**Research(er) Development Fund 2017/18**

The Research(er) Development Fund aims to grow Manchester Met’s researchers and research capability by providing:

1. Support for researchers at the start of their careers to take steps to establish their independence
2. Development opportunities to allow researchers to experience international working and/or work outside the sector
3. Opportunities for researchers to grow their international and cross-sectoral networks
4. Funding to collaborate with individuals and organisations outside Manchester Met to support recruitment of talented researchers and enhance the quality of our research and outputs

The fund will make investments of up to £130k in the financial year 1 August 2017 – 31 July 2018. The fund will make awards via the following schemes:

1. **Research Accelerator Grants** for applications of up to £5000 leading to a full submission to an external funding stream (applications from individuals pursuing new investigator awards or similar are particularly encouraged)

Deadline: 26 January 2018

1. **Research(er) Development Fellowships** to support researchers to gain experience of undertaking research at an organisation from another sector or in another country (up to £4000)

Deadline: 26 January 2018

1. **International Network Fund** to support development of international research networks aligned with priorities of external funding agencies (up to £3000)

Deadline: 26 January 2018

1. **International Visiting Researcher Scheme** to support visits from leading researchers to undertake joint research and develop joint research outputs (up to £3000)

Deadline: 26 January 2018

1. **Early Career Fellowships Scheme** small awards to enable development of fellowship applications with incoming early career researchers (up to £500)

Deadline: Rolling with cut-offs at 26 January 2018 and 25 April 2018

In addition to the schemes above, applications will be invited from RKE Centres for the **PVC RKE’s Early Career Researcher of the Year**. The recipient will receive £1000 towards their personal development in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

For more information about the Research(er) Development Fund please contact [RKE-funding@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:RKE-funding@mmu.ac.uk) or call the Research and Knowledge Directorate on : 0161 247 2818.

**About the schemes**

**Research Accelerator Grants (RAG)** are awards for researchers at the start of their research careers for whom a small amount of funding could enable them to prepare for their first submission for research funding. RAGs can be used in a number of ways (e.g. small studies to generate pilot data, travel to visit archives or collections), but in all cases should lead to an application for external funding. Given the grants’ intended purpose of accelerating new researchers’ careers, applications from individuals pursuing new investigator awards or similar are particularly encouraged.

**Research(er) Development Fellowships (RDFe)** give researchers the opportunity to undertake research in another country or another sector. Fellowships are available for short placements (up to three months) with non-academic organisations in the UK (e.g. industrial R&D facilities, museums, special collections, NGOs) or with leading research groups outside the UK. It is expected that Research(er) Development Fellows act in an ambassadorial capacity on behalf of Manchester Met and will try to broaden links between their host organisation and other research groups and (where appropriate) centres.

**International Network Fund** **(INF)** will provide funding to bring together researchers and other interested parties (e.g. NGOs, professionals) around a specific theme or topic aligned to external funding opportunities. Funding will be available to host meetings in the UK or in an international location and should include at least one international organisation. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how their networks will enhance Manchester Met’s ability to access internationally focused funding streams such as Global Challenges Research Fund, Newton Fund and Horizon 2020 or leverage national funding from countries involved in the network. It is not envisaged that this fund will support networks that have received internal funding previously.

**International Visiting Researcher Scheme (IVRS)** will provide funding for international researchers to visit Manchester Met for a short research visit of up to three months. It is expected that the visit will enable joint research leading to outcomes such as joint publications and applications for funding. As such, applicants will be asked to consider carefully the way in which proposed visiting researchers could enhance the outputs of their research group and centre.

**Early Career Fellowships Scheme (ECFS)** will provide funding to support short visits from promising early career researchers to develop applications for fellowships to be undertaken at Manchester Met. Given the scheme’s long-term objective of recruiting promising young researchers to enhance existing areas of strength, applicants will be asked to provide CVs for proposed recipients and a clear rationale of how the individual and their programme of research will contribute to their group and centre.

**Selection process**

All awards will be made through assessment and ranking by panels, comprising representation from the following groups as appropriate to the individual scheme: *Faculty Heads of RKE; proposed UCRKE Heads; Future RKE Leaders; PVC RKE and the RKE Office*.

Applications will undergo initial checks for eligibility by the RKE Office, and ineligible applications will not be reviewed further.

Eligibility checks will include reviews of compliance with any requirements regarding career stage and cost categories. The RKE Office will also provide input for consideration by panels regarding the suitability of external funding streams proposed and alignment with funder priorities.

If proposals are rejected after checks on eligibility applicants will be given feedback on why their applications were deemed ineligible.

**SCHEME GUIDANCE**

**1. SCHEME GUIDANCE**

**A. RESEARCH ACCELERATOR GRANTS**

**A.1 Information**

**Research Accelerator Grants** are awards for researchers at the start of their research careers for whom a small amount of funding could enable them to prepare for their first submission for research funding. RAGs can be used in a number of ways (e.g. small studies to generate pilot data, travel to visit archives or collections), but in all cases should lead to an application for external funding. Given the grants’ intended purpose of accelerating new researchers’ careers, applications from individuals pursuing new investigator awards or similar are particularly encouraged.

**A.2 Eligibility Criteria**

**A.2.1 Applicants**

The scheme is primarily aimed and prioritised towards early career researchers, but is also open to those new to Manchester Met who have not yet held external research grant funding. Priority will be given to applicants who have obtained their PhD in the eight years prior to the deadline for applications.

Applicants should nominate an internal academic mentor who will help them develop the application for the accelerator grant and, if successful, support the formal submission of a full proposal to a funding body.

**A.2.2 Activities**

Funding should be used for a time-bound research project which aims to generate data, or provide access to resources required for the applicant to prepare an application for research funding.

**A.2.3 Costs and maximum value of awards**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eligible Costs** | **Ineligible costs** |
| * Directly incurred staff – RA or PhD * Travel costs (including transport, subsistence, visas, insurance, inoculations) * Research costs (including consumables, equipment) | * Replacement teaching costs – to be funded locally as required * Directly allocated costs (including applicant’s time) * Indirect costs |

**Maximum value** £5000

**A.3 Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

* Quality of the proposal
* Potential to develop the researcher
* Potential for future external funding
* Potential for impact and future development of research

(At application stage, Heads of UCRKE will be asked to confirm that the proposal supports the objectives of their centre)

**B. RESEARCH(ER) DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS**

**B.1 Information**

**Research(er) Development Fellowships** give researchers the opportunity to undertake research in another country or another sector. Fellowships are available for short placements (up to three months) with non-academic organisations in the UK (e.g. industrial R&D facilities, museums, special collections, NGOs) or with leading research groups outside the UK. It is expected that Research(er) Development Fellows act in an ambassadorial capacity on behalf of Manchester Met and will try to broaden links between their host organisation and other research groups and (where appropriate) centres.

**B.2 Eligibility Criteria**

**B.2.1 Applicants**

This scheme is open to researchers at all stages of their careers.

**B.2.2 Activities**

Fellowships will allow Manchester Met researchers to undertake short stays at other organisations.

Eligible host organisations should be:

* another University based outside the UK **and/or**
* based in a non-academic sector

Recipients are expected to undertake a joint programme of research with the host organisation that generates tangible outputs e.g. applications for external funding, joint publications.

The maximum duration of stays will be three months and funding can only be used by the applicant.

**B.2.3 Costs and maximum value of awards**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eligible Costs** | **Ineligible costs** |
| * Travel costs (including transport, visas, insurance, inoculations) * Research costs (including consumables) * Assistance with accommodation | * Replacement teaching costs – to be funded locally as required * Directly allocated costs (including applicant’s time) * Indirect costs |

**Maximum value:** £4000

**B.3 Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

* Quality of the proposal
* Potential to develop the researcher
* Potential for future external funding
* Plans to ensure sustainability and broadening of the collaboration

(At application stage, Heads of UCRKE will be asked to confirm that the proposal supports the objectives of their centre)

**C. INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FUND**

**C.1 Information**

**International Network Fund** will provide funding to bring together researchers and other interested parties (e.g. NGOs, professionals) around a specific theme or topic aligned to external funding opportunities. Funding will be available to host meetings in the UK or in an international location and should include at least one international organisation. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how their networks will enhance Manchester Met’s ability to access internationally focused funding streams such as Global Challenges Research Fund, Newton Fund and Horizon 2020 or leverage national funding from countries involved in the network. It is not envisaged that this fund will support networks that have received internal funding previously.

**C.2** **Eligibility Criteria**

**C.2.1 Applicants**

This scheme is open to researchers at all stages of their careers.

**C.2.2 Activities**

The scheme will support activities designed to enhance collaboration between network members. It is envisaged that this may include activities such as: short term visits (incoming or outgoing) and hosting of joint meetings.

**C.2.3 Costs and maximum value of awards**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eligible Costs** | **Ineligible costs** |
| * Travel costs (including transport, visas, insurance, inoculations) * Costs of meeting (catering) | * Directly allocated costs (including applicant and Manchester Met staff time) * Research costs (including consumables, equipment) * Indirect costs |

**Maximum value** £3000

**C.3 Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

* Quality of the proposal
* Potential to contribute to increasing capacity and capabilities of research group and centre
* Potential for future external funding
* Plans to ensure sustainability and broadening of the collaboration

(At application stage, Heads of UCRKE will be asked to confirm that the proposal supports the objectives of their centre)

**D. INTERNATIONAL VISITING RESEARCHER SCHEME**

**D.1 Information**

**International Visiting Researcher Scheme** will provide funding for international researchers to visit Manchester Met for a short research visit of up to three months. It is expected that the visit will enable joint research leading to outcomes such as joint publications and applications for funding. As such, applicants will be asked to consider carefully the way in which proposed visiting researchers could enhance the outputs of their research group and centre.

**D.2 Eligibility Criteria**

**D.2.1 Applicants**

This scheme is open to researchers at all stages of their careers.

**D.2.2 Activities**

The scheme will provide support for groups and centres to finance a visit from an international researcher. Recipients are expected to use funding to support a joint programme of research between Manchester Met and the incoming researcher that generates tangible outputs e.g. applications for external funding, joint publications. It is envisaged that the funding will be used to support the named incoming researcher.

**D.2.3 Costs and maximum value of awards**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eligible Costs** | **Ineligible costs** |
| * Travel costs (including transport, visas, insurance, inoculations) * Research costs (including consumables, equipment) * Assistance with accommodation | * Directly allocated costs (including applicant and Manchester Met staff time) * Staff costs of incoming researcher * Indirect costs |

**Maximum value** £3000

**D.3 Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

* Quality of the proposal
* Quality of the visiting researcher and potential to contribute to increasing capacity and capabilities of research group and centre
* Planned outputs of the visit
* Plans to ensure sustainability and broadening of the collaboration

(At application stage, Heads of UCRKE will be asked to confirm that the proposal supports the objectives of their centre)

**E. EARLY CAREER FELLOWSHIPS SCHEME**

**E.1 Information**

**Early Career Fellowships Scheme** will provide funding to support short visits from promising early career researchers to develop applications for fellowships to be undertaken at Manchester Met. Given the scheme’s long-term objective of recruiting promising young researchers to enhance existing areas of strength, applicants will be asked to provide CVs for proposed recipients and a clear rationale of how the individual and their programme of research will contribute to their group and centre.

**E.2 Eligibility Criteria**

**E.2.1 Applicants**

This scheme is open to researchers who are suitably qualified to act as a mentor, supervisor or equivalent for an early career researcher pursuing a fellowship proposal to bring them to Manchester Met.

The Early Career Researcher (ECR) should be eligible and at a suitable stage of their career trajectory for the funding stream identified.

**E.2.2 Activities**

Funding is provided to support costs associated with preparing a fellowship application e.g. support for meetings between the incoming ECR and the applicant and others.

**E.2.3 Costs and maximum value of awards**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eligible Costs** | **Ineligible costs** |
| * Travel costs (including transport, visas, insurance, inoculations) * Assistance with accommodation | * Directly allocated costs (including Manchester Met staff time) * Staff costs of incoming researcher * Research costs (including consumables, equipment) * Indirect costs |

**Maximum value** £500

**E.3 Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

* Quality of the proposal
* Quality of the visiting researcher and potential to contribute to increasing capacity and capabilities of research group and centre
* Potential for future external funding

(At application stage, Heads of UCRKE will be asked to confirm that the proposal supports the objectives of their centre)

**FREQUEntly Asked Questions**

**Can I include match funding from my department to increase the scale of my proposal?**

Yes, this is allowed, but you need to be clear about where this will come from in your application.

**How much time can I put into the project?**

There is no fixed rule, but you should think through this carefully and on award the applicant should be committed to developing the research proposal to an external funding body.

**Can I submit a joint proposal with another eligible colleague?**

Joint proposals are eligible for all awards except the Research(er) Development Fellowships Scheme. If you choose to submit a joint application, the role of each applicant must be clearly defined, and the applicants must apply as a collaborative team from this proposal for any external funding. Any joint proposals will be treated a single application and will only be able to apply for the maximum value as set out in the scheme guidance.

**The scheme I am bidding to specifies that I should apply for external funding after my project ends. What happens if I do not apply for an external grant following my award?**

Your award must inform a larger external grant application within 18 months of acceptance. Failure to comply with this criteria may affect the ability of your Centre to bid for funds in the future.

**How do identify possible future funding schemes and select those that are most appropriate to my level of experience?**

The University subscribes to Research Professional which is an online portal for searching funding opportunities. You can set up an account and browse through the funding areas that most fit your research. You can also set up email alerts for upcoming funding opportunities. You can also talk to your Research Development Manager or International Research Development Manager about opportunities.

**Can my academic mentor on my Research Accelerator Grant act as a Principal/Co-Investigator for my external funding application?**

The scheme encourages academic mentors to be involved at all stages. The mentor can be included as Co-I (or in exceptional circumstances PI) if the application would benefit from their involvement in this way. However, your Research Accelerator Grant application should reflect clearly the reasons for proposing this and the benefit to yourself as the applicant.

**Can the academic mentor for the Research Accelerator Grant be from another institution?**

No, the Research Accelerator Grant is an internal scheme and only Manchester Met staff are eligible as mentors. The scheme however, does encourage external collaboration with colleagues from outside the institution and we would expect to see this at the full application stage.

**For the Research(er) Development Fellowships, International Network Fund and International Visiting Researcher Scheme what is the definition of international?**

Any country outside the UK.