

## MQ Animal Research Funding Policy

1. MQ: Transforming Mental Health recognises that animal research is essential if further progress is to be made in the field of mental health research. As a member of the UK's Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), MQ fully supports their [position statement](#) on the use of animals in research and is guided primarily by UK legislation and practice, in particular the [Animals \(Scientific Procedures Act 1986\)](#) or as amended from time to time.

2. Throughout this policy the term 'animal research' refers to research that uses species protected under UK law. Broadly this means **any live vertebrate**.

MQ will consider research on mammals with special protection under UK law (cats, horses, dogs and non-human primates), subject to the clauses below. Such proposals will undergo an additional layer of peer review by the UK's National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research ([NC3Rs](#)) for an expert assessment of animal welfare.

MQ will not fund research that clearly would not be licensed in the UK, for example research involving great apes, endangered species or very severe experimental procedures.

3. MQ expects awardees to follow the [ARRIVE guidelines](#) (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) when conducting research using animals to improve the design, analysis and reporting of animal research, maximising information published and minimising unnecessary studies.
4. MQ will only fund animal research in those countries or at those institutes where the Research Committee are confident that acceptable standards of laboratory animal welfare are applied. When considering what constitutes an acceptable standard, MQ expects researchers to comply with the [principles of the 3R's](#) as set out in the guidance from the NC3Rs.
5. The Research Committee use benchmarks to decide which countries or institutions meet the criteria of an acceptable standard of laboratory animal welfare. These are:
  - a) National legislative controls meeting the requirements of [European Directive 2010/63/EU](#) (or any directives that supersede it).
  - b) Local committee-based regulatory systems offering a level of control equivalent to that exercised in the [USA](#) and [Canada](#).
  - c) Any formal regulatory system, whether local, national or a combination of the two, which results in a level of laboratory animal welfare at least equivalent to that produced by a) or b) above.

6. Based on the benchmarks above, **the following countries are deemed to have acceptable national standards of laboratory animal welfare:**

All EU Member States  
Iceland  
Norway  
Switzerland  
Australia  
New Zealand  
Canada  
USA  
South Africa  
India  
Singapore  
Brazil

Subject to clause 2, grant applications involving animal research will be accepted from these countries. The list above is not exhaustive and may be subject to change. Applicants from countries not listed above, whose research involves animals, should contact the MQ Office before starting their application.

7. MQ recognises that individual institutions may enforce their own animal welfare regulations in the absence of more widespread national controls. MQ is willing to consider documentary evidence that might show a research institution based outside the countries listed above upholds an acceptable standard of laboratory animal welfare. If so, special permission will be granted to the institution to apply for animal research funding. Please note this permission must be obtained **before** any grant applications are submitted or the application(s) will be rejected.

MQ reserves the right to amend this policy at any time. Questions about this policy should be addressed to Helen Munn, Interim CEO or Debbie Peebles, Research & Grants Manager by emailing [grants@mqmentalhealth.org](mailto:grants@mqmentalhealth.org)

This policy was last updated in November 2019.