



Applying for Nuffield Foundation funding

For Black researchers

21 January 2026

Overview

1

Introduction
Nuffield
Foundation

2

Our five
priority
questions

3

Applying to
us

3

Q&A



Our purpose

The Nuffield Foundation is independent, and our founding purpose is to advance social well-being. We achieve this by funding and undertaking rigorous research, encouraging innovation, and supporting the use of sound evidence to improve people's lives.

We tackle pressing, complex questions. Our aim is to open up opportunities and to improve lives for individuals, families and communities, within a just and inclusive society.

Our work addresses the inequalities, disadvantage, discrimination and vulnerabilities that people face, and considers the social and ethical implications of scientific and technological advances.

Our values



Independence



Collaboration




Rigour



Curiosity



Inclusivity



Our new strategy: five priority questions

A prosperous and fair society

How can we build a prosperous and fair society, where people are secure and can fulfil their potential?

- How economic performance shapes outcomes for people and society
- How social policies can foster growth and shared prosperity
- How to address insecurities people face in the labour market, housing and welfare state
- How education and care systems can best equip young people to thrive
- How employers and public services can better support those with health conditions

An inclusive society

How can we build an inclusive society, where people thrive and feel they belong, in the context of changing demography and ways of life?

- How the UK's changing age structure - shaped by fertility, migration, and other factors - is affecting society, public services, taxation and government
- What the barriers and pathways are to a racially just and inclusive society
- What the impact of the UK's current housing market is on individuals, communities, and the economy
- What levels of care are needed for an ageing UK population
- How the provision of public goods and services should interact with local communities

Science, technology and society

How can we ensure that developments in science and technology work for people and society?

- How to identify and support ethical, adaptable regulatory frameworks
- How evolving technologies are shaping education, work, welfare and justice systems
- How new science and technology can be adopted equitably, with understanding of its impact on different groups
- How technologies are affecting people's sense of identity and agency, and human connection
- How foresight tools can be used to improve policies and systems

Climate change

How can policies to address climate change be developed in a way that promotes a prosperous, fair and inclusive society?

- Where mitigation and adaption actions risk deepening inequalities, or creating new vulnerabilities
- How to prepare for societal and economic stresses arising from climate change
- How climate policies will affect investment levels and employment
- What the social and distributional implications of local environmental issues are e.g. air and water quality
- How education can equip future generations with the right knowledge and skills on climate issues

Trustworthy and effective institutions

How can we build and maintain the effective and trustworthy institutions that our society and democracy need?

- What factors are shaping levels of trust in institutions, especially those whose decisions shape people's lives
- How institutions can best balance expertise with accessibility, legitimacy and accountability
- What the best ways are to enable meaningful public engagement in different institutional settings
- How data – both new and traditional – can be used to improve outcomes for citizens
- What the role of the justice system is in ensuring the quality, accountability and legality of institutions

Our ways of working

Awarding grants

Funding innovative interventions

Conducting our own research and synthesis

Creating new institutional capability

Funding development and evaluation of student programmes

Our focus on:

Education

- Capabilities
- Educational disadvantage: causes, consequences, and solutions
- Young people's pathways
- Teaching and learning

Justice

- Focus on effective, fair and accessible justice system
- Administrative, civil, family and youth justice
- Disadvantaged groups' engagement with the system

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Applying to us

Our funding programmes

Main grants Fund: for research that addresses one or more of our five interconnected priorities.

Strategic Fund: for original and ambitious projects that confront the scale and urgency of the UK's biggest social and economic challenges.

Racial Diversity UK: to understand the barriers and pathways to a racially just and inclusive society.

Next deadlines

Strategic Fund:

16 March 2026
(£1-3m)

Main grants:

13 April 2026
(up to £500k,
most below £300k)

RDUK & Main grants:

October 2026
(up to £500k,
most below £300k)

The application and assessment process

[Check your eligibility](#)

Read the [Guide for applicants](#)

If you're unsure, send us a one-pager

Two stage application

Current live grants

What we look for in applications

- Make the case for your project's importance
- Explain your methodology well
- Identify the key audiences for your research
- Outline your pathway to impact
- Skills and experience of your research and engagement team
- Value for money


Things to avoid



Trying to do
too much



Weak pathway
to impact



Poorly
explained
methods

More intentional in bringing about change

- 1 Informing change to policies, systems or legislation
- 2 Informing practice change
- 3 Advancing understanding and awareness
- 4 Changing attitudes or perceptions
- 5 Providing opportunity and building capability



Next steps & staying in touch

- Please give us feedback – this is a pilot webinar and your feedback will help us to improve
- Sign up for 1:1 chats with our Grants team



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Q&A