

Internal Funding to Research Catalyst 2024/2025

Background

We anticipate that the type of activities that could be supported by this funding will be diverse and want to provide flexibility in how it is used.

With this initiative, support is available to enable a range of activities including:

- **Stakeholder Engagement** – forming or building stakeholder relationships with individuals or groups. Emphasis is placed on co-creation with stakeholders. Supporting events related to research proposals and facilitating network-building activities, particularly those engaging non-academic organisations, is highly encouraged.
- **Consortium Building** – to develop, maintain or enhance links to groups, network cohorts, and European or other international partners, to facilitate the formation and advancement of a consortium with the view to supporting a future major bid.
- **Project Management** - to support existing projects and ventures which would benefit from enhanced project management expertise.
- **Connective Funding** – exclusively for postdoctoral researchers who have secured substantial funding, for example an independent fellowship or a project grant, to bridge the gap between funding streams.
- **4* outputs** – generation of additional data that will enable 3* outcomes/outputs to be enhanced and published at 4*
- **Other activities to catalyse high quality research outcomes** – creative ideas are welcome, for example funding to deliver a themed seminar series, funder or other stakeholder visits.

Eligibility

Applications are welcome from academic staff across the University for the development of research which would leverage subsequent funding from external funding bodies and/or contribute to Aberdeen 2040 strategic priorities.

The Lead Applicant must be a current employee, and their current employment contract should extend for at least 2 months after the end of the proposed research project.

A project can have Co-Leads if from different disciplines.

You cannot be a Lead Applicant on more than one proposal at a time however it is permissible to be Lead Applicant on one application and a Co-Applicant on another.

Early Career Researchers

While open to all disciplines and career stages, we would particularly encourage applications from early career researchers and a proportion of the 2024/25 funding has been ringfenced to support such applications.

There is no one single definition of an Early Career Researcher, however for the purposes of the Research & Research Networks Pump Prime scheme, we have used the Royal Society of Edinburgh's definition of a postdoctoral early career researcher:

- Applicants within seven years of the award of their PhD (from the point of successful PhD viva to the point of applying) and within seven years of their first academic appointment (paid contract of employment which lists research or teaching as the primary role).

In instances where the lead applicant is an Early Career Researcher employed on an externally funded research grant (e.g., a postdoctoral research assistant) endorsement from the grant holder (Principal Investigator) is also required to confirm that the proposed activity can be accommodated alongside existing commitments and permissible under the terms and conditions of the externally funded research grant.

Level of Award

Applications up to £10,000 are anticipated.

Eligible Costs

Fully justified directly incurred costs will be eligible.

Dates of Eligible Spend

The proposed start date for a project should be no earlier than 1st March 2025.

Research Catalyst funds awarded must be spent by 31st July 2025, and grants will not be renewable.

Costs incurred after this date will not be eligible and we cannot prepay or commit funds for an activity/event that takes place after 31st July 2025.

Review

Applications will be reviewed by a panel that will comprise of selected Research Deans, Interdisciplinary Directors and the Director of Research & Innovation. Further reviewers may be added as required for relevant expertise including input from relevant School Directors of Research.

Key Assessment Criteria

The funding available is primarily intended to support research and research partnerships however the review panel will consider all applications on merit.

Highly rated proposals are likely to demonstrate several of the following characteristics:

- establishing new, high quality research collaborations, or significantly enhance existing partnerships, both internally and externally
- building on excellent research
- demonstrable evidence of fulfilment of Aberdeen 2040 commitments to be a more inclusive, interdisciplinary, international and sustainable university
- providing the evidence-base, knowledge, solutions, innovations, technologies or pathways to support the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- novel approach to address a complex research challenge
- demonstrating collaborations with industry, international partners, community partners, or other external stakeholders (or clear plans to gain such collaborations in the course of the project), and the value that this adds to the research area.
- demonstrating clear pathways to achieve outcomes e.g. attracting external funding, creating demonstrable impact within and beyond academia, etc.

Ethics

Where applicable, approval of the relevant ethics board is required as a condition of funding.

Reporting

Awardees will be asked to contribute a lay project summary which will be used on the University's webpages.

A report must be provided within 60 days of completion of the project and a simple template proforma will be shared with awardees for this purpose.

We will seek to maintain conversations with awardees and follow the leverage achieved through the investment so there will be additional opportunities for awardees to provide updates and reports, for example you may be contacted from time to time by Research & Innovation to contribute to the development of a case study for additional reporting or invited to participate in research events such as symposia.

Please note details of successful applications will be added to [Pure](#) . Awardees are encouraged to keep Pure up to date with the latest research outputs and activities. For more information and guidance on how to add your content to Pure please visit [Pure | StaffNet | The University of Aberdeen \(abdn.ac.uk\)](#) .

Apply: applications will be accepted ahead of the submission deadline 4pm 29th January 2025. You can find further guidance and the application form (insert link)

Please note feedback on applications will not be provided.

Queries- please contact Elspeth.spice@abdn.ac.uk Research Development Executive.

Applications to this call are being routed through Worktribe. If you do not have access to Worktribe, please contact Ramsproject@abdn.ac.uk. Research Finance will review the costings of successful applications only and Worktribe records will be tagged as No Research Finance Input at Application Stage.

Funder should be set to University of Aberdeen

Please note call name: Research Catalyst Scheme

Complete the required sections of Worktribe including budget

Upload this application form to the Documents tab and submit for approval.