Researcher Collaborations Grant

Guidance for Applicants

3.5 There are no career stage restrictions associated with this scheme, however Applicants must either:

    3.5.1 Hold a fixed term or permanent contract at an eligible organisation (university; industrial, private or commercial organisation; university spin-out company or research institute) that lasts for the duration of the grant. Or

    3.5.2 Be undertaking a graduate course at a Higher Education Institution, for example university.

3.6 Any given Project may not receive more than one RSC grant. Applicants must inform the RSC if a Project is successful in multiple RSC grant applications.

3.7 The Applicant is solely responsible for ensuring they are not under any obligation which prevents them from applying for or receiving the funds, whether the obligations are imposed by the home organisation or otherwise.

4. Application timelines

Applications open: 27 August 2024

Application close: 30 September 2024 14:00 UK time (BST)

Initial eligibility decisions: Week commencing 14 October 2024

Funding decisions: By 16 December 2024

5. Application requirements

5.1 Applicants must make their application through the RSC's online application system, SurveyMonkey Apply. Before completing the online form, all Applicants should check that they comply with the eligibility requirements that are stated in section 3.

5.2 The application form will ask the Applicant to provide:

    a. Information on the nature and purpose of the Project and the need for collaboration.

    b. The expected outcomes and potential next steps from the Project for the research area and/or collaboration(s).

    c. Information on how RSC funding will make a significant difference to the ability to deliver the Project.

    d. The approximate costings of the Project and a breakdown of how the Grant will be used. This should include quantities and approximate costs for each item (see eligible costs in section 6).

    e. For Applicants seeking funding to host meetings/workshops, details on

      ii. For Projects to host a meeting/workshop with multi participants, the letter of support should be from a potential key participant "Collaborator ".

i. Approval from either the Applicant's Supervisor, Line manager or Head of Department in support of the application (see section 8)

j. Applications will not be considered for funding if any part of the application exceeds length limits specified in the application form.

6. Eligible costs

6.1 Applicants may apply for costs directly needed for their Project. All costs should be essential to undertake the Project, as well as be reasonable and appropriate for the Project. These can include:

a. Travel, including visa and insurance, accommodation and subsistence costs to visit a collaborator

arrangements. Recipients should ensure they have insurance and access to additional financial support in case their costs unexpectedly increase.

6.9   Recipients who are travelling or participating in in-person activities should follow relevant institutional and government guidelines and policies.

7.   Inviting collaborators to provide a letter of support for the application.

7.1   Applicants must include a letter of support from the Collaborator as part of the application. ***Please make them aware of this before entering their details into the application system.***

7.2   Applicants are required to complete all sections of the Main Application Form before the Applicant can access the Collaborator letter of support section of the application form.

7.3   Once Applicants enter the details of the Collaborator, the SurveyMonkey Apply system will send them an email, which includes a link to the application. Clicking this link will allow them to login (or sign up) to enter their letter of support. If they have not received a link, it may have gone to their junk folder. Please contact funding@rsc.org

two weeks to complete their section of the application form. The RSC will recommend to the nominated person that their declaration needs to be completed in advance of the application deadline.

8.5 Applicants will not be able to submit their application form until the status for approval shows as 'complete'.

8.6 If Applicants needs to make any final edits after submitting their application before the application deadline, they should contact funding@rsc.org for guidance.

9. Assessment Criteria

9.1 The assessment criteria are:

a) Case for collaboration

Applicants should give thoughtful consideration to why they chose their respective collaborator(s) for the Project.

It should be clear how each party contributes to the project or research problem.

There should also be clear scope for sustained partnership(s) beyond the conclusion of this grant application.

b) Scientific quality

The scientific proposal must be novel and achievable in the specified timeframe.

Applications should include a timely research problem that merits the proposed Project.

Applications should also have impactful expected outcomes and plans for "next steps".

c) Case for RSC funding

Applicants should demonstrate why RSC funding would be enabling. They should place their funding request in the context of other sources of funding available to them.

d) Inclusion & Diversity (meetings only)

Applicants must demonstrate actions to be taken to ensure an inclusive meeting.

10. Review process

10.1 All applications will be checked by RSC staff. Your application will not proceed to peer review if:

a) The Applicant(s) does not meet our eligibility criteria (please see section 3);

b) the application is incomplete (see section 5);

c) the application does not adhere to the length limits (see section 5);

d) the Applicant's funding request exceeds £5000 limit (see section 1);

e) the application includes ineligible costs (see section 6);

10.2 All remaining applications will undergo peer review by members of our Researcher Grants Peer Review Group and final funding decisions will then be overseen by:

Professor Alison Hulme, University of Edinburgh