified.

Teams may span biomedical sciences, clinical disciplines, engineering, artificial intelligence and data science, behavioural and social sciences and other fields relevant to the challenge.

If you have a bright mind, bold ideas, and believe your science could help transform our understanding of how food allergy begins – and ultimately how it can be prevented – we want you to apply.

Dame Dr Maggie Aderin, space scientist and Ambassador for Natasha's Prize, who is allergic to cows' milk, Brazil nuts and crustaceans, said:

"This is a once in a generation opportunity to make a real difference to the future of food allergy, finding cutting edge research into this life-threatening challenge which so many of us face.

As a scientist, I know the power of research. When you have lots of different people looking at the problem from lots of different angles, you are much more likely to find a solution. I would urge anyone who thinks they can contribute to Natasha's prize to apply.

What is exciting about Natasha's Prize is that it is looking at preventing allergies in the future for the next generation. As kids are born, if they develop food allergies it can affect the rest of their lives. But if we can stop food allergy right from birth, they will have a completely different life. So, this Prize is going to be amazing for so many people."



Natasha's Prize: Eligibility criteria

Natasha's Prize is open to individuals from around the world – leading innovators with deep expertise in their chosen field – who want to help shape the future of food allergy prevention.

- Individuals should be able to demonstrate:
 - Relevant expertise aligned to Natasha's Prize's research priorities
 - A strong track record of clear potential to contribute to high-quality research
 - The ability to work collaboratively across disciplines.
- Applications must be in English.
- Applicants must have read and understood the Natasha's Prize summary of terms of grant agreement (see Appendix 7).
- Applications must be supported by eligible research institutions that can provide appropriate governance, ethical oversight and research assurance.
Your institution must therefore be open to collaboration agreements with institutions in other countries.
- The funding will be awarded to a UK institution for a lead applicant.

What will be expected of Natasha's Prize winners?

Natasha's Prize winners will be expected to:

- Attend the 3 day in-person Thinkery.
- Applicants must have read and understood Natasha's Prize summary of terms of grant agreement.
- Obtain ahead of the full proposal deadline (1 March 2027) all authorisations and permissions necessary for receiving the grant award and conducting the proposed project plan.
- Sign a grant agreement and commit to use the grant award to advance the proposed project across each Prize stage.
- Sign standardised data-sharing agreements with the relevant partner data holders.
- Engage with communication opportunities to promote their participation with Natasha's Prize.
- Provide reporting against their award as laid out in their grant agreement with Natasha's Prize.
- Undergo due diligence processes as required by Natasha's Prize.
- Contact your institution by the full proposal deadline to confirm ability to co-host with other institutions globally.

What is on offer to those who apply for Natasha's Prize?

In addition to the financial support Natasha's Foundations will:

✔ Showcase your expertise

Natasha's Prize will provide opportunities to showcase your work and ideas, through a range of communications, media, and public engagement activities.

You may be invited to contribute to media and social media campaigns, attend events and conferences, take part in speaking opportunities, and share your knowledge, expertise, and research with wider scientific, public, and stakeholder audiences.

Natasha's Prize aims to help raise the profile of participants and their wider portfolio of work, encouraging collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the sharing of innovative ideas across disciplines and sectors.

✔ Connect you to the Global Science Alliance for Food Allergy

As well as helping connect applicants through our website, Natasha's Prize aims to build a global scientific community through a programme of networking and collaboration opportunities.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet others involved with Natasha's Prize, exchange ideas, and explore potential partnerships through both online and in-person events.

Natasha's Prize also plans to host wider networking activities: including webinars, roundtable discussions, collaborative workshops, and an annual conference bringing together researchers, innovators, clinicians, industry leaders, and partners from around the world.

The Global Science Alliance for Food Allergy is designed to encourage long-term collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the development of multidisciplinary partnerships that can help accelerate progress towards the prevention of food allergy.

✔ Support you throughout your Natasha's Prize journey

We are dedicated to making the application process as accessible, efficient, and straightforward as possible. If you experience any difficulties with the application process or require reasonable adjustments or additional support to participate, please contact the Natasha's Prize team.

For questions about the Prize, eligibility, timelines, or the application process, please email:

Prize@natashasfoundation.org.uk

We are committed to supporting applicants throughout the process and can provide guidance on all aspects of the application, as well as the overall aims and vision of Natasha's Prize.

How to apply?

Natasha's Prize will prioritise ambitious, high-risk, high-reward research but with a real chance of preventing food allergy from developing in the first place.

We are seeking individuals who:

- Bring relevant expertise aligned with Natasha's Prize's research priorities
- Are open to collaboration across disciplines, institutions and countries
- Are motivated to contribute to bold, high-impact research

To apply, complete the application form to share key information about your expertise, experience, and ideas relevant to Natasha's Prize.

Please ensure you complete all sections of this form.

Incomplete applications and late applications will not be considered.

Application deadline:
6pm, Friday 3 July 2026.

Apply by scanning this
QR code >>



If you think you have the ideas, skills and expertise to help solve the mystery of food allergy, Natasha's Prize is inviting researchers from around the world to apply.

How we will use your data

The personal data you provide will be used to assess your Expression of Interest and may also be used for internal evaluation of the sandpit process. If selected, your contact information will be used to coordinate your participation and share relevant materials before, during, and after the event. All personal data will be handled securely and in accordance with applicable data protection legislation. For more information, please refer to our Privacy Policy.



Step 2: Ideas

The Natasha's Prize Thinkery

Successful applicants, up to 35 participants, will be invited to take part in a 3-day in-person Thinkery where interdisciplinary teams will be formed to develop innovative research ideas.

Participants will be selected based on:

- Expertise and potential contribution
- Alignment with the Natasha's Prize research question and priorities
- Ability to collaborate across disciplines and function well in interdisciplinary teams
- Potential to contribute to innovative, high-impact research
- Ability to communicate and engage effectively
- Previous demonstration of generating novel research approaches to complex problems

All applications will be peer-reviewed by the Natasha's Prize Scientific Advisory Panel.

What is a Thinkery?

The Natasha's Prize Thinkery will take place from Tuesday 20 to Thursday 22 October 2026.

The Thinkery – more commonly known as a research sandpit – is an intensive collaborative workshop designed to bring together experts from different fields to explore complex challenges, generate innovative ideas, and develop ambitious new research approaches.

Rather than arriving with fully developed projects, participants will work together throughout the process to shape ideas, form interdisciplinary teams, and identify potential pathways for future research and funding.

Natasha's Prize uses this structured Thinkery model to bring together diverse expertise, encourage rapid idea generation, challenge traditional disciplinary boundaries, and create high-quality collaborative teams.

This approach recognises that preventing food allergy requires

integration across multiple areas of science and innovation, and that breakthrough solutions are more likely to emerge through collaboration than through traditional siloed funding models.

The Thinkery will provide a platform for some of the world's brightest minds to challenge conventional thinking and develop bold ideas with the potential to create real-world impact for future generations.

The Thinkery is designed to support collaboration and idea development only. It is not part of the formal funding decision-making process, and progression to the next stage of the Prize will be determined independently through peer review, panel moderation, and Trustee approval.

The Natasha's Prize Thinkery will bring together some of the world's brightest minds to generate bold ideas and breakthrough solutions for preventing food allergy.

Experts from different disciplines will collaborate, challenge conventional thinking, and develop innovative approaches with the potential to create real-world impact for future generations.

All successful applicants will be expected to attend the Natasha's Prize Thinkery. In-person attendance is mandatory for all 3 days.

Date and time: 9am, Tuesday 20 October to 5pm, Thursday 22 October 2026

Location: Windsor, Berkshire, England, UK.



Step 3: Proposals

Emerging ideas develop into detailed proposals

Teams from the Thinkery will be asked to submit full detailed proposals on their ideas.

These proposals will be evaluated on scientific excellence, feasibility and long-term impact, with the leading proposals needing to demonstrate clear pathways to meaningful real-world impact.

Full proposals developed following the Thinkery will undergo independent expert review by members of the Scientific Advisory Panel, relevant external expert reviewers, and

representatives from the food allergic community. The expert review process will be overseen by the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Panel, with independent assurance and conflict-of-interest management in place throughout. Following expert review and panel moderation, funding recommendations will be made to the Foundation's trustees, who hold responsibility for the final funding decisions and award of the Prize.

Natasha's Prize: Funding framework

Natasha's Prize provides funding through a staged, prize-led model to support ambitious, interdisciplinary research aligned with its mission.

The Prize represents a £10 million investment in global research over 5 years. Funding is awarded to a small number of collaborative teams, which are formed during the Thinkery following an initial selection of individual participants.

Natasha's Prize is open to funding ideas at different stages of development. This will include both projects built on strong existing evidence and more ambitious, higher-risk ideas with the potential to lead to major breakthroughs.

The aim is to support research and innovation from across the

world, bringing together innovative approaches, new technologies, and areas of expertise to maximise the chances of meaningful progress in food allergy prevention.

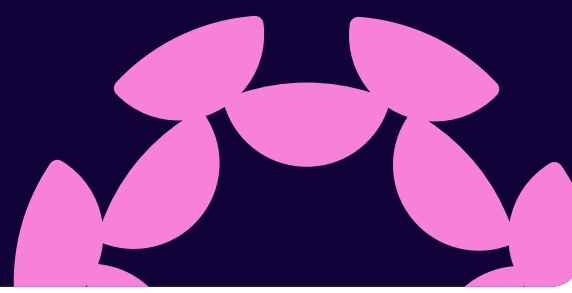
The funding model will support bold ideas and breakthrough solutions at different stages of development – from early exploratory concepts and pilot projects to larger research programmes and clinical trials.

Funding may be awarded as one-off grants, or through longer-term, multi-year support for the most promising ideas as they progress and grow over the 5 years of Natasha's Prize.

Natasha's Prize will fund research that:

- Addresses the prevention of food allergy in early life
- Aligns with Natasha's Prize's research question and priorities
- Demonstrates originality, ambition and scientific rigour
- Integrates relevant disciplines formed through the Thinkery process
- Has a credible pathway to real-world impact

We will prioritise:

- High-risk, high-reward research
 - Novel hypotheses and approaches
 - Solutions-oriented research
- 

Unlock

Natasha's Prize will fund innovators and teams with ambitious bold ideas that could hold all or part of the solution to prevent food allergy before it starts.

By supporting early-stage thinking and collaboration across different fields of expertise, Natasha's Prize aims to unlock breakthrough solutions and accelerate progress towards a future free from food allergy.

Develop

Natasha's Prize will fund programmes that build on research with an existing evidence base, helping scientists to advance early findings into larger-scale studies, collaborative research programmes, and potential clinical applications.

Impact

Natasha's Prize will fund breakthrough solutions into tangible advances that have the potential to transform the future of food allergy prevention, supporting larger-scale research programmes and clinical trials with the potential to deliver real-world impact.

What we will not fund

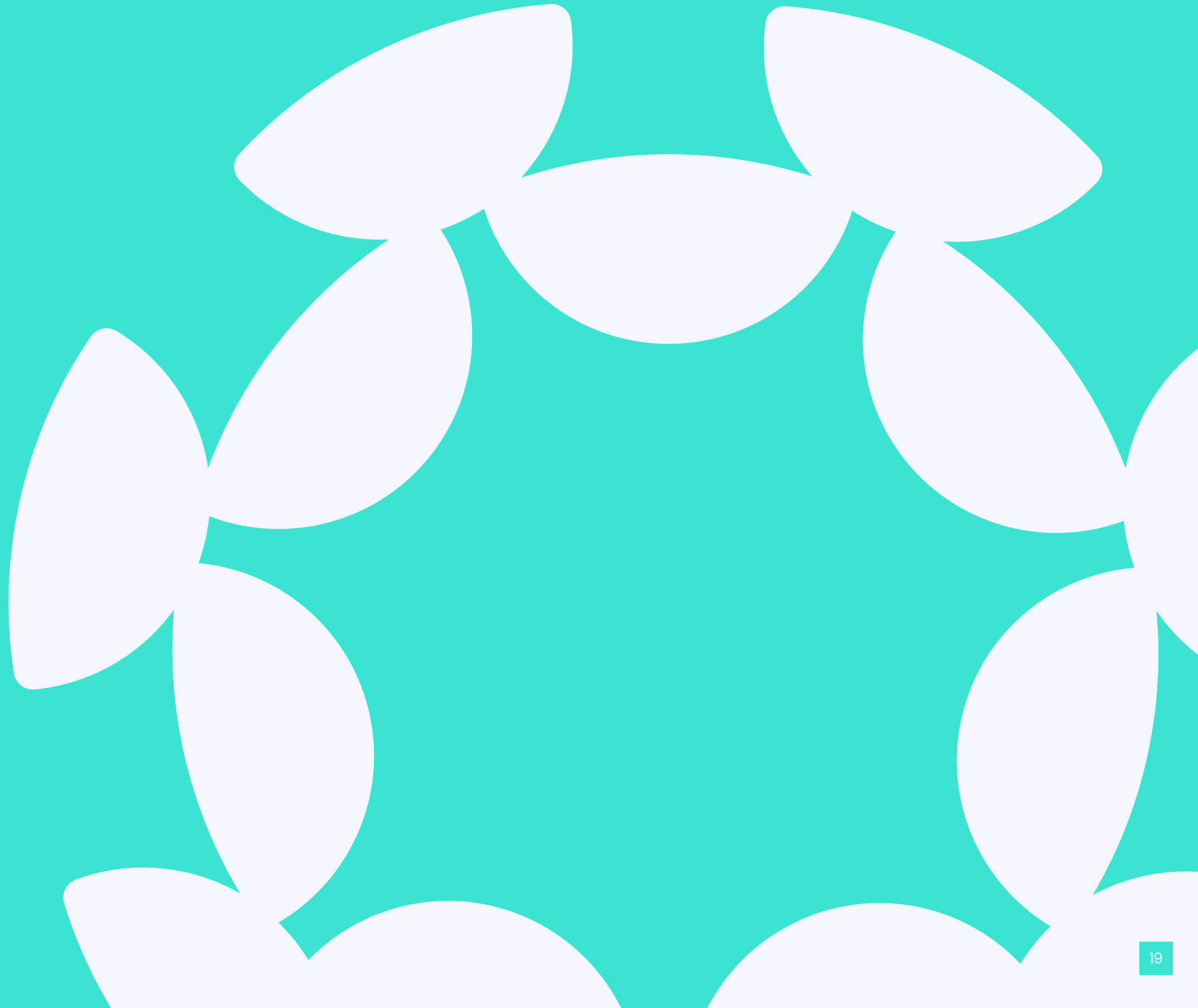
Natasha's Prize will not fund incremental or purely confirmatory studies, narrowly focused single-factor research without broader systems relevance, or projects that do not demonstrate a clear pathway towards the prevention of food allergy.

Funded projects are expected to deliver high-quality, high-impact research over defined timeframes appropriate to the scale and complexity of the work.

Funding is provided through eligible research institutions with appropriate governance and assurance processes in place.

Natasha's Prize funding cannot be used for institutional overheads or indirect costs. Awards are expected to support the full delivery of the proposed research, including staff, resources and associated research activities, in-line with the Prize's summary of terms of grant agreement (see Appendix 7).

Appendices



Appendix 1

Natasha's Prize Research Strategy

This research strategy has been developed in collaboration with our Scientific Advisory Panel. It identifies and addresses the major opportunities to advance food allergy research over the coming years.

1. Purpose of Natasha's Prize

Natasha's Prize is a £10 million investment into global research to create a future without food allergy. This research strategy sets out:

- The scientific focus of the Prize
- How priorities have been identified
- What research will and will not be funded
- How funding decisions will be made
- How success will be assessed

It is published to ensure transparency and alignment with AMRC expectations for clarity, accountability and strategic direction.

2. Why is this research needed?

Food allergy is a growing global health challenge, affecting hundreds of millions of people and placing a significant burden on individuals, families and healthcare systems.

Despite advances in treatment and management, prevention remains limited.

Scientific advances now show that:

- Early life is a critical window for immune development
- Environmental, biological and behavioural factors interact to shape allergy risk
- Many drivers of allergy are now understood, but not yet translated into prevention

As identified at the Global Allergy Symposium (2022):

- Allergy is preventable
- The key drivers are known
- What is missing are the solutions and interventions

Natasha's prize is designed to catalyse those solutions.

3. Our role in the research landscape

Natasha's Prize is designed to complement, not duplicate, existing research funding.

As a charitable funder, it adds value by:

- Targeting an area of unmet need, the prevention of food allergy
- Enabling high-risk, high-reward research that may not be supported through traditional funding mechanisms.
- Bringing together expertise from across disciplines through a structured, facilitated process.
- Catalysing collaboration and idea generation through the Thinkery model.

Researchers apply as individuals, and interdisciplinary teams are formed through the Thinkery. This enables new collaborations and combinations of expertise that would not typically emerge through conventional funding routes.

4. Our research question

The prize is driven by a single, clearly defined question:

What interventions can be made in the first 1,000 days, from conception to age 2, that could stop food allergy developing in the first place?

This question was developed through:

- Scientific Advisory Panel input
 - Global Allergy Symposium consensus
 - Review of emerging evidence on early-life immune development
- It provides a clear anchor for:
- Priority setting
 - Application assessment
 - Evaluation of impact

5. How priorities have been set

In line with AMRC guidance, research priorities for Natasha's Prize have been developed through a structured process combining:

5.1 Scientific evidence

- Rapidly evolving understanding of early-life immune programming
- Evidence linking environment, microbiome and lifestyle to allergy risk

5.2 Expert input

- A Scientific Advisory Panel of global experts across 7 countries and 4 continents.
- A Scientific Advisory Panel Chair to provide oversight.
- The Director of Natasha's Prize provides strategic oversight and advisory support.

5.3 Global Allergy Symposium 2022

- Convened leading scientists to identify drivers of the allergy epidemic
- Defined priority areas, including:
 - Environment
 - Microbiome
 - Lifestyle
 - Genomics
 - Climate change

5.4 Systems framing

A key conclusion from expert input was that:

Allergy in early life is a systems problem, not solvable within a single discipline.

5.5 Role of the Prize

The Prize is designed to:

- Address unmet needs in prevention
- Catalyse interdisciplinary collaboration
- Avoid duplication of existing funding streams
- Enable high-risk, high-reward research

6. Research priorities

Natasha's Prize supports research across interconnected domains, reflecting the systems nature of allergy:

6.1 Immune programming and tolerance

- Development of immune responses in early life
- Mechanisms of tolerance vs sensitisation
- Maternal and early-life influences

6.2 Epithelial barrier function

- Development of skin and gut barriers
- Environmental and biological disruptions
- Early-life exposure pathways

6.3 Nutrition, microbiome and metabolism

- Diet, breast milk and infant feeding
- Microbial exposure and colonisation
- Metabolic pathways influencing immunity

6.4 Environment and planetary health

- Pollution, biodiversity and climate
- Urbanisation and environmental exposures

- Interaction of multiple environmental stressors

6.5 Data science and systems approach

- AI, machine learning and modelling
- Multi-omics integration
- Novel sampling and biomarker strategies

6.6 Global equity and population diversity

- Inclusion of under-represented populations
- Understanding variation in risk across settings
- Developing globally relevant solutions

These priorities reflect and extend the original symposium domains into a prevention-focused, systems-based framework.

7. Our funding approach

Natasha's Prize uses a structured, staged funding approach, designed to catalyse innovation and collaboration.

Applications are submitted by individuals who are selected to participate in the Thinkery. Interdisciplinary teams are then formed during the Thinkery process.

Stage 1 – Open call for participants
A global call invites researchers from diverse disciplines and sectors to apply individually.

Stage 2 – Selection of Thinkery participants
Participants are selected through an independent, expert-reviewed process based on expertise, diversity and potential contribution.

Stage 3 – The Thinkery
Selected participants take part in a facilitated “sandpit” (Thinkery) to develop collaborative, interdisciplinary research ideas.

Stage 4 – Full proposal development
All teams that have formed during the Thinkery are invited to develop full proposals aligned with published

assessment criteria and funding requirements.

Stage 5 – Expert review and funding decision

Proposals undergo independent expert review. This framework should be read alongside Natasha's Prize Expert Review Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy

Stage 6 – Award and delivery

Funded teams undertake research with appropriate monitoring, reporting and support.

This approach reflects the Prize's role in enabling collaboration, supporting innovation and generating high-quality research aligned to its mission.

8. Multidisciplinary approach

To address this challenge, Natasha's Prize requires collaboration across disciplines.

The Scientific Advisory Panel defined a target team composition, including:

- Paediatric allergists, obstetricians and clinicians
 - Immunologists, geneticists and molecular scientists
 - Environmental and planetary health experts
 - Data scientists, AI specialists and biostatisticians
 - Microbiologists and nutrition scientists
 - Epidemiologists and clinical trialists
- This reflects the principles that:
- Complex health challenges require coordinated expertise across biological, environmental and data-driven domains.

9. Why a sandpit (“Thinkery”) model is used

Natasha's Prize uses a structured “Thinkery” (sandpit) model to:

- Bring together diverse experts
- Enable rapid idea generation

- Challenge disciplinary boundaries
- Form high-quality collaborative teams

This model was chosen because:

- Traditional funding models often reinforce silos
- Prevention requires integration across domains
- Collaboration is necessary for breakthrough solutions

The Thinkery is therefore central to the Prize's added value as a funder.

The Thinkery provides a structured environment for collaboration and idea generation, supported by facilitation and general scientific input, but does not participate in formal assessment, progression or funding decisions.

The Thinkery is designed to support interdisciplinary collaboration, idea generation and team formation only. Formal expert review, funding recommendations and final funding decisions take place following submission of full proposals.

10. What we will fund:

Natasha's Prize provides funding through a staged, prize-led model to support ambitious, interdisciplinary research aligned with its mission.

The prize represents a £10 million over 5 years investment in global research. Funding is awarded to a small number of collaborative teams, which are formed during the Thinkery following an initial selection of individual participants.

Funded projects are expected to deliver high-quality, high-impact research over defined timeframes appropriate to the scale and complexity of the work.

Funding is provided through eligible research institutions with appropriate governance and assurance processes in place. Awards are

expected to support the full delivery of the proposed research, including staff, resources and associated research activities, in line with the Prize's summary of terms of grant agreement.

Natasha's Prize will fund research that:

- Addresses the prevention of food allergy in early life
- Aligns with the Prize's research question and priorities
- Demonstrates originality, ambition and scientific rigour
- Integrates relevant disciplines formed through the Thinkery process
- Has a credible pathway to real-world impact

We prioritise:

- High-risk, high-reward research
 - Novel hypotheses and approaches
 - Solutions-oriented research
- We do not typically fund:
- Incremental or confirmatory studies alone
 - Narrow, single-factor research without systems relevance
 - Research without a pathway to prevention

11. Who can apply

Natasha's Prize is open to individual researchers from across disciplines, sectors and geographic regions.

We encourage applications from individuals who demonstrate:

- Relevant expertise aligned to the prize's research priorities
 - A strong track record of clear potential to contribute to high-quality research
 - The ability to work collaboratively across disciplines
- Applicants are selected as individuals to participate in the Thinkery. Interdisciplinary teams are then formed during the Thinkery, where research ideas are developed collaboratively.

Applications must be supported by eligible research institutions that can provide appropriate governance, ethical oversight and research assurance.

12. How applications will be assessed

In line with AMRC guidance, strategic fit will be assessed alongside scientific quality.

Applications will be evaluated on:

- Alignment with the research question
- Contribution to the prevention of food allergy
- Scientific quality and originality
- Interdisciplinary strength
- Feasibility and delivery capability
- Potential for impact
- Patient and public involvement
- Consideration of equity and inclusion

Assessment is conducted through:

- Independent expert review
- Structured panel decision-making
- Clear conflict-of-interest management
- Oversight to ensure fairness and integrity

Scores and reviewer feedback are considered collectively through structured panel moderation to ensure consistency, fairness and balanced decision-making. The panel moderates reviewer scores and feedback and makes recommendations regarding Thinkery participation and funding.

Funding decisions follow a structured process: independent expert reviewers score applications; a panel moderates scores and makes funding recommendations; the Thinkery facilitates idea generation and provides general scientific input but does not participate in formal assessment, progression or funding decisions; the panel recommends Thinkery participants

and later considers full proposals for funding recommendations; Trustees approve final funding decisions; and independent assurance oversees the process to ensure fairness, consistency and compliance with governance principles.

13. Patient and public involvement

Consistent with AMRC principles, Natasha's Prize:

- Involves patients and families in shaping priorities
- Requires funded teams to include meaningful involvement
- Promotes accessible communication of research

Patient and public perspectives ensure research remains relevant and impactful.

14. Equity and global relevance

Natasha's Prize recognises that:

- Allergy affects populations globally
 - Evidence is unevenly distributed
- We therefore:
- Encourage inclusion of diverse populations
 - Consider equity in assessment decisions
 - Promote research that benefits global populations

15. Open and responsible research

Natasha's Prize is committed to:

- Open access publications
- Responsible data sharing
- Ethical and reproducible research
- Clear communication to non-specialist audiences

These commitments align with AMRC expectations for transparency and accessibility.

16. Measuring success

Success will be assessed across multiple levels, reflecting the objectives of Natasha's Prize:

Scientific

- Generation of new knowledge on early-life allergy development
- Identification of mechanisms and pathways relevant to prevention

Translational

- Evidence that informs prevention strategies
- Contribution to clinical practice, policy or public health approaches

Field-building

- Formation of new interdisciplinary collaborations through the Thinkery
- Development of sustained global research networks

Societal

- Progress towards reducing the burden of food allergy over time
- We recognise that impact will occur over different timescales and will monitor progress accordingly.

17. Monitoring and Evaluation

Natasha's Prize will:

- Monitor progress against milestones
 - Track collaboration and capacity building
 - Assess impact and outputs
- Monitoring will inform ongoing support, learning and, where necessary, decisions on project continuation or adaptation.

18. Governance and assurance

Natasha's Prize operates within a robust governance framework, including:

- Director of Natasha's Prize
- Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) and SAP chair
- Independent Assurance and oversight
- Trustee approval of funding decisions

Independent assurance oversees the end-to-end process, ensuring that expert review, panel moderation and funding decisions are conducted consistently, fairly and in line with published policies.

Roles are clearly separated to maintain independence and avoid conflicts of interest. The Director of Natasha's Prize and Mentors supports the Thinkery process but do not participate in formal proposal scoring, ranking, or funding decision-making.

Funding recommendations are made through a structured expert review and panel moderation process led by the Scientific Advisory Panel. Final funding decisions are approved by the Natasha's Foundation Trustees.

Further detail is set out in Natasha's Prize Governance Framework, Expert Review Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy.

19. Review of the strategy

This strategy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains:

- Scientifically relevant
 - Evidence-based
 - Aligned with global need
- Updates will reflect emerging evidence, programming learning and stakeholder input.

20. Publication and transparency

This strategy is published to:

- Inform applications and stakeholders
 - Ensure transparency in funding decisions
 - Align with AMRC expectations for member organisations
- It should be ready alongside
- Application and assessment criteria as set out in the Application Pack
 - Governance documentation

Appendix 2

Research Governance Framework

1. Purpose

This framework sets out how Natasha's Foundation ensures that decisions relating to Natasha's Prize are made in a transparent, fair and accountable way.

It defines the roles, responsibilities and processes that govern the Prize from application through to funding and delivery.

This framework aligns with the standards of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) for expert review and research funding activities.

2. Governance principles

Natasha's Prize is governed according to the following principles:

- Accountability – Trustees hold ultimate responsibility for funding decisions
- Independence – Scientific assessment is undertaken by independent experts
- Impartiality – Conflicts of interest are declared and actively managed
- Transparency – Processes, criteria and governance arrangements are published
- Diversity – We seek a broad range of disciplines, perspectives and backgrounds
- Proportionality – Governance processes reflect the scale and complexity of funding

3. Governance structure

Natasha's Prize operates a layered governance model to ensure separation of responsibilities and robust decision-making.

Natasha's Foundation Trustees

The Trustees hold ultimate responsibility for:

- Approval of the research strategy and governance framework
- Final approval of funding decisions
- Oversight of the use of funds

Director of Natasha's Prize

The Director of Natasha's Prize provides strategic oversight of the Prize process and supports the delivery of the Thinkery and wider programme activities. The Director may provide contextual and advisory input throughout the process, but does not participate in formal proposal scoring or funding decision-making.

Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP)

The Scientific Advisory Panel provides independent expert review of applications and full proposals. The SAP is chaired by Professor Michael Depledge. Who also provides additional oversight and governance support of the Prize process.

The SAP provides independent scientific expertise to support the assessment of applications and proposals within Natasha's Prize.

Responsibilities include:

- Contributes to the identification and refinement of research priorities

- Acts as part of the independent expert review process, assessing applications and proposals against published criteria
- Participates in Expert Review and Moderation Panels alongside other panel members
- Providing specialist input to support robust, evidence-based decision-making

The SAP does not make final funding decisions.

Independent expert reviewers

Independent expert reviewers are responsible for the assessment of applications and full proposals.

They may include members of the Scientific Advisory Panel and external subject experts.

They:

- Assess applications and proposals against published criteria
- Score submissions using the defined scoring framework
- Provide written feedback
- Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy

Review and Moderation Panel

A Review and Moderation Panel, chaired by the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) and including members of the SAP, is convened to consider reviewer feedback, moderate scoring, and agree recommendations.

When acting as a panel, members operate collectively and in accordance with the Natasha's Prize Expert Review Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy. Final funding decisions are approved by the Natasha's Foundation Trustees..

The panel:

- considers expert reviewer scores and comments;
- moderates scoring and discussion to ensure consistency and fairness;

- recommends a cohort of participants for the Thinkery;
- reviews full proposals against the published assessment criteria;
- agrees funding recommendations for consideration by the Trustees.

The panel does not make final funding decisions.

Director of Natasha's Prize and mentors

The Director of Natasha's Prize and supporting Mentors provide general scientific support and contextual input to the Thinkery process. They may offer broad scientific perspectives and facilitate interdisciplinary discussion across the wider group where appropriate, but do not provide targeted advice, formal feedback, or strategic direction to individual teams or proposals during idea development.

Following the Thinkery, they may contribute contextual, non-binding scientific input to discussions regarding the overall Thinkery process and interdisciplinary approach. They do not participate in formal expert review, proposal scoring, ranking, progression decisions or funding decision-making.

Thinkery facilitators

The Thinkery Facilitators (**The Collective**) are responsible for the design and delivery of the Thinkery process. They facilitate collaboration, manage group dynamics, and support effective participation.

They do not provide scientific input, assess ideas or proposals, or participate in scoring, progression decisions or funding decisions.

Assurance panel

The Assurance Panel provides independent oversight of the process.

It:

- Reviews the fairness and consistency of decisions
- Monitors conflict-of-interest management
- Confirms alignment with governance principles

It does not assess scientific quality or influence funding decisions.

External due diligence provider

Providers conduct due diligence on organisations and individuals involved in funded research.

Foundation executive team

The Executive Team:

- Administers the process
- Supports expert reviewers and panels
- Maintains registers (conflicts, decisions, risks)
- Ensures compliance

Staff do not score applications or make funding decisions.

4. Decision-making process

An overview of Natasha's Prize decision-making process is shown in Figure 1.

Funding decisions follow a structured process: independent expert reviewers score applications; a panel moderates scores and makes recommendations; the Thinkery facilitates idea generation and provides general scientific context but does not participate in formal assessment or decision-making; the panel recommends Thinkery participants and later considers full proposals for funding recommendations; Trustees approve final funding decisions; and independent assurance oversees the process to ensure fairness, consistency and compliance with governance principles.

Stage 1 – Application Review

- Individuals Apply
- Applications are assessed by independent expert reviewers

Stage 2 – Panel Moderation

- An expert panel reviews and moderates scores and agrees on a cohort of Thinkery participants.
- Applications are submitted by individuals. Teams are formed during the Thinkery.

Stage 3 – Thinkery

- Participants form interdisciplinary teams and develop ideas
- Following the Thinkery, ideas are presented, and all teams progress to full proposal.

Stage 4 – Full Proposal Review

- Proposals are expert reviewed by at least 2 reviewers.
- Panel review and moderation

Stage 5 – Funding Recommendation

- Panel recommends proposals for funding

Stage 6 – Trustee Approval

- Trustees approve final funding decisions

5. Conflict of interest

All participants in the process must declare conflicts of interest.

Conflicts are managed through:

- Recusal from expert review or decision-making
- Oversight by the Executive Team

A central register of interests is maintained.

6. Independence and separation of roles

Clear separation is maintained between:

- Strategy and oversight (Director of Natasha's Prize and the SAP Chair).

- Scientific review (expert reviewers)
- Decision-making (panel and Trustees)

No single body controls the process end-to-end.

7. Patient and public involvement

The Foundation ensures that:

- Patient perspectives inform priorities
- Funded research includes meaningful involvement

8. Risk management and assurance

The Foundation maintains:

- A risk register
 - A decision log
 - Clear escalation processes
- Independent assurance is provided through:

- The Assurance Panel
- External due diligence
- Trustee oversight

9. Transparency

The Foundation publishes:

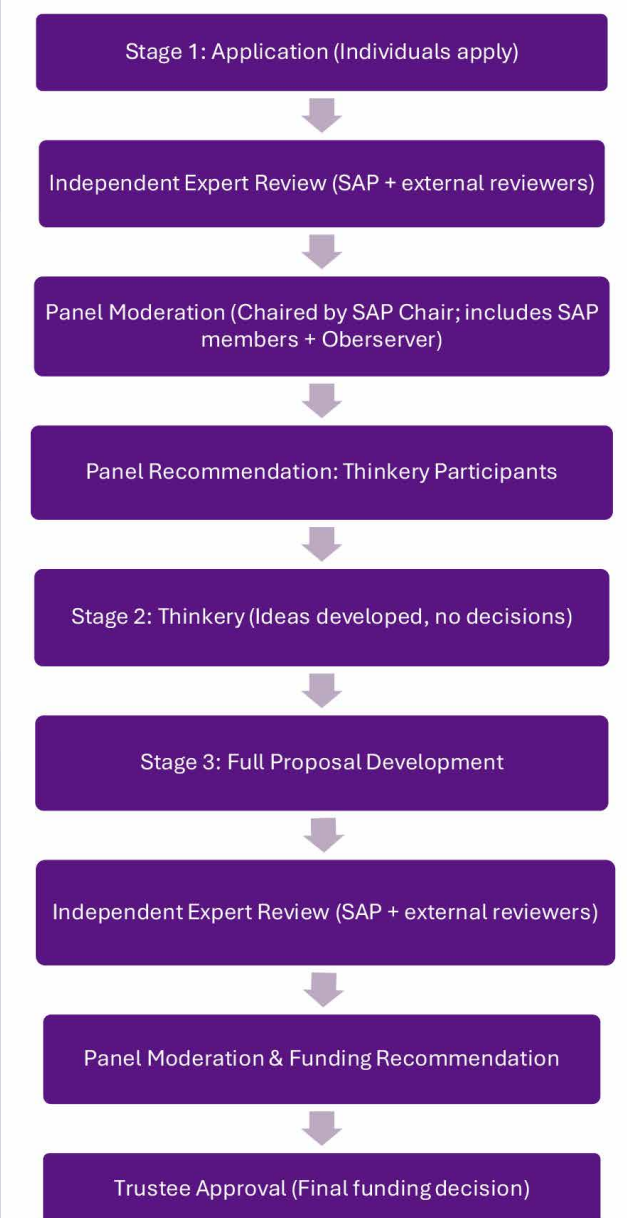
- Research strategy
- Governance framework
- Approach to expert review and conflicts of interest
- Summaries of funded projects

10. Review of framework

This framework is reviewed periodically to ensure it remains effective and aligned with best practice.

This framework should be read alongside Natasha's Prize Expert Review Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy

Figure 1.



Appendix 3

Conflict of Interest Policy

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how conflicts of interest are identified, declared and managed across Natasha's Prize.

It ensures that all decisions are made fairly, transparently and independently, in line with AMRC standards and the governance framework of the Prize.

This policy applies at all stages, from application through to final funding decisions and post-award oversight.

Individuals who are applicants or collaborators in the current funding round must not participate in the review, scoring, discussion or recommendation of applications within that round.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals involved in Natasha's Prize, including:

- Applicants and Thinkery participants
- Independent expert reviewers
- Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) members
- Director of Natasha's Prize and the Chair of SAP
- Review and moderation panel members
- Trustees
- Independent Observer (Assurance Panel)
- Panel Convenor (Natasha's Foundation Team).
- External reviewers and due diligence providers

- Staff, facilitators (The Collective) and contractors
- Patient and public contributors

3. What is a conflict of interest?

A conflict arises where an individual's external interests could reasonably influence, or be perceived to influence, their judgment.

Conflicts should be declared where a reasonable external observer might perceive a conflict, even if no actual conflicts exist.

Conflicts may be actual, potential or perceived and must be declared and managed.

Examples include:

- Being an applicant or collaborator
- Working at the same institution as an applicant or having a recent collaboration with an applicant (typically within 3 years)
- Financial interests or advisory roles
- Close personal relationships
- Advocacy or organisational affiliations

4. Declaration of Interests

All individuals must:

- Declare interests on appointment
- Update annually
- Declare new conflicts immediately
- Declare conflicts at each review stage and meeting

The Secretariat maintains a central register of interests.

5. Core Principles for Managing Conflicts

Conflicts are managed through:

- Declare – disclose interests
- Record – log in register
- Assess – Secretariat and Panel Convenor review
- Manage – apply appropriate restrictions

Management actions include:

- Not receiving application materials
- Not reviewing or scoring
- Withdrawing from discussions
- Leaving meetings
- Excluded from all elements of the expert review process

Individuals must not influence decisions where impartiality could be questioned.

All decisions relating to conflict management are documented to ensure transparency and auditability.

6. Conflict Management by Stage

Stage 1 – Application Review (June–July 2026)

- Independent expert reviewers (including SAP members and external experts) score applications
- Each application receives multiple independent reviews

Conflicts:

- Reviewers must not receive or assess conflicted applications
- Introducers must not present conflicted applications
- Conflicts must be declared before allocation and again upon receipt

Stage 1 Panel Meeting – Thinkery Participant Selection

- Our Scientific Advisory Panel moderates scores and discusses applications

- Panel agrees on recommendations for the Thinkery participants
- Decisions are chaired by the Chair of the Science Advisory Panel (SAP).

Conflicts:

- Conflicted members must not:
 - Introduce the application
 - Score or contribute to the discussion

- Must leave the room (or virtual equivalent) during discussion

The Independent Observer ensures compliance with policy.

Stage 2 – Thinkery (October 2026)

- Participants develop ideas through structured collaborative activities

- Natasha's Prize Director, Mentors and Thinkery Facilitators support the process but do not contribute directly to the development of specific proposals.

- Natasha's Prize Director provides overall scientific oversight of the Thinkery process.

Conflicts:

- All participants declare interests before the Thinkery

- New conflicts must be declared in real time

- The Director and Mentors provide general input to the group and must not provide targeted advice or guidance to specific teams. Where conflict exists, they must not engage in any discussions relating to that team.

- Participants must not use privileged information gained during the process to influence team formation or proposal development in a way that creates unfair advantage.

Additional safeguards:

- Director, Mentors and their research groups are not eligible for funding
- Conflicts are actively monitored and recorded

Stage 3 – Full Proposal Development (Nov 2026 – March 2027).

- Teams form and develop proposals
- Natasha's Prize Director and Mentors support the Thinkery process by providing general scientific input where appropriate. They do not provide targeted advice to specific teams and do not participate in formal assessment, scoring or progression decisions[KH4.1]. All teams participating in the Thinkery progress to full proposal stage.

Conflicts:

- Team composition must be transparent
- Conflicts reassessed prior to submission

Stage 4 – Expert Review (March–May 2027)

- Independent expert reviewers (including SAP members and external experts) score proposals
- Panel moderates and recommends

Conflicts:

- Reviewers must not assess conflicted proposals
- Conflicted individuals must not receive documents

Stage 5 – Panel and Trustee Decision (June 2027)

- Panel chaired by Natasha's Prize SAP Chair
- Trustees make final funding decision
- Conflicted Trustees recuse

Conflicts:

- Panel members must withdraw from conflicted discussions
- Trustees must declare conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from any discussion or decision where a conflict exists.

Independent observer/Assurance function present at all key stages.

7. Role-Specific Requirements

Independent Reviewers and SAP

- Must not review or score conflicted applications

Chair of Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP)

- Chair expert review panel and moderates decisions
- Must not score applications
- Must withdraw where conflicts exist

Director of Natasha's Prize and Mentors

- Must not participate in funding decisions or scoring
- Must not engage with conflicted teams
- Are not eligible for funding

Thinkery Facilitators

- Support the delivery of the Thinkery process
- Do not provide scientific input, assess proposals, or participate in scoring or decision-making

Independent Observer / Panel Convenor

- Ensure policy compliance
- Do not contribute to scientific decisions

Trustees

- Must recuse themselves from conflicted decisions

Secretariat

- Maintain COI register
- Ensure conflicts are identified and managed
- Support audit trail

8. Confidentiality

All materials are confidential.

Individuals must not:

- Share applications
- Discuss outside the formal process
- Use information for personal advantage
- Applicants must not seek to influence reviewers, panel members or Trustees outside the formal process.

9. Breaches

Failure to declare or manage conflicts may result in:

- Removal from role
- Exclusion from process
- Further governance action

10. Related Documents

This policy should be read alongside:

- Governance Framework
- Expert Review Policy

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Appendix 4

Expert Review Policy

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how applications to Natasha's Prize are assessed through expert review.

It ensures that all applications are evaluated fairly, consistently and independently, in line with the standards of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC).

2. Scope

This policy applies to all stages of assessment, including:

- Selection of Thinkery participants
- Review of full research proposals

It applies to all individuals involved in expert review, including:

- Independent reviewers
- Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) members
- Review and moderation panel members
- External reviewers

3. Principles of Expert Review

The expert review process is guided by the following principles:

- Expertise – applications are reviewed by individuals with relevant knowledge
- Independence – reviewers are free from conflicts of interest
- Fairness – all applications are assessed using the same criteria
- Transparency – processes and criteria are clearly communicated
- Proportionality – the level of review reflects the size and type of award and the stage of the process

4. Overview of the Review Process

Natasha's Prize uses a multi-stage review process:

Stage 1 – Application Review (Thinkery Selection)

- Individuals apply to participate in the Thinkery
- Applications are independently reviewed and scored by independent expert reviewers (including SAP members and external experts).
- A panel moderates scores and agrees on recommendations for participant selection.

Stage 2 – Thinkery

- The Thinkery provides a structured environment for collaboration, interdisciplinary team formation, and idea development, supported by facilitation, interdisciplinary discussion, and general scientific perspectives.
- The Thinkery itself does not involve formal assessment, scoring, or funding decision-making.
- All participants selected for the Thinkery will progress to the full proposal stage.
- Formal expert review and funding decisions take place at the full proposal stage.

Stage 3 – Full Proposal Development

- All Thinkery teams are invited to develop and submit full proposals.
- The Thinkery supports interdisciplinary collaboration, discussion and idea generation but does not participate in formal assessment, scoring, ranking or funding decision-making.

- During this stage, applicants develop full research proposals in line with the published guidance, eligibility criteria and assessment framework.
- Natasha's Prize Director, mentors and Facilitators may provide general process support and scientific perspectives to the wider group, but do not provide targeted strategic advice to individual teams or participate in proposal assessment.

Stage 4 – Expert Review

- Full proposals undergo independent expert review by members of the Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) and external reviewers where appropriate.
- Each proposal receives a minimum of two independent expert reviews.
- Reviewers assess proposals against the published assessment criteria, including scientific quality, feasibility, interdisciplinary collaboration, potential impact, and, where relevant, the responsible implementation of the 3Rs in research involving animals.
- Written feedback and scores are provided for all proposals.
- Additional specialist reviewers may be appointed where further expertise is required.

Stage 5 – Panel Review and Recommendation

- The Scientific Advisory Panel reviews and moderates expert reviewer feedback and scores to ensure consistency and fairness across applications.
- Proposals are discussed against the published assessment criteria and considered for funding recommendation.
- Panel discussions are chaired by the Scientific Advisory Panel.
- Final funding recommendations are provided by the Trustees.

- Trustees make the final funding decisions following review of recommendations, governance checks and due diligence processes.

Stage 6 – Trustee Approval

- Trustees approve final funding decisions

5. Stage 1: Review of Applications (Thinkery Selection)

Review Process

- Each application is reviewed by at least two independent reviewers
- Reviewers score applications using Natasha's Prize scoring framework
- Scores and comments are recorded in a structured format

Panel Moderation

- A panel, chaired by the Chair of the SAP, reviews scores and comments
- Applications are discussed and categorised (e.g. select, reserve, reject)
- A final cohort of participants is agreed

6. Stage 4: Review of Full Proposals

Independent Review

- Full proposals are reviewed by SAP members and external experts
- Reviewers assess proposals against published criteria
- Written feedback and scores are provided

Additional Review

- Additional specialist reviewers may be appointed where required

Panel Review

- A panel considers reviewer feedback and scores
- Proposals are discussed against the published assessment criteria, and funding recommendations are agreed.
- Funding recommendations are agreed

7. Assessment Criteria

Applications are assessed using published criteria aligned with the aims of Natasha's Prize.

For Thinkery selection, the criteria focus on:

- Expertise and contribution potential
 - Alignment with the Prize challenge
 - Interdisciplinary collaboration
 - Innovation and systems thinking
 - Communication and influence
- Full proposals are additionally assessed on:
- Sound hypothesis, rationale, and research question
 - Scientific quality and methodological rigour
 - Feasibility, budgetary rigour and delivery
 - Potential for impact
 - Where appropriate, detailed outline, ethics and power calculations on the use of animals and the implementation of 3Rs

8. Scoring

- A standard scoring scale (1–5) is used
 - Reviewers are provided with scoring guidance
 - Final decisions are based on a combination of reviewer input and panel moderation
- Panel discussions may adjust scores where appropriate to ensure consistency.

9. Role of Panel Convenor and Independent Observer

- The Panel Convenor supports the Chair in managing the process

- The Independent Observer ensures that:
 - Processes are followed
 - Conflicts of interest are managed
 - Decisions are made fairly
- Neither contributes to scientific assessment.

10. Conflicts of Interest

All reviewers and panel members must comply with the Natasha's Prize Conflict of Interest Policy.

Individuals must:

- Declare conflicts before reviewing
- Not review or score conflicted applications
- Withdraw from relevant discussions

11. Confidentiality

All application materials, reviews and panel discussions are confidential.

Information must not be shared or used outside the formal process.

12. Feedback to Applicants

- Feedback is based on reviewer comments
- Feedback is anonymised
- Feedback is provided centrally by the Foundation

13. Record Keeping and Audit

The Foundation maintains:

- Records of scores and decisions
- Reviewer comments
- Conflict of interest declarations

This ensures transparency and supports audit requirements.

14. Review of this Policy

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with AMRC guidance and best practice.

Approval rests with the Board of Trustees.

Appendix 5

Animals in research policy

Natasha's Foundation recognises that, in some circumstances, research involving animals may currently be necessary to advance scientific understanding and improve human health. Where animal research is proposed, we are committed to ensuring that it is conducted responsibly, ethically, and only where no suitable alternative exists.

As an introductory member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, Natasha's Foundation supports the principles of the 3Rs:

- Replacement: replacing animal use wherever possible with alternative methods;
 - Reduction: minimising the number of animals used
 - Refinement: improving animal welfare and minimising suffering.
- All applications involving animal research must:
- Clearly justify the need for the use of animals;
 - Demonstrate that alternatives have been considered;
 - Explain how the principles of the 3Rs have been incorporated into the study design;
 - Comply with all relevant legal, ethical, and regulatory requirements.

Research involving animals will undergo expert peer review by individuals with appropriate scientific and animal welfare expertise, in line with AMRC guidance and best practice standards. Natasha's Foundation expects all funded researchers and institutions to conduct research in accordance with the principles outlined in Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research and relevant NC3Rs guidance.

Where relevant, applicants may also be required to provide evidence of:

- Ethical approvals and licences;
- Applicants proposing research involving animals may be expected to demonstrate alignment with relevant ARRIVE and PREPARE guidelines where appropriate.
- Appropriate experimental design and statistical justification.

Natasha's Foundation is committed to transparency, scientific integrity, and the responsible use of animals in research.

Appendix 6

Expense Policy

1. Purpose of this policy

This Expense Policy sets out the principles and rules governing the reimbursement of expenses incurred by individuals participating in activities related to the Foundation's research prize programme ("Natasha's Prize").

The policy ensures that:

- No individual is financially disadvantaged by taking part
- Charitable funds are used responsibly and proportionately
- Expense arrangements are fair, transparent and auditable
- Practice aligns with expectations of major UK research funders and prize programmes

2. Scope

This policy applies to individuals invited to participate in Natasha's Prize-related activity, including:

- Thinkery participants
- Peer reviewers
- Panel and committee members
- Patient and public contributors
- Advisors engaged for research activity

This policy does not apply to:

- Foundation employees (covered by the staff expense policy)
- Contracted suppliers (covered by contractual terms).

3. Core principles

All expense claims must be:

- Necessary – Incurred solely for approved Prize-related activity
- Reasonable – Modest, proportionate and appropriate
- Value for money – Demonstrating appropriate use of charitable funds, taking into account cost, necessity and proportionality
- Transparent – Supported by receipts and clear explanations
- Pre-approved – Where required, agreed in advance
- Accountable – Capable of audit and review.

The Foundation is committed to enabling inclusive participation while maintaining responsible stewardship of charitable resources.

4. Booking and reimbursement

Where possible, travel and accommodation may be booked directly by the Foundation.

Where this is not possible, reasonable costs may be reimbursed in line with this policy.

Participants should not make significant financial commitments without prior agreement where pre-approval is required.

5. What can be claimed

5.1 Travel

Reasonable travel costs may be claimed where travel is required for an approved Prize activity.

Eligible costs include:

- Standard class rail travel
- Economy class air travel
- Local public transport
- Taxis where public transport is impractical or inaccessible
- Mileage for private vehicles at HMRC-approved rates.

Travel should be booked as early as possible to secure the best value.

5.2 Accommodation

Where overnight accommodation is required, the Foundation will reimburse:

- Standard, mid-range hotel accommodation
- Accommodation booked at the Foundation's preferred rate or via an agreed provider where applicable.

Luxury accommodation or upgrades will not be reimbursed and are upgraded at your own expense.

5.3 Meals and subsistence

Reasonable meal costs may be claimed where:

- Participation requires travel, and
- Meals are not provided as part of the event.

Alcohol will not be reimbursed except where explicitly approved as part of a hosted event.

5.4 Accessibility and caring costs

The Foundation is committed to inclusive participation.

Reasonable costs related to:

- Accessibility requirements
- Caring responsibilities
- Reasonable adjustments may be claimed where agreed in advance.

5.5 Other costs

Other reasonable Prize-related expenses may be considered on a case-by-case basis with prior approval, including:

- Visa fees
- Travel insurance where required
- Specialist equipment required solely for participation.

6. What cannot be claimed

The following will not normally be reimbursed:

- First-class or business-class travel (unless pre-approved)
- Personal expenses not directly related to Prize activity
- Minibar, room service or entertainment costs
- Alcohol (unless explicitly approved)
- Expenses incurred by accompanying persons unless agreed in advance.

7. Pre-approval requirements

All expenses must be approved in advance including:

- International travel
- Accommodation above standard rates
- Accessibility or caring costs
- Any non-standard or exceptional expenses.

Claims submitted without required pre-approval may be declined.

8. How to claim expenses

Expense claims must:

- Be submitted using the Foundation's expense claim process
- Include original receipts or equivalent evidence

- Be submitted within 30 days of the expense being incurred.
Claims submitted outside this timeframe may not be reimbursed.

9. Payment and tax considerations

Approved expenses will normally be reimbursed by bank transfer within a reasonable processing period.

Reimbursement of expenses does not constitute payment, fees or honoraria for participation.

Individuals are responsible for any personal tax implications arising from expense reimbursement.

10. Fraud and misuse

Submitting false, misleading or inappropriate expense claims may result in:

- Repayment being required
- Exclusion from future participation
- Further action in line with the Foundation's governance procedures.

11. Governance and oversight

- Expense claims are reviewed and approved by authorised Foundation staff.
- Records are maintained to support audit and assurance.
- Expense arrangements may be reviewed as part of wider governance and assurance activity.

12. Review of this policy

This policy will be reviewed periodically and updated as required.

It has been developed with reference to UKRI best practice on value for money, accessibility and accountability and is approved by Natasha's Foundation Trustees.

Contact

Questions about this policy or specific expense queries should be directed to Prize@natashasfoundation.org.uk

Appendix 7

Summary of terms of grant agreement

The following is intended as a high-level summary of some of the key terms of the Grant Agreement which each Natasha's Prize winner will be required to enter into with Natasha's Foundation.

It does not constitute legal advice or replace or supersede the Grant Agreement which the parties sign. It is also not a substitute for carefully and fully reviewing the Grant Agreement.

Natasha's Foundation cannot provide legal advice on the Grant Agreement. A Natasha's Prize winner must seek independent legal advice on the Grant Agreement as it requires.

Use of funding

- Funding must only be used for the research project to which the relevant Grant Agreement relates, and in accordance with an agreed project plan and approved budget.
- Any substantial changes to the project, budget, timelines, or other related items must be approved in writing in advance by Natasha's Foundation.
- Funds cannot be received from third parties without prior written approval.
- Any unspent or uncommitted funds on early termination of the Grant Agreement or at the end of the project must be promptly returned to Natasha's Foundation.

Reporting and project oversight

- Recipients must provide regular progress reports throughout the grant period.

- Natasha's Foundation may request additional updates or meetings where needed.
- Natasha's Prize winners are expected to openly share details of progress, significant issues hindering progress, and learnings throughout the project.
- Natasha's Prize winners and key research personnel may be asked to participate in cohort meetings, annual reviews, events, and community activities in relation to the relevant Natasha's Prize.

Data sharing and publication

- Recipients are expected to share research findings and data in accordance with an agreed data sharing plan.
- Project results (including methodology and related items) must, wherever possible, be published in open access, peer-reviewed journals and otherwise in accordance with scientific best practice.
- A Natasha's Prize winner must or must ensure that the project principal investigator seeks to present project results at scientific and academic conferences.
- The ability to request reasonable amendments to proposed publications to remove confidential information, and the ability to request delays are permitted where necessary to protect or exploit project intellectual property.

Intellectual Property

- Each party retains ownership of its background intellectual property, and Natasha's Foundation has the right to use a Natasha Prize Winner's background intellectual property to use and exploit project intellectual property in accordance with the Grant Agreement.
- The relevant Natasha's Prize winner owns project intellectual property.
- Natasha's Foundation receives a perpetual, non-exclusive, sub-licensable licence to use that project intellectual property including for internal, charitable, and/or non-commercial purposes.
- Commercial exploitation, transfer or licensing of that project intellectual property requires prior written consent from Natasha's Foundation which it may reasonably withhold. In particular, Natasha's Foundation can withhold consent until an appropriate commercialisation agreement negotiated in good faith has been entered into between the parties.
- If a Natasha's Prize winner does not protect, manage and/or exploit any project intellectual property then Natasha's Foundation may protect, manage and/or exploit it as it sees fit, including to support or facilitate its future development in line with its charitable mission. In those circumstances, the relevant Natasha's Prize winner must ensure its employees and other relevant individuals do what is reasonably needed to support Natasha's Foundation in the performance of its activities.
- Save as set out in the Grant Agreement, use by either party of the other party's branding, logos or similar items requires prior written approval.

Compliance and research standards

- The project must be conducted in accordance with applicable laws and best scientific practice.
- Recipients must use best endeavours to mitigate the risk of scientific misconduct.
- Any allegations of research misconduct connected with the project, and progress and outcomes of any ensuing investigations, must be reported as early as possible.

Publicity and acknowledgement

- Publications, presentations and other public communications relating to the project and/or the relevant Natasha's Prize must include agreed language acknowledging that Natasha's Prize and Natasha's Foundation.
- Natasha's Foundation may publicly reference funded projects, research highlights, and participating organisations, excluding a Natasha's Prize winner's confidential information.

Record keeping

- A Natasha's Prize winner must maintain records, reports and related items relating to expenditure using funds from the relevant Natasha's Prize during the grant period and for six years afterwards.

Delay, withholding and suspension

- Natasha's Foundation can delay, withhold, suspend or adjust payment of some or all of the relevant Natasha's Prize if certain things happen, including where a Natasha's Prize winner fails to meet any agreed milestones or deliver any agreed deliverables, or where notice to terminate the contract has been served.

Liability and insurance

- Neither party excludes or limits its liability in any way not allowed by law. Subject to that, neither party is liable for any indirect or consequential loss and Natasha's Foundation is not liable for any loss or damage arising from running of the project, use of the relevant Natasha's Prize or withdrawal, withholding, suspension or reduction of that Natasha's Prize.
- Natasha's Foundation's total liability is limited to the amount of the relevant Natasha's Prize paid to the Natasha's Prize winner.
- Each Natasha's Prize winner must indemnify Natasha's Foundation in respect of that Natasha's Prize winner's acts and omissions during and following the Project and obtain and maintain adequate insurance during the grant period and for six years after termination or expiry of the Grant Agreement.

Grant period and termination

- Extensions and continuation of the grant period are at Natasha's Foundation's sole discretion.
- Either party can terminate the Grant Agreement due to typical events of default including for material breach.
- Upon early termination, any then unspent and uncommitted grant funds must be returned to Natasha's Foundation promptly and within 30 days.

We need you to help us find solutions to create a future without food allergy.

Do you think you know how we might prevent food allergy developing in the first 1,000 days, from conception to age 2?

If you think you do, we invite you to apply for Natasha's Prize

This £10 million global allergy research Prize is the largest ever investment in food allergy research in the UK, and a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a future without food allergy.

Applications close on Friday 3 July 2026.

Together, we will find, fund and power the most revolutionary and groundbreaking solutions to the food allergy epidemic

APPLY HERE for
Natasha's Prize >>



Natasha's 
Foundation
A future without food allergy

For more information



natashasprize.org.uk



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[natashasfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/natashasfoundation)

