
CARE - A Multi-National Research Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. What is the CARE program?**

The Colgate Award for Research Excellence (CARE) program is a multinational funding initiative sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive Company. Administration of the CARE grant is now managed by the Dental Health Unit (DHU), a private-public partnership between Colgate-Palmolive Company and the University of Manchester in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania. The program offers one-year research grants to early-career faculty at academic institutions throughout the USA, Canada, and Europe, specifically targeting advancements in global oral health.
- 2. How often is the CARE grant being awarded?**

The grant is sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive and is offered once a year.
- 3. What is the grant amount awarded to the winning projects?**

Awards have an upper limit of \$30,000 USD. For awardees in Europe, this amount will be converted into the local currency.
- 4. How do I apply for the CARE program?**

Applications must be submitted exclusively via the official online application system at <https://dentalhealthunit.com/care>. The submission portal for the upcoming cycle is scheduled to open in **March 2026**.
- 5. Can I submit application documents separate from the online application system?**

No, all forms and documents must be uploaded through the online portal. Any documents submitted via external channels will result in the application being deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected.
- 6. When is the 2026 submission deadline?**

The formal deadline for submission is Friday, **May 15, 2026**. This deadline is non-extendable, and the system will automatically disqualify any applications not finalized by this date.
- 7. What do I have to submit in order to apply for the CARE grant?**

The online application system provides a step-by-step guide detailing all eligibility criteria and necessary documentation. Applicants may update their registered documents at any time during the active application window. No modifications are permitted once the registration period has concluded.

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- 8. Is an applicant eligible if they do not currently hold a permanent faculty position but will have one by the time of the award?**
No; applicants must hold a permanent faculty appointment at the time of submitting an application.
- 09. Am I eligible to submit a proposal for the Care Program if my appointment is at a university department other than a dental school?**
Yes, we accept applications from any accredited research universities in the UK, EU, US and Canada.
- 10. What kind of research projects is Colgate looking for?**
The CARE grant prioritizes groundbreaking research projects addressing critical oral health challenges in disease prevention, clinical measurement and translation, or behavioral science focused on patient habits and social determinants of health.
- 11. May I submit several independent projects to increase the chances of being funded?**
No; submission is limited to one (1) research project per applicant.
- 12. How are winning research projects selected?**
Funding decisions are determined through a standard, one-stage single-blind peer-review process. The review panel is composed of subject matter experts from both academic institutions and the industry.
- 13. Is it possible to receive copies of the reviewers' comments?**
No; all assessments conducted by the review panel are strictly confidential and will not be disclosed.
- 14. What is the expected timeline for the disbursement of grant funds?**
The release of funds typically occurs between 3 and 6 months following the announcement of winners. This timeline is contingent upon the processing speed of the formal grant agreement. Parties involved are encouraged to stay atop of the agreement communications so the CARE grant recipient has the opportunity to receive the grant funds as early as possible.
- 15. When will the grant amount be distributed to the grant recipient and/or the grant recipient's research university?**
For grant recipients, depending on the circumstances, funds may be released from 3 to 6 months after announcing the winners.

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- 16. Will the grant amount cover indirect costs?**
Each grant provides a maximum of \$30,000.00 USD for direct and indirect research costs. This constitutes the total payment, and no additional funds will be awarded.
- 17. Can I request an increase in the research budget after I submit the application?**
No, all submitted applications are final after the submission period is closed.
- 18. Can the award be used for faculty protected research time?**
Unfortunately, the grant does not cover faculty protected research time.
- 19. Our faculty applicant would like to utilize this funding to support equipment and supply costs rather than salary support. Is it acceptable to put “no salary request (covered by the Institution)” on the personnel budget section of the application or would this part be considered during grant proposal judging?**
Yes, this would be acceptable for the budget section of the application. Most applicants use the budget for the actual research project and not for salaries. This would be taken into consideration during the application review process.
- 20. Can the grant be used for faculty salary support?**
Only if there is a research assistant who is a team member and directly involved in carrying out the research project, for example a graduate student. The award will not cover the salaries of the lead applicant.
- 21. Is there a limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by a single institution?**
There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by a single dental or research institution. However, only one (1) research project can be awarded per institution per program cycle.
- 22. If an international collaborator (Key Thought Leader) is necessary to complete the research project, will travel to our institution be an allowable cost?**
Yes, only if they are directly involved with the research project and if it is within the research budget.
- 23. I am a team member of the researcher who was the winner of the CARE Program this past year. Will Colgate cover my expenses to travel and present the research at Research meetings?**
No, the program will not cover additional travel or accommodations for the CARE grant recipient and/or research team members if they are interested in presenting the CARE grant supported research project at dental congresses. These costs are between the CARE grant recipient, the research team members and their research university. These expenses are outside of the grant amount.

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- 24. After completion of the research project, grant recipients and their mentors (optional) are expected to present and share their research findings with the Colgate scientific community? Are these expenses to be part of the travel expenses in the budget?**

Yes, all grant recipients need to present their research findings to the Colgate scientific community. These presentations will be scheduled as virtual sessions. Should a Face-to-Face (F2F) event take place, travel expenses to the Global Technology Center (GTC) in the U.S. or the GTC in Switzerland (for European applicants) will be covered by Colgate. These costs are handled separately and are not deducted from the grant award, provided that university or governmental policies do not prohibit the recipient from accepting such travel support.

- 25. Will I be eligible to apply for the CARE grant if I don't need additional funding, and I am able to conduct the study with the support of the grant amount alone?**

Yes, you will be eligible to apply for the CARE grant.

- 26. I didn't get the grant. Can I reapply next year?**

Yes, you are welcome to reapply next year.

- 27. What do you require for proof of being a full-time faculty within the first five years in a research or dental school? Is a letter from the Mentor acceptable?**

Yes, a letter from the Mentor will be accepted.

- 28. I have the opportunity to obtain additional funding for this project from another source (e.g., University or a Third Party). What documentation do you require as proof of this supplemental funding?**

A letter from the Dean or Department Head at the source of the funding will be accepted as proof of additional source of support. This letter must be included within the budget document prior to upload. Please note that the source of additional funding must be a non-competitor of Colgate.

- 29. What are the suggested dates to put in for the start and end dates of my budget?**

The budget start and end dates should be aligned with the start and end dates of the research proposal. The latest start date of the research project will be the date Colgate as the Sponsor signs the agreement, and is to be within the same calendar year the CARE grant winner is announced. If you have additional financial support that has a differing (e.g.--earlier) start and finish date--a unique situation--please specify that as well.

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- 30. I started my academic career at University at XYZ, as Clinical Assistant Professor, and worked there full-time for 18 months. I am still employed in an adjunct capacity at University at XYZ, since I moved to take a tenure-track position at the School of Dentistry in location ABC. Am I still eligible to apply for the grant?**

Yes, regarding the first-time -in career (0 to 5 years) position, you are eligible to apply. Regarding being employed at multiple universities, and applying for the CARE Program research grant, clearance must be granted between the places of employment, to make sure there are no conflicts of interest between them. Please note: The applicant must be employed at the representative research university (not as a "visiting faculty member" from another home research university), for the prospective grant recipient's contract shall be made between the prospective grant recipient's research university (in which the grant recipient will be conducting the research) and Colgate.

- 31. The project I am working on can potentially be justified as impacting oral health via supporting postgraduate residents' quality of care, but it is not exactly written with that scope. Would an educational research project qualify or only be clinical/diagnostics related?**

To qualify, a project must go beyond academic or pedagogical theory and demonstrate a direct link to translatable clinical application or the improvement of patient care.

- 32. Who owns the intellectual property rights to the research project submitted to the CARE Program?**

The applicant and/or their academic institution shall retain all rights, title, and interest in any Intellectual Property (IP) resulting from the research project.