# Robotic-Assisted Surgery Research Pump-Priming Grant Awards

#### Terms and Conditions 2023-2024

## Introduction

In autumn 2023, the Royal College of Surgeons of England is offering a one-off programme of awards, funded by the Saven Research and Development Programme, to consultants (appointed since 2017), senior lecturers, SAS doctors and post-doctoral trainees in surgery who are working at hospitals and universities within the UK. The aim of the awards is to give assistance to such surgeons undertaking research into robotic-assisted surgery, usually in the early stages of their independent research careers. Awards are made competitively and may be used flexibly to support the award holder’s research programme, for the purpose described in their application form.

The awards may be used across a two-year period. Awards must be used exclusively to support the award holder’s own research and may not be used for their own personal salaries. They may be used, amongst other things, for small items of equipment, for consumables or for technical assistance. These grants are meant to act as ‘seedcorn’ monies which will lead to the award of programme grants and are not ‘top-up’ funds, i.e. to pump-prime a project.

Eligibility

All applicants must comply with the following:

* Must be members or fellows of RCS England.
* Successful applicants must remain in good standing order with their membership fees throughout the tenure of the award.
* Must not have received a pump priming grant from us before.
* Must be consultants (appointed since 2017), senior lecturers, post-doctoral trainees, or SAS doctors in the early stages of their independent research careers.
* Must be working in surgery in the UK.

Conditions for award

Pump-priming awards are made on the understanding that the host centre, the supervisor and the applicant agree to accept the terms and conditions relating to the scheme and any amendments issued during the course of the award.

Financial arrangements

Successful candidates should sign this document to accept the terms and conditions, giving details of the employing institution that will issue the invoice, and return the form to robotics@rcseng.ac.uk. Upon receipt of this, a purchase order (PO) will be raised at the RCS and the PO number and grant award letter will be returned to the award recipient so that the invoice for the full grant award can be raised. At the end of the award period, any unused funds should be returned to RCS England.

Change of project or supervisor

The funding has been awarded for the project outlined in the application form only.

Change of circumstance

RCS England Research must be notified of any change of circumstance from those originally approved, at which point further advice will be provided.

Presentations and publications

The Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Saven Research and Development Programme must be acknowledged as the source of funds in any publication dealing with the work carried out during the tenure of an award. From time to time the award holder may be asked to make presentations on behalf of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Final report

At the end of the year, award holders will be required to write a short report on the use they have made of the award together with photographs as featured in the [RCS England Research Report](https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/standards-and-research/research/surgical-research-reports/).