

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PROSTHETISTS AND ORTHOTISTS: RESEARCH SUPPORT POLICY



## INTRODUCTION

The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists (BAPO) recognises the importance of fostering research within the prosthetics and orthotics field and bringing relevant opportunities to be involved in research to its members. This policy outlines the procedures for researchers seeking support from BAPO for their studies, ranging from student projects to multi-centre national funded studies.

All decisions regarding support for a research study shall be made by the Research Committee chair, informed by consultation with the BAPO Research Committee. All decisions will be communicated with the researcher within six weeks of completing the BAPO Research Support Form. We anticipate most researchers will be contacted within two weeks. If BAPO choose not to support a research study, no appeal will be considered.

Below are details of the three tiers of support offered by BAPO:

## TIER 1: STUDY SIGNPOSTING

### **Researcher requirements:**

- Researchers must provide evidence of ethics favourable opinion.
- Researchers should explain why the study is relevant to the BAPO members.

### **BAPO will provide:**

- BAPO will advertise the study once on social media platforms (X/Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook) and once in the BAPO weekly email newsletter.

Signposting does not imply endorsement. Researchers are not permitted to use BAPO logos on any study material.

## TIER 2: STUDENT SUPPORT

This tier of support is available to BAPO members only.

### **Researcher requirements:**

- Students must provide evidence of ethics favourable opinion.
- Students should explain why the study is relevant to the BAPO members.
- Following the conclusion of a study which has received BAPO student support, students should submit either a 500-600 word report to BAPO Connect, or submit an abstract for either a poster or presentation to a BAPO conference.

### **BAPO will provide:**

- Prior to submitting ethics approval, students can request the BAPO Research Committee review the protocol and any associated documents (e.g. surveys) and provide feedback. The BAPO Research Committee is predominantly comprised of clinicians and researchers, and can provide advice and guidance to support recruitment and retention of participants, based on their experience of research within Prosthetics and Orthotics.
- If the BAPO Research Committee has had the opportunity to give feedback on the protocol, students may use BAPO logo on study materials to demonstrate BAPO endorsement.
- After seeing evidence of ethics approval, BAPO will advertise the study twice on social media (X/Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook) and twice in the BAPO weekly email newsletter.

## TIER 3: STUDY ENDORSEMENT

### **Researcher requirements:**

- Researchers should approach BAPO for endorsement at least prior to first patient recruitment, or provide a reason why this was not possible.
- The study protocol should be made available for review by the BAPO Research Committee, or involve BAPO in the development of the research protocol.

- A minimum of one HCPC registered prosthetist or orthotist should be involved in a research oversight committee or group.
- For funded, multi-centre trials, BAPO should have the opportunity to nominate a BAPO representative to a research oversight committee or group.
- Following the conclusion of the study, researchers should submit an article summarising study results in BAPO Connect magazine, or submit an abstract for a presentation to a BAPO conference.

**BAPO will provide:**

- A study-specific letter of endorsement to support funding or ethical applications.
- Permission to use BAPO logos on all study materials to demonstrate endorsement.
- Review and feedback on the study protocol, if requested.
- Personalised advice on recruitment of P&O professionals (including clinicians, technicians and assistants) and P&O service users, if requested.
- After seeing evidence of an ethics favourable opinion, BAPO will share advertisements on social media (X/Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook), in the BAPO weekly email newsletter, and/or in the quarterly BAPO Connect magazine at a frequency relevant to the study.

