



The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust

Guidance for completing applications for the Iolanthe/RCM Jean Davies Award for challenging maternal health inequalities

Introduction to the Jean Davies Award

This award has been created in honour of Jean Davies who served for many years as a trustee of the Iolanthe Midwifery Trust, stepping down in 2012, and in various roles for the RCM during her career. Jean's focus in her work as a practising midwife and researcher was to help those families experiencing social and economic disadvantage.

The Iolanthe/RCM Jean Davies Award at a glance

Amount Granted	Maximum £5,000
When to Apply	Applications open in early Dec 2017 and close on 31st January 2018 . The award winner will be announced in April 2018.
Eligibility Criteria	NMC registered midwives and student midwives and groups. RCM membership of lead applicant is essential.

What type of projects and research are suitable?

1. Any project to improve care and/or support vulnerable groups who miss out on care. Projects that involve changes to an existing service to make them more accessible will also be considered.
2. A research project (for academic credit or not) with the main and explicit aim of reducing maternal health inequalities in some way
3. We welcome applications from inter-professional teams, providing the lead applicant is a midwife or student with RCM membership. There is no minimum time of membership of the RCM required.
4. Projects must be UK based, at least in part, but we welcome applications which include international collaborations.

Groups that may be at risk of maternal health inequalities may include:

- Single or young mothers
- Families of lower socioeconomic positions or in geographical areas of high deprivation
- Mothers from non-white British cultural backgrounds
- Asylum seekers and refugees
- Mothers leaving care
- Families with social services involvement
- Mothers who experience difficulty (physical, environmental or social) in accessing care (for instance, Romany and travelling communities)
- Homeless families
- Women suffering abuse
- Women in prison
- Women of LBGT sexual/gender identities

Topics that have a potential to ameliorate health care inequalities include:

- Continuity of care and case loading
- Breastfeeding
- Obesity
- Infectious diseases
- Alcohol and substance misuse
- Housing and local access issues
- Mental health
- Learning difficulties
- Smoking
- Research projects which originate from the community, or have collaborative elements
- Projects with lay-person involvement



A Guide to Writing a Good Application

	What goes wrong?	What do good applications have?
The purpose of the application	Applications which give little information about the proposed project or research tend to do less well.	A clear justification is given for the choice of project and what makes it innovative. The applicant has identified how this will benefit the wellbeing of mothers and/or babies. Projects and research which are collaborative (for example, using patient public involvement in the design stages) are viewed positively. Applications which include plans to disseminate the results of the research/project will attract extra marks.
Is the application going to investigate or reduce maternal health inequalities?	Poor applications tend to read as if little thought has been given as to how the women, and the profession as a whole will benefit. Applications which do not explicitly state how they will investigate or reduce maternal health inequalities will not do well.	A good application makes it very clear to the reviewer the value that the applicant and others (mothers and babies, other midwives, and the profession) will get from the award. Good applications are written with feeling and are persuasive.
Costs	No details are given – a lump sum is stated. Applications which have excessive costs, or include costs for items which do not appear to be relevant, do less well.	A good application gives detailed, well researched costs and has a brief justification for why these are included. Projects that appear to provide value for money tend to better. Evidence of additional attempts at fund raising is also viewed positively.
The overall quality of the application	Applications which are too long or have missing sections tend to score less well. The form has word counts where you might need guidance as to an appropriate length. Applications which exceed the word counts will not be forwarded to the judging panel.	A good application should be complete, well presented and readable. It is important to keep to the correct length and comply with word counts. The best applicants reference their application, using current policy or research to justify it.
Support and commitment.	Applications which give little or no information about the support they have are viewed less positively. Applications which state that their employer or academic departmental lead does not support them raise concerns and are less likely to be funded.	A supporting <u>letter</u> from the applicant's manager/academic lead is included. Evidence of other support or funding (no matter how small) is acknowledged. This might be time off to attend the course or part funding. There is evidence that the applicant is committed to undertaking the project, and will be able to complete it.



Guide to Completing the Online Application Form

We have designed the form to be as easy as possible to fill in. If you have any difficulties understanding what is required please contact awards@iolanthe.org and we will be able to help you. You can apply for the award at <https://www.iolanthe.org/jean-davies-award>

* indicates essential reading

Field	Explanation
*Data protection	Applying for an award will require you to go to our online application system on an external website based in the USA. By saving or submitting the application form, you are agreeing to have your data stored and processed outside of the EU as well as by Iolanthe Midwifery Trust. Further details about what this means and the rights you have over the data can be found in our Privacy Policy
*Saving the application	You can save the application at any time by clicking on Save at the end of the form. You can then continue entering data or choose to resume later. If you want to come back later, you will be given a link (or choose to have the link sent to you in an email) so you can return to the form at another time. Please note: The form does not save automatically if you use the back button or close the browser tab or window.
Applicant's name	The lead (or sole) applicant must be a midwife or student midwife
Applicant's PIN	If the lead application is a midwife, their NMC registration pin must be entered in this box
RCM Membership Number	This award can only be given where the lead application is an RCM member
Telephone number	A personal mobile telephone is preferred
Email addresses	We request two email addresses in case your preferred email address is linked with a job or place of study which expires when you move on. This is particularly difficult if it happens in the course of the award administration
1. Co-applicants	These do not have to be midwives or student midwives – we welcome collaborative projects
2. Abridged CV of applicant	The reviewers will be looking for evidence that you as lead applicant have the capacity to undertake and complete the work. Please include in the additional information section any relevant exceptional performance in training or a job. Please be honest about your CV and explain any gaps in the additional information section.
3. Details of Proposed Project	Please ensure that your project is eligible for funding in this award category. The Jean Davies Award is given for UK based projects challenging inequalities in maternal health,
Commitment to course/project	Enter brief but comprehensive details here about what time you will have available for the project, and any previous or current work which demonstrates your commitment to this project.
Manager's support	Your manager's support will add weight to your application. Please add a supporting letter at the end of the online application form (section 9)



4. Outline of proposed project	This section should clearly demonstrate how the project will promote understanding of and/or directly ameliorate maternal health inequalities.
Project outline	The project outline state clearly how the project will investigate or reduce maternal health inequalities and include an aim, objectives, project design and management, plans for evaluation and dissemination strategy. Applications which involve patient-public involvement or collaborative research will be viewed favourably. The maximum word count is 3000 words but it could be less if you have adequately achieved the above in fewer words. You can make this box bigger by dragging the RH corner of the box downwards. The text should be referenced where relevant (but not excessively referenced). A full list of references should be given in the box below.
References	As above, include the full list of references from the text in the project outline. Please do include all relevant references to evidence and current policy but do not excessively reference.
5. Cost of the project	The total cost of the project can be above £5,000 but only that amount can be requested from Iolanthe. If there is a shortfall please explain in the 'Other source of funding' box where this will come from. Please provide detailed costs.
9. Additional documents	Please upload supporting statements from your employer and details of ethical approval
*Save/Submit	<p>You can save this application and return to it later. You will be given or sent a link to find it again. When you are ready to submit your application, click on Submit. You will be able to download a pdf of your application. You will receive an email acknowledgment of your submission. If you do not receive this, please contact awards@iolanthe.org</p> <p>Only submitted applications will be judged. Saved but unsubmitted awards will be deleted shortly after the closing date.</p> <p>By saving or submitting your application you are accepting that your data will be stored and processed electronically for the purpose of awards administration and judging. More details about how your data will be stored and processed can be found in our Privacy Policy</p>

The closing date for this award is 31 January 2018

