

## Grant conditions MECCFCOND/VER2/2024

### 1 Expectations

Moorfields Eye Charity (MEC) is a registered charity and individuals being supported by MEC are expected to make every possible effort to ensure they secure early bird or the most reasonable registration fees available.

- (1) For Moorfields derived research and activities being presented by Moorfields employees.

Applications can only be made for up to two conferences per individual each financial year (Apr-Apr).

- (2) Research emanating from MEC-funded Springboard awards and being presented by either the principal grant holder or the named researcher on the grant.

Springboard award grant holders and/or named researchers can apply for two conferences in total over the duration of the award and up to 12 months after the award has ended. Applications made for conferences within the 12 month term after the grant had ended are conditional on receipt of a satisfactory end of the grant report and end of grant spend/finance report.

We will not consider an application which is presenting the same work which was included in a previously awarded conference grant.

### 2 Acknowledgement of funding support

MEC contribution to the conference attendance must be acknowledged in any relevant poster, talk or publications using the format '**Presentation of this work was supported by Moorfields Eye Charity**'. This is in addition to any acknowledgement of MEC funding which supported the delivery of the research being presented.

The MEC charity logo must be included where appropriate. Please note our brand guidelines: our logo is flexible; it can be placed in any corner of the page, screen or environment. It can also be placed centrally at either the top or the bottom.

**Please note that failure to include this acknowledgement will normally result in the withdrawal of funding and no expense claims, even if otherwise eligible, will be honoured.**

### 3 Reporting

Recipients of a Moorfields Eye Charity Conference Grant must provide a report following their conference attendance and no reimbursement will take place until a satisfactory report has been provided.

## 4 Allowed and disallowed costs

### 4.1 In person attended conferences

#### 4.1.1 Allowed costs

Funding will only be provided against the following areas

1. contribution towards air/train travel to/from the conference
  - a. Flights - UK/European conference – normal maximum of £200
  - b. Flights - International conference – normal maximum of £800
2. Standard accommodation for the duration of conference attended to a max of one night prior to the first day to the night before the last day of the conference
  - a. Normal maximum of £120 per night
3. Registration fee for the conference. It is expected that only early bird levels will be booked for requested. Late/on-site registration fees will normally be automatically capped at the early bird level. Membership fees will only be considered at the lowest level and if it guarantees a reduced early bird registration fee.
4. Poster printing up to a maximum of £30.

#### Caps

- £2,000 will apply for an international conference
- £1,000 will apply for a UK/European conference
- £3,000 per individual in any financial year (April to April)

These allowances are absolute ceilings and individuals should not consider them an 'available budget' to spend up to or that allowances can be moved between categories. Excessive or unreasonable claims will be subject to review and may be reduced or rejected.

#### 4.1.2 Disallowed costs

Disallowed costs listed in this **section are not considered exhaustive** and applicants are reminded that expenses can only be claimed if they fit within the allowed costs (see section above). MEC may query and/or remove any costs that are deemed to be outside the charities' funding remit, the spirit of the scheme and/or considered excessive. MEC also reserves the right to update/amend the allowed and disallowed costs as and when considered necessary. Individuals are expected to book well in advance of conferences and therefore late bookings may result in a cap in reimbursement if not robustly justified.

The following are examples of disallowed costs:

- Travel to/from home to departure station/airport charges
- Subsistence costs
- Taxis
- Above economy travel
- Checked baggage on UK/European flights
- Insurance (any purpose)
- Tips and gratuity
- Room service
- Car hire
- Mileage
- Fees for social/networking events and meetings (even if part of a conference)
- Training courses/seminars even if part of a conference/meeting
- Early/late check out fees
- Phone calls
- Internet/Wi-Fi access
- Booking alteration

## 4.2 Virtual attended conferences

### 4.2.1 Allowed costs

Funding will only be provided to cover registration fees for the conference. It is expected that only early bird levels will be requested. Late/on-day registration fees will normally be automatically capped at early bird level.

#### Caps

- £500 per conference

### 4.2.2 Disallowed costs

The lists in this **section are not considered exhaustive** and applicants are reminded that expenses can only be claimed against registration fees and membership costs where they make the total cost lower. MEC may query and/or remove any costs that are deemed to be outside the charities' funding remit, the spirit of the scheme and/or considered excessive. MEC also reserves the right to update/amend the allowed and disallowed costs as and when considered necessary. Individuals are expected to book well in advance of conferences and therefore late bookings may result in a cap in reimbursement if not robustly justified.

The following are examples of disallowed costs:

- Insurance (any purpose)
- Fees for social/networking events and meetings (even if part of a conference)
- Training courses/seminars even if part of a conference/meeting
- Phone calls
- Internet/Wi-Fi access
- Booking alteration

## 5 Claiming expenses requirements

Expense claims must be made **within three months** of the end date of the conference. Please note that this requirement of three months is less than standard Moorfields Eye Hospital requirements. Failure to comply with this request will result in the rejection of the claim. Individuals are advised to keep a copy of the receipts/paperwork for their own records.

### 5.1 Receipts

Receipts must be provided for all claims.

- Dated, legible receipts are required for all items claimed.
- Proof of attendance such as a certificate of attendance and/or a Continuing Professional Development certificate must be submitted with the receipts.
- Any claims/part of a claim submitted without receipts will be automatically removed without notice.
- Receipts must be detailed enough to include a full breakdown (summary/total receipts will not be considered) of items making up the receipt with the total costs also provided.
- Where more than one person's costs are included in the receipt, the items attributable to the claimant should be highlighted and subtotalled, i.e., the division of the total by the number in the party is not sufficient.

## 5.2 Exchange rates

- Receipts for foreign currency expenses paid for in GBP must be accompanied by bank/credit card statement\* which details the transaction i.e., cost in foreign currency, exchange rate (using [www.xe.com/currencytables/](http://www.xe.com/currencytables/) rates on the day the transaction was incurred), bank charges and final GBP cost.
- If relevant bank/credit card statements are not supplied, MEC will apply the following
  - Foreign currency expenses paid for in that currency for will be calculated by using the rate on the day the transaction was incurred (using [www.xe.com/currencytables/](http://www.xe.com/currencytables/))

\*When providing copies of bank/card statements, individuals are strongly advised to cover any unnecessary and unrelated information. The name of the statement holder and last 4 digits of the card/account are all that are required in addition to the relevant transactions.

## 5.3 Providing additional information on any aspect of the claim

If a submitted claim includes any variations from the allowed costs and/or required presentation of receipts, it is the sole responsibility of the claimant to include a cover note explaining the variation. This does not imply that the variation will be allowed or supported but without this explanation, variations, errors or unsupported claims may be automatically discounted from the submitted claim.

## 6 Disputed claims

Claimants have up to 30 days from the date of decision on claim to submit a written request for the review of a claim they wish to dispute.

## 7 Abuse of expenses

The fraudulent or negligent submission of a claim for reimbursement of expenses may be considered to be gross misconduct.