

New 'Diversity and Inclusion Details' section of BHF application forms

By June 2023, a new section in application forms will be rolled out across most BHF funding schemes, asking for information on:

- Whether and how factors such as age, sex, gender or ethnicity have been considered as part of the design of the research project.
- Male/female representation in the proposed study.

BHF schemes which these changes will apply to (by funding committee)

Chairs and Programme Grants Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Horizons Grant• Programme Grant• Special Project
Clinical Studies Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical Study Grant
Fellowships Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All schemes except Fellowship Extensions and any joint schemes which we don't directly administer on Flexigrant (e.g., NC3Rs, Daphne Jackson Trust).• For 4 Year PhD studentships, the new questions will be added to the word document PhD application pack completed on entry into Year 2.
Project Grants Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Grant
Translational Awards Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Translational Award

This new section will be mandatory if the proposed study involves human participants, animals, or samples/data relating to humans or animals, and information provided may form part of the assessment of research design and methods by our committee members and independent expert reviewers.

Diversity and Inclusion Details

Cardiovascular diseases are often diseases of inequality, and many groups are currently under-served by cardiovascular research. The BHF has a responsibility to help tackle these inequalities as outlined in our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](#), which includes an ambition to work with our research community to help improve the representativeness of the research we fund.

Please answer the questions on this page if your proposed research involves human participants, animals, or samples/data relating to humans or animals. **We recognise that there is no perfect way of taking diversity into account when designing a research project, and that this will be easier to do for some types of research compared to others.** Information you provide on this page may form part of the 'Appropriateness of design and methods' assessment of your application.

- For research involving human participants, you may find it useful to refer to [INCLUDE guidance on improving inclusion of under-served groups in clinical research](#) and [Trial Forge resources on improving trial diversity](#) when completing this section.
- For research involving animals, you may find the [NC3Rs Experimental Design Assistant](#), [Animal Characteristics guidance](#) and webinar on [Using both sexes in animal experiments](#) useful when completing this section.

- Zaaier S, Capes-Davis A. [Ancestry matters: Building inclusivity into preclinical study design](#). Cell. 2021 May 13;184(10):2525-2531 includes recommendations for addressing diversity in cell-based models.

Does your proposed research involve human participants, animals, or samples/data relating to humans or animals?

Examples of samples relating to humans or animals: Tissue, blood samples, primary cells.
Examples of data relating to humans or animals: Imaging data, genomic data, information from electronic health records.

Yes/No

(All below questions will be mandatory if 'Yes' is answered to this question.)

Have you considered how factors such as age, sex, gender or ethnicity could be relevant to the design of your research project and/or the topic being studied?

For example, have you taken any such characteristics into account when designing your research question, research methods, or in how you plan to collect and analyse your data? Please note that age, sex, gender and ethnicity is not an exhaustive list of characteristics which may be relevant.

Yes/No

If Yes, please provide details. If No, explain why this doesn't apply or is not feasible for your study.

Free text response.

For studies involving humans - do you plan to include both male and female participants, or tissue/samples/data from both male and female participants, in your study?

Please note this question refers to biological sex.

Drop down response: Male only/Female only/Both/Not applicable - study does not involve humans

For studies involving animals - will both male and female animals or tissue/samples from both male and female animals be included in your study?

'Unknown' should be used only where the nature of the experimental work prevents biological sex from being determined (e.g., some developmental biology studies).

Drop down response: Male only/Female only/Both/Unknown/Not applicable - study does not involve animals

Please briefly describe the proposed sex balance of human participants, animals, or samples/data relating to humans or animals in your study.

For example, do you plan to involve roughly equal numbers of male and female human participants or animals (or samples/data from humans or animals) in your study?

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If you do not plan to involve both male and female human participants/animals (or samples/data from humans or animals) in your research, explain why. If biological sex cannot be determined in your proposed experimental model (e.g., for some development biology studies), please briefly explain.

Free text response.