



# SMMSN

## Funding Update

(items in yellow are new compared to the previous update)

### SPOTLIGHT

#### Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists in the UK

**Internal identification of nominees – 12 noon, 27 March 2026; funder deadline 13 May 2026**

Nominations for the 2027 Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists in the United Kingdom are now open. The University can nominate up to three outstanding young academic researchers, one in each of three disciplinary categories of life sciences, physical sciences and engineering, and chemical sciences. The nominee must have been born in or after 1985. An internal selection panel will be convened if more than one nominee from each of the disciplinary categories is identified. With this in mind, we would ask you to discuss a potential nomination with your Head of School so they can inform June Middleton of any potential nominees by 12 noon on 27 March 2026. Self-nominations from individual researchers are not permitted.

More information: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/research/support/funding-opportunities/managed-calls/#panel33077>

#### MRC unpauses curiosity driven research funding and improves the funding process. Re-opening 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026

MRC have announced that the re-opening of their applicant-led funding opportunities and an updated process of reviewing and assessing grants. For the full announcement, please see the link: <https://www.ukri.org/news/mrc-curiosity-driven-research-reopens-with-new-approach/>

#### Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists in the UK 2027

**Deadline: Internal identification of nominees – 12 noon, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**Nominations submitted to funder – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
**Letters of Support – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** Nominations for the 2027 [Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists in the United Kingdom](#) are now open. The University can nominate up to three outstanding young academic researchers, one in each of three disciplinary categories of life sciences, physical sciences and engineering, and chemical sciences.

The nominee must:

- Have been born in or after 1985 (**age-limit exceptions** can be considered by the funder but we need to submit a detailed written submission to them before 15 April 2026)
- Hold a doctorate degree.
- Currently hold an academic appointment at an [invited institution](#) in the UK.
- Currently conduct research as a principal investigator in one of the [disciplinary categories](#) in **Life Sciences, Physical Sciences & Engineering, or Chemical Sciences**.

**Funding:** One nominee in each disciplinary category will be awarded £100,000 in unrestricted funds. In addition, two finalists in each category will each receive £30,000.

**Special Conditions:** An internal selection panel will be convened if more than one nominee from each of the disciplinary categories is identified. Please **discuss a potential nomination with your Head of School** so they can inform [June Middleton](#) of any potential nominees by **12 noon on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. Self-nominations are not permitted.

**Further Information:** *Blavatnik Awards in the UK* [Guidelines](#) for details on candidate eligibility and selection criteria. Nomination requirements can be found on the [Nomination Materials & Instructions](#) page. The nominations portal will be accessible through the [Blavatnik Awards](#) website during the nomination period.

## Academy of Medical Sciences Springboard Grants Round 12

**Internal Selection Deadline: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Deadline: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026**

**Scope:** Support for biomedical researchers at the start of their first independent post to help launch their research careers. 4 applications may be submitted per institution.

**Budget:** £125k, 2 years

### Eligibility:

- Applicants must be in their first independent salaried position and within 5 years (FTE) of this appointment
- Applicants must have sufficient time remaining in their current post to complete the Springboard project
- Applicants must not hold a clinical contract or be in receipt of research funding as PI or Co-I exceeding £150,000 for the two year Springboard award
- Applicants are ineligible if they hold the following fellowships/awards: CRUK Career Development Fellowship, CRUK Career Establishment Award, MRC Career Development Award, MRC New Investigator Award, The Royal Society University Research Fellowship, UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship, Wellcome Trust Royal Society Sir Henry Dale Fellowship, Wellcome Trust Seed Award

**Internal Selection Process:** please complete and submit the proforma attached to [grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk) by **6<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. Applicants will be notified of the result of the Internal selection process by **24<sup>th</sup> April 2026**.

**Further Information:** <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/grants-and-schemes/grant-schemes/springboard>

## Horizon Europe Pillar II funding opportunities

We would like to encourage all researchers to explore the [2026/27 Horizon Europe Pillar II calls](#) and consider applying. Pillar II funds collaborative research projects that address major societal and scientific challenges, bringing together academic teams with partners across Europe (and often beyond).

Look out for calls in the following Clusters:

- Cluster 1: Health
- Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society
- Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space
- Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

If you consider applying or have any questions, please email [grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk)

If you want to know more, join the [ResearchBites session “EU Pathway – Pillar II and Consortium Grants Explained”](#) on Thursday 19 March, 12.00-13.00, online.

## Pre-announcement: ERC Plus Grants

**Expected to open June 2026**

**Scope:** to support exceptionally bold, long-term, and transformative research projects that go beyond the scope of existing ERC programs.

**Budget:** 4-7 yrs, beyond existing ERC programs.

**More info:** <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/events/webinar-new-erc-plus-grants>

## Programme/Centre/Strategic Grants

### **Internal Triage For 2026/2027 Strategic UKRI Capital Equipment Calls**

**Deadline (Expression of Interest): 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

**Deadline (Submission of Business Case): 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026**

**Scope:** UKRI, via the Research Councils, issues annual calls for major equipment to support strategically significant research. Although the announcement for the 2026/2027 round has not yet been released, the information in the link provides indicative guidance on the forthcoming mid-range equipment calls from the relevant UKRI councils (MRC, BBSRC, EPSRC and NERC). Large capital bids require early planning to enable strong evidence of cross-institutional demand, institutional alignment, and planning for long-term sustainability. In order to maximise the use of the equipment, discussions between relevant School should take place at an early stage.

The internal triage process is structured into two key stages: Expression of Interest (Eoi) and if successful Business Case Development.

**To apply:** Please contact Dr Sabine Freitag via [grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk) to request the Eoi proforma, which must be returned no later than 5pm on 1 May 2026.

**More Info:** <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/research/support/funding-opportunities/managed-calls/#panel33071>

## Research Grants

### **Google.org Impact Challenge: AI for Science**

**Deadline: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Scope:** Projects must pursue high-impact research in the following areas: Responsible AI for Health & Life Sciences / Climate Resilience & Environmental Science

**Budget:** 12-36 months, \$500K - \$3M

**More Info:** <https://googlenewaccount2.submittable.com/submit/2eacc5bf-5e78-4f06-b14e-546c8a895981/google-org-impact-challenge-ai-for-science>

### **Scotland Beyond Net Zero Seed Fund 2026**

**Deadline : 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Scope:** Scotland Beyond Net Zero (SBNZ), a partnership between Scotland's universities to mobilise research expertise for beyond net zero, has launched its annual seed fund.

**Budget:** £5k or £15k

**More Info:** <https://scotland-beyond-net-zero.ac.uk/funding-opportunities/>

### **NIHR Improving mobility and quality of life after stroke (HTA Programme)**

**Deadline (outline): 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** What is the clinical and cost-effectiveness of interventions to improve mobility on the quality of life of people who have had a stroke?

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/improving-mobility-and-quality-life-after-stroke/2025454?>

### **Innovate UK Advancing Innovation in Drug and Alcohol Addiction Healthcare Competitions**

**Deadline: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** to develop and advance pharmaceutical, MedTech and digital interventions addressing drug and alcohol addiction healthcare.

**Budget:** £7M

**More Info:** <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/2394/overview/33b56af8-353f-46ac-bb66->

### **Wellcome Trust Establishing infrastructure hubs to power evidence synthesis in low- and middle-income countries**

**Deadline:** 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Scope:** to fund five new global infrastructure hubs to enable more timely, relevant and affordable AI-enabled evidence synthesis to address policy-scale challenges (food systems, humanitarian assistance, economic growth, peace and effective institutions or social protection); for research teams (4-8 applicants); lead applicant must be in an LMIC

**Budget:** £1.5M-1.9M, 3-5 yrs

**More Info:** <https://wellcome.org/research-funding/schemes/establishing-infrastructure-hubs-power-evidence-synthesis>

### **NIHR HSDR Programme: Improving access to, experience of, and outcomes from physical health services in prisons**

**Deadline:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Scope:** funding high-quality research studies that address key evidence gaps to improve access to, experience of, and outcomes from physical health services across the UK secure estate.

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/improving-access-experience-and-outcomes-physical-health-services-prisons/2025461?>

### **NIHR Public HSDR Programme: Researchers-led**

**Deadline (outline):** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Scope:** to fund high quality, well designed research to provide findings which meet the needs of NHS and social care managers and leaders.

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/hsdr-researcher-led/2026393?>

### **NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling funding opportunity (HSDR Programme)**

**Deadline (outline):** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Scope:** In this funding opportunity we are looking to receive applications for research studies addressing JLA PSPs' research priorities, rather than to conduct a PSP itself. One of the themes would be how palliative and end of life care can better meet the needs of people living with dementia and those close to them.

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/nihr-james-lind-alliance-priority-setting-partnerships-rolling-funding-opportunity-hsdr-programme/2026395>

### **NIHR Evidence Synthesis Programme (ESP): Researcher-Led – Evidence Synthesis**

**Deadline:** 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Scope:** We invite applications for standalone evidence syntheses that address the UK's most pressing health and social care challenges.

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/evidence-synthesis-programme-esp-researcher-led-evidence-synthesis/2026361>

### **Wellcome Trust Infectious Disease Clinical Trial Development Award**

**Deadline: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Webinar: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** to support teams in shaping an innovative concept into a fully developed proposal for a future randomised controlled trial. The awards are intended to strengthen collaborative research capacity while enabling investigators to design trials that optimise existing licensed vaccines or therapeutics. A lead applicant and at least one coapplicant needs to be based at an organisation in Africa, South Asia or South-East Asia

**Budget:** 2 yrs, £200K

**More Info:** <https://wellcome.org/research-funding/schemes/infectious-disease-clinical-trial-award-optimising-interventions-impact>

### **BHF 2026 International Cardiovascular Research Partnership Awards (ICRPA)**

**Deadline: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** The awards aim to support ambitious, high-quality projects and foster international cooperation between mid-career investigators (having 8-15 years research experience post-PhD). The scope of the scheme covers innovative research that contributes to improved clinical diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of cardiovascular disease, with strong encouragement for multidisciplinary approaches.

Each project must be co-led by at least 3 independent mid-career Principal Investigators (PIs), each based in one of the five participating countries: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.

**Budget:** £500k

**More Info:** <https://www.bhf.org.uk/for-professionals/information-for-researchers/what-we-fund/partnership-funding/icrpa>

### **Wellcome Trust Infectious Disease Clinical Trial Award: Optimising Interventions for Impact**

**Deadline: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

**Webinar: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

**Scope:** This call funds full-scale randomised controlled trials. The scheme aims to generate high-quality evidence capable of driving changes to policy, practice and clinical guidelines. A lead applicant and at least one coapplicant needs to be based at an organisation in Africa, South Asia or South-East Asia

**Budget:** 3-5 yrs, £1M-£8M

**More Info:** <https://wellcome.org/research-funding/schemes/infectious-disease-clinical-trial-development-award>

### **UKDI (formerly DASA) Blood on demand**

**Deadline: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

**Scope:** proposals that develop technology to reduce the logistical burden associated with collecting, testing and administering blood in a deployed setting.

**Budget:** Up to 24 months, £500K-£700K

**More Info:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/blood-on-demand-ukdi-seeks-innovations-for-blood-testing-in-the-field>

### **Pre-announcement: NIHR Global Health Research calls**

**Calls to open April 2026**

**Scope:** New funding calls will open in April 2026 and will focus on the most pressing health problems in the poorest countries. Also in April 2026, the NIHR will resume 2 personal award schemes to support the next generation of global health research leaders.

**More info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/nihr-announces-global-health-research-calls-2026?>

### **CSO Response Mode Grants**

**Deadline: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (outline application)**

**Scope:** Funding over a maximum of three years to support research aimed at improving treatments for conditions of clinical importance to the population of Scotland and improving the quality of healthcare within Scotland.

**Budget:** £350k

**More Info:** <https://www.cso.scot.nhs.uk/grant-funding/response-mode-funding-schemes/>

#### **NIHR Research for Patient Benefit**

**Deadline (outline): 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

**Scope:** for research proposals that are concerned with the day-to-day practice of health and care service staff, and that have the potential to have an impact on the health or wellbeing of patients and users of health and care services.

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/research-patient-benefit-march-2026/2026352-2026353-2026354?>

#### **NIHR Public Health Research: Loneliness in the community**

**Deadline (outline): 18<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

**Scope:** to fund research that evaluates the health and health inequality impacts of community initiatives that aim to address loneliness at a population level.

**Budget:** -

**More Info:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/loneliness-community/2025451>

## **Charity Research Grants**

#### **FARA Blood-Based Biomarkers for Friedrich's Ataxia RFP**

**Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** Funding for projects to identify and validate blood-based protein biomarkers to accelerate the development and regulatory approval of new therapeutics for Friedreich's ataxia (FA).

**Budget:** \$500K

**More Info:** <https://www.curefa.org/research/grant-program/grant-type/#proposals>

#### **Breakthrough T1D Strategic Research Agreements**

**Deadline: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** For research projects investigating the causes and potential treatments for all forms of inherited retinal disease. We are particularly keen to receive proposals with demonstrable translational potential. Applicants should note that only projects that are clearly focused on our charitable objectives will be considered.

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://www.breakthrough1d.org/explore-research/funding-opportunities/>

#### **Cystic Fibrosis Trust Strategic Research Centres**

**Deadline: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** Strategic Research Centres (SRCs) are designed to be virtual groups of interdisciplinary experts coming together to work on projects that are important to people with CF. An SRC application must have at least three but may include up to six related workstreams that share a well-defined theme and overall objective.

**Budget:** £700K-£800K, 3-4 yrs

**More Info:** <https://www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk/research/support-for-researchers/apply-for-funding/strategic-research-centre-programme>

#### **Children with Cancer UK: Research Grant Call**

**Deadline: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** 2026 grant for UK-based researchers tackling childhood cancer through discovery, detection, treatment, or impact-focused projects.

**Budget:** £350K

**More Info:** <https://www.childrenwithcancer.org.uk/funding-opportunities/2026-research-grant-call/>

### **Leukaemia & Myeloma Research UK: Research Grants for ECRs**

**Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** For ECR's, within within 3 years of their first independent (salaried) role; to advance understanding of stem cells and how they can be used to treat blood cancer patients, particularly through stem cell transplants.

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://lmruk.org/research/>

### **Diabetes UK Addressing Pre-Pregnancy Gestational Diabetes**

**Deadline: 1st June 2026**

**Scope:** Diabetes UK welcomes applications investigating feasibility of a randomised study of significant weight loss prior to pregnancy among women who experienced GDM in a previous pregnancy. The study will acquire pilot data on effectiveness to inform a subsequent large, randomised study.

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://www.diabetes.org.uk/our-research/for-researchers/applying-for-funding/funding-schemes/highlight-notice>

### **Diabetes UK Applying diabetes technology during the hospital pathway to improve care for people living with diabetes**

**Deadline: 1st June 2026**

**Scope:** Diabetes UK welcomes applications investigating how glucose sensor data and safety alerts/alarms can be made accessible to healthcare providers, investigating how people with diabetes and healthcare providers can benefit from using glucose sensors throughout the hospital journey, focussing on empowerment and greater preparedness for hospital admission, investigating the role of decision support tools using glucose and insulin data from within the electronic healthcare records, and also investigating how to apply diabetes related technologies to improve outcomes in preparation for, during and after surgery and within acute maternity care.

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://www.diabetes.org.uk/our-research/for-researchers/applying-for-funding/funding-schemes/highlight-notice>

### **BCRT Research project Ewing sarcoma restricted**

**Deadline: 1st June 2026**

**Scope:** to support projects focused on improving outcomes for Ewing sarcoma patients.

**Budget:** Up to £250K

**More Info:** <https://www.bcr.org.uk/research/for-researchers/>

### **The Michael J. Fox Foundation Immune Profiling Insights Program**

**Deadline: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Scope:** for research that deepens understanding of how specific components of the immune system contribute to Parkinson's disease risk, onset and progression.

**Budget:** 6-24 months, \$3M total available

**More Info:** <https://www.michaeljfox.org/grant/immune-profiling-insights-program>

### **Sarcoma UK Improving Understanding and Treatment of Metastatic Sarcoma Research Call**

**Deadline: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026**

**Scope:** to support research that advances understanding of the biological mechanisms underpinning metastatic sarcoma and translates this knowledge towards improved therapeutic strategies and patient outcomes.

**Budget:** £100K-£200K

**More Info:** <https://sarcoma.org.uk/our-research/apply-for-research-funding/improving-understanding-and-treatment-of-metastatic-sarcoma/>

### **BHF Infrastructure Grants**

**Deadline: preliminary applications accepted at any time**

**Scope:** For the acquisitions of essential infrastructure to support cardiovascular research.

**Budget:** £1 million

**More Info:** <https://www.bhf.org.uk/for-professionals/information-for-researchers/what-we-fund/infrastructure-grants>

## Fellowships/Lectureships

### **Bone Cancer Research Trust Early Career Fellowship**

**Deadline: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Scope:** a personal award which will enable a talented primary bone cancer researcher to transition from a postdoctoral position as part of a research group to an independent principal investigator.

**Budget:** 5yrs, £650K

**More Info:** <https://www.bcrct.org.uk/research/for-researchers/>

### **RNID Fellowship Scheme**

**Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Scope:** ECR's with no permanent position; hearing disorder and tinnitus research

**Budget:** 3u yrs, £650K

**More Info:** <https://www.bcrct.org.uk/research/for-researchers/>

### **NIHR SSCR Post Doctoral Research Fellowships**

**Deadline: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** postdoctoral fellowship in Social Care Research

**Budget:** 2yrs, £200K

**More Info:** <https://sscr.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/social-care-research-career-opportunities/post-doctoral-fellowships/>

### **The Eve Appeal and North West Cancer Research Fellowship**

**Deadline: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** fellowship to lead cutting-edge research in gynaecological cancer; up to 4 years post PhD

**Budget:** 3yrs, £120K/y

**More Info:** <https://eveappeal.org.uk/research/open-calls/>

### **Vivensa Foundation Early Career Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme**

**Deadline: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** 1-3 yrs post PhD; research on ageing, in line with Vivensa's priority research themes

**Budget:** Up to £350K

**More Info:** <https://vivensafoundation.org.uk/apply-for-funding/>

### **Stroke Association Post-doctoral Fellowships**

**Deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Scope:** early/intermediate

**Budget:** 3-5 yrs, £350K

**More Info:** <https://www.stroke.org.uk/research/our-funding-schemes/postdoctoral-fellowships>

### Stroke Association Post-doctoral Clinical Fellowships

**Deadline:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Scope:** early/intermediate, for clinicians

**Budget:** 3-5 yrs

**More Info:** <https://www.stroke.org.uk/research/our-funding-schemes/postdoctoral-fellowships>

### Mental Health Research UK PhD Competition 2027

**Deadline:** 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Scope:** MHRUK is offering four scholarships for the 2026/27 application, on specific themes within mental health. This call is supervisor-led.

**Budget:** fees + stipend

**More Info:** <https://www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org.uk/research.html>

### Friends of Anchor Transition to Independence Fellowship

**Deadline:** June 2026

**Scope:** An exceptional opportunity for researchers in the field of oncology or haematology aiming to establish an independent career. Applicants must have 3+ years of postdoctoral experience and have a proven, outstanding research record.

**Budget:** Salary + £30k, 18 months

**More Info:** Please contact your RDE for full call details and application form

### Parkinson's UK Senior Research Fellowship

**Deadline (preproposal):** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

**Deadline (full application):** 7<sup>th</sup> October 2026

**Virtual Workshop:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 10.00am-11.30am

**Scope:** Funding for researchers who want to specialise in Parkinson's research by establishing their own independent research group.

**Budget:** £300k, 3 years

**More Info:** <https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/research/funding-grants/senior-research-fellowships>

### Medical Research Foundation Fellowship in Antimicrobial Resistance research

**Deadline:** 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

**Scope:** For early or mid-career researchers in the field of Antimicrobial Resistance research; All areas of research relevant to Antimicrobial Resistance will be considered.

**Budget:** Salary + research costs

**More Info:** <https://www.medicalresearchfoundation.org.uk/grants/antimicrobial-resistance-research>

### Pre-announcement: Autism Science Foundation Pre/Postdoctoral Training Fellowships

**Deadline:** November 2026 (call opens July 2026)

**Scope:** Training fellowships to support pre- and postdoctoral researchers undertaking scientific research training to develop basic and clinical research relevant to autism spectrum disorders.

**Budget:**

**More Info:** <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/apply-for-a-predoc-post-doc-fellowship/>

### Other

### **What is the state of mis- and disinformation in Scotland?**

**Tuesday 24th March, 10–11am (coffee and networking 11–11:30am), Interdisciplinary Lounge in Crombie Halls**

Funded by the Scottish Council on Global Affairs, five researchers from the Department of Politics and International Relations are mapping the rise of mis- and disinformation across Scotland, from far-right claims on migration to climate denial to vaccine scepticism. Now we're looking to connect with experts across the University. We are seeking researchers (staff or PhD students) whose work touches on any aspect of mis/disinformation to join us for a workshop on Tuesday 24th March. Learn more [here](#).

### **Engineering Biology Showcase**

**March/April 2026**

An event organised by the Centre of Engineering Biology at the University of Edinburgh to bring together researchers who may rarely interact, while showcasing engineering biology research from different Scottish institutions. This would showcase the breadth of expertise, facilities and training opportunities available in this critical emerging technology, within Scottish HEIs as well as within the wider biotechnology sector.

More information: get in touch with your [RDE](#)

### **Higher Education for Sustainable Societies Community**

The Higher Education for Sustainable Societies Community is an online forum for all staff at ACU member universities who are directly working on sustainable development issues and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within their universities, local community and globally. This community provides a dedicated online space where insights, knowledge and resources can be shared directly between university staff to support personal and professional development and inform institutional practice.

For more information and how to join click [here](#).

### **Webinar: Embedding public partnerships in MRC funding applications**

**24<sup>th</sup> March, 14.00-15.00, online**

The MRC organizes this webinar to encourage its research community to consider how public partnerships can inform and improve research and be of mutual benefit.

More information and registration [here](#).

### **UKRI strategy virtual townhall**

**Tuesday 24 March, 15.00-16.00, online**

UKRI CEO Professor Sir Ian Chapman will outline our upcoming five-year strategy and new mission: to advance knowledge, improve lives and drive growth. Our partners across the research and innovation ecosystem will be critical in helping us deliver against our mission and strategy. Through this townhall, we will share our vision for the future and would like to hear your perspectives on this new approach.

More information [here](#).

## **Upcoming ResearchBites sessions**

<a href="#">ResearchBites series: Public Engagement with Research</a>	22/04/2026
<a href="#">ResearchBites Series: Embedding Research Impact in Grant Proposals</a>	06/05/2026
<a href="#">ResearchBites Series: Introduction to Impact</a>	13/05/2026
<a href="#">ResearchBites series: Copyright and IP</a>	27/05/2026