



MOVEMBER SPORT HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE IRELAND REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

February 2026

Intent of Funding Opportunity:

Movember are seeking applications from potential candidates for our 2026 – 2028 Sport Health Initiative Research Grant. The Movember Sport Health Initiative (Grant) aims to utilise the unique elements of sport to nurture healthy behaviours, support identity formation and increase social connectedness in young men (aged 12 – 24 years), leading to improved mental health outcomes. It will also tackle risk factors for poor mental health which are exacerbated by the sport environment, including unhelpful masculine norms, tolerance of violence and aggressive behaviour and overuse/acceptability of unhealthy coping behaviours (such as gambling and using alcohol and/or other drugs). This initiative will run from 2026 – 2028.

Movember are interested in partnering with early career researchers [ECR] working in the area of mental health and sport. Movember aim to fund innovative research projects that seek to meaningfully contribute to promoting mental health in or through community sport. Movember will fund all types of research that have the potential to improve the following impact areas:

1. the design of sports programmes (sport as the intervention);
2. policies for sports programmes; or
3. interventions to be delivered in the sports setting.

The grant is aimed at ECRs who are within seven years of PhD completion, not including any extended leave or career disruption taken during this period and who can make an impact on mental health in and through sport.

The grant is targeted at ECR's based in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland only.

Along with the Request for Application (RFA), below are questions and corresponding answers that may be important when considering your participation in the Initiative.

Questions that are not found in this FAQ should be forwarded to shi-ireland@movember.com

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Q1. Who is eligible to apply?

This grant opportunity is open to any person/institution/organisation in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland that meets the Funding Eligibility as outlined in the RFA.

Q2. How do I make a submission to this grant opportunity?

Applicants will follow the process outlined in the RFA. The proposal is submitted via the online grant portal at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=movember> by April 6, 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Q3. What is an Early Career Researcher (ECR)?

The RFA defines an ECR as somebody who has submitted their PhD and then undertaken up to an additional seven years of full-time equivalent research.

Q4. Am I eligible if I am planning to submit my Ph.D. before the grant commences in September 2026?

If the Ph.D. has been submitted by the execution of contract, Movember will accept the proposal. Employment within a research institution and in-kind support of the institution is also a requirement. If the Ph.D. is to be submitted before August 2026 and the research institution is willing to employ the ECR for the purposes of the project, if successful, the proposal would be eligible. Movember would need an assurance of this in the proposal. Further revisions on the Ph.D. could not disrupt research activity, which would need to be agreed at contract execution.

Q5. Am I eligible if I submitted my PhD before 2019?

The RFA defines an ECR as somebody who has submitted their PhD and then undertaken up to an additional 7 years of full-time equivalent research. This does not include any time off taken for cumulative career interruptions, for example extended leave and part-time work, and this time can be subtracted from your total years of research.

We would define full-time equivalent as 38 hours each week for 48 weeks per year.

Q6. Are researchers based in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland tertiary organisations eligible to apply for this proposal?

Yes. This grant is targeted at improving the mental health of people in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland with sport as the platform. You must be working at an Irish based research institution and carry Sporting Industry partnerships in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland to be eligible for this grant.

Q7. Are researchers based at research institutions outside of the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland eligible for this grant?

This grant is targeted at ECR's based at Research Institutions in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland who have Sporting Industry partnerships in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.

Q8. Is this call targeted at one ECR as the sole applicant or an ECR leading a team?
Either approach is acceptable as long as the ECR is the project lead.
Q9. Does the industry partner need to be finalised at the point of submission?
No. However an MoU with the industry partner must be provided prior to final contract execution. If the industry partner is not able to provide in principle support for the proposal, evidence of previous partnership with them will be considered favourably.
Q10. Are there particular emphasis on organisations as the ‘industry partner’ and can a variety be included?
<p>This can be determined by the ECR based on their research idea. There can be flexibility however the focus should remain on community sports as the setting.</p> <p>Movember has focussed on the organised team sports setting, recognising the value of community in improving mental health. However, we would be happy to consider projects related to more individualised non-organised sports (for example rock climbing, etc) or organised physical activity and exercise (for example Park run, Gym, etc) if potential impact can be demonstrated.</p> <p>The research idea should solve an important problem, be replicable and scalable and should prioritise mental health outcomes so that the research incubates a solution to the problem identified. There is no preference for national or local/ state-based research. The selection of industry partner should be informed by these objectives but be driven by the research question.</p> <p>Multiple industry partners are permitted, for example if you wanted to work with both a sporting organisation and a secondary organisation focussed on domain interaction with Movember’s other interest areas (for example healthy masculinities).</p>
Q11. Where should the industry partner be based and is there a preference for the footprint of the industry partner?
Partners must be based in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.
Q12. Does this grant consider esports within the scope of activity?
<p>The focus of these grants is on community sports and physical activity.</p> <p>The RFA states that Movember has focussed on the organised team sports setting, recognising the value of community in improving mental health. However, we would be happy to consider projects related to more individualised non-organised sports (for example rock climbing, surfing etc) or organised physical activity and exercise (for example Park run, Gym, etc) if potential impact can be demonstrated.</p> <p>We see esports sitting in its own category and this grant is focussed on the above-mentioned sports within physical activity settings. Movember are establishing a separate dedicated esports research program.</p>

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Q13. What is the maximum amount of funding available?

Funding spans up to a two-year period and varies depending on the budget required up to an amount of €90,000.

We strongly recommend that you apply for the funding required to implement your initiative rather than budgeting to the maximum amount available. Projects that have been recommended for funding will have their budgets reviewed in detail.

Q14. How many projects will be funded under the initiative?

The number of projects funded under the Initiative will be dependent on the individual funding requests. Movember are looking to fund in the region of four-five projects across the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland with the goal to build sector capacity and achieve real world impact.

Q15. Is there is a cap on the number of submissions from a single University?

No.

Q16. Is it expected to have co-funding for my program?

No. Initiatives are not required or expected to have co-funding in place to access funds. However, employment within a research institution and in-kind support of the institution is a requirement.

Q17. When will the funding be available for successful applicants?

Subject to the full execution of a Funding Agreement, the earliest start date for projects is **September 2026**.

Q18. What is the timeframe to complete the proposed Initiative?

The default grant period will be from September 2026 – August 2028 to complete proposed activities, including final reporting to Movember; however, publication of research may occur after this window, and the term can shift dependent on full execution of the Funding Agreement. Applications should be made for Initiatives ranging for this period, with the submitted budget costed appropriately to reflect the timeframe. Final timing will be confirmed as part of the agreement.

Q19. Is the grant to be directed at the salary of the ECR and what detail are Movember expecting in the proposed budget?
<p>Grant moneys can be attributed to the salary of the ECR. An in-kind contribution is expected from the research institution, for example time release from teaching.</p> <p>The budget must cover all research activities including the research itself - data collection and storage, analysis, research assistants, publication and any research enablers, for example costs associated with participation of the industry partner.</p> <p>It is important to Movember to ensure open access to research as we aim to maximise its impact and ensure equity of access. The budget you lodge can include expenditure items for publication however applications that list existing arrangements with publishers that reduce costs of publication will be looked upon favourably.</p>
Q20. Can my submission be over the amount specified per the limit?
No. Funding requests must be made for up to the maximum amount specified in the RFA.
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE
Q21. Is it possible to submit more than one proposal if we have multiple initiatives matching this opportunity?
<p>Multiple Proposals from the same organisation will be considered. Please submit a separate Proposal for each initiative.</p> <p>Note: there is no guarantee that any, or more than one, initiative will be invited to the think tank. Through phase 1, the proposal and phase 2, the think tank Movember will be seeking to ensure complementary questions that avoid duplication and are likely to have real world impact.</p>
Q22. Can I apply to Movember if I'm getting government funding for my initiative?
Yes. You are still eligible for Movember funding if you are receiving government funding.
SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION
Q23. How much time do I have to submit a full proposal?
Proposals are due via the online grant portal at https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=movember On April 6, 2026 by 5:00 pm GMT.
ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS
Q24. How will my proposal be assessed?
Proposals will be shortlisted by a review panel convened specifically to assess submissions. The selection panel will not have any conflict of interest with the applicants.

Q24. What are the assessment criteria for the RFA?
Please see the assessment criteria on page 10 of the RFA.
Q27. Will I receive feedback of the Proposal review if unsuccessful?
Due to the expected high volume of submissions, only general feedback will be provided.
Q28. When will I be notified about the outcome of my proposal submission?
Movember are aiming to ensure that applicants receive notification in early June 2026.
GENERAL QUESTIONS
Q29. The RFA mentions a preference for leveraging open access agreements to avoid unnecessary open access publishing costs. Why?
It is important to Movember to ensure open access to research as we aim to maximise its impact and ensure equity of access. The budget you lodge can include expenditure items for publication however applications that list existing arrangements with publishers that reduce costs of publication will be looked upon favourably.
Q30. If we get Movember funding, do we have to grow moustaches and raise money?
While it's not a requirement, we encourage all our program partners to participate in our Movember campaign, which runs annually from November 1st through to November 30th. There are a few different ways you can take part: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GROW: Join the sacred, hairy ritual. Grow a Mo, raise funds and save lives. ○ MOVE: Run or walk 60km over the course of the month. That's 60km for the 60 men we lose to suicide globally every minute. ○ HOST: Surrender to a good time. Throw an event to raise funds for men's health. ○ MO YOUR OWN WAY: A choose-your-own-adventure challenge. You make the rules, set the limits, inspire donations. <p>Visit Movember.com to learn more.</p>
Q31. Who owns Intellectual Property for the Program?
Any Intellectual Property Rights in an Applicant's Project Materials will remain with the Applicant. Movember will require that a non-exclusive, perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide and royalty-free licence to use the Applicant's Project Materials. Appropriate licensing arrangements will be agreed through the contracting phase. A Movember chief investigator will join each research Project with the goal of a partnership-based approach to research. The level of participation will be based on terms agreed with the Applicant. By responding to this RFA, each Applicant agrees to these terms.