**Health Research Accelerator Award Guidance Notes for Applicants**

1


# Purpose of the Scheme

The Health Research Accelerator Award scheme is targeted at academics across the four Health Research Centres (Manchester Metropolitan University) and academics within the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health (University of Manchester) to forge collaborative research which addresses a health research problem of strategic significance within the two Universities and that could potentially lead to a significant research collaboration with external funding. **These awards should be used as pump-priming funds to forge and nurture new collaborations across the two institutions with the intention of providing preliminary data to apply for external funding to a major funding agency or charity. It is expected that any projects awarded will apply for external follow on funding within 24 months after the award has been made.**

The scheme will focus on projects that fall within the broad definition of “health research”. Any project must outline a visionary research topic with strategic importance to the health research problem to be addressed and must have strategic fit within the lead organization. The project must be led by a Principal Investigator (substantive or fixed term\* appointment) within either Faculty and **must** include an Early Career Researcher1 as a co-applicant. **The maximum award is up to £10,000** and must be spent within 12 months of the award being made.

A maximum of five awards will be made in the first instance.

# Eligibility Criteria

* Researchers who hold a substantive contract of employment within either University must be the lead Principal Investigator.
* One of the Co-Investigators must be an Early Career Researchers (see footnote for definition)
* Co-Investigators who hold an honorary contract with either organisation.
* External collaborators may be included as a Co-Investigator on the application.
* Researchers outside the two primary Faculties may also be included as a Co- Investigator.

# Funding Arrangements

Funding will be administered from the Institution of the Lead PI. The project **must** start within 3 months of the award letter being issued. There will be no compromise on this.

1 *Definition of an Early Career Researcher is up to 10 years post-doc*

*\*Principal Investigators must hold a fixed-term contract for the duration of the award*

**Spend Completion Date**

The maximum project period is 12 months and **all project expenditure must be completed by the end date stated in the application form.** Any unspent funds will be returned to the fund pot and be reallocated to other rounds, where appropriate. A 6 month interim and final report will be required from the PI.

# Costing and eligible costs

The award will only cover **directly incurred costs** and is **not** subject to fEC. All projects must have appropriate sign-off and approval before being submitted. Given the funding pot is generated from internal funds, the normal approval process will **NOT** be necessary, but a signature from the Head of School/Institute/Division indicating approval for submission to the scheme **must** be obtained on the application form by submission.

Eligible costs include but are not limited to:

***Directly Incurred:*** Staff costs (RA time only including % time of a current employee) PPI/PE activity costs

Small equipment Consumables

Travel and subsistence

Bid meetings and planning events Joint-health related conferences

Meeting potential external collaborators

All costs must be justified and virement will be allowable within the budget.

***Project Budget:*** Project costs must be discussed with appropriate Research

Development Managers (MMU) or Research Support Managers/Officers (FBMHS) and provide evidence on request.

***Total Project Costs:*** These are those costs directly associated with the project, in

the eligible cost headings outlined above.

# Assessment of applications

Applications will be assessed by a joint University scientific committee comprising members who are research active in health research, professional practitioners and lay members of the local community.

Assessment will take into account:

* The strategic fit of the research project or activity being proposed
* The potential long-term benefits of the collaboration and the likelihood of successful external funding.
* The strengths of the proposed collaborators in relation to the research project or activity proposed.

# Application Submission

The deadline for applications is Friday 30th September 2016 at 5pm. Further information or advice on eligibility can be sought from:

Kelly Lavender-Smith, Research Development Manager, Research & Knowledge Exchange (RKE), Manchester Metropolitan University email: K.Lavender-Smith@mmu.ac.uk or telephone: 0161 247 2927

Katy Boyle, Project Officer to the Vice Dean for Research and Innovation, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, University of Manchester email: katy.boyle@manchester.ac.uk or telephone: 0161 275 1360

Applications should be submitted electronically to K.Lavender-Smith@mmu.ac.uk (for MMU applicants) and katy.boyle@manchester.ac.uk (for FBMH applicants)

Further information regarding the Health Research Accelerator Award can be found at <http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/research/collaborate/health-research-accelerator-award/>or [**http://www.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/research/support-for-researchers/health-research-**](http://www.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/research/support-for-researchers/health-research-accelerator-award/)[**accelerator-award/**](http://www.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/research/support-for-researchers/health-research-accelerator-award/)