Exchange@Aberdeen

This scheme is funded by an MRC Proximity to Discovery award with the aim of generating new interactions between academia and industry and external partners where there is potential for building long term collaborations. Applications in the first instance shall only open to those from the MRC Centre for Medical Mycology. Examples of fundable activities may include, but are not limited to:

Secondments for University of Aberdeen Staff & Post graduate students to work within an external organisation and to undertake projects involving knowledge exchange between the University and the external partner.

Secondment of staff from external partners to work within the University of Aberdeen to undertake projects involving knowledge exchange between the University and the external partner.

Projects could range from short visits to meet potential collaborators, to longer research projects.

The following conditions will apply:

- Applicants must use the official application form.

- Preferred external partners will be UK companies located out-with Aberdeen but proposed projects with Aberdeen based companies will also be considered. Third sector and public sector organisations will also be eligible but other academic institutions are excluded. International secondments are eligible but there must be a net benefit to the UK.

- Proposals up to 3 months in length will be funded but must be for new activity.

- There must be potential for building a longer term partnership

- Principal Investigator and/or line manager support will be required for research postgraduate students and post-doctoral researchers; in addition to ensuring that the terms and conditions of funding will allow an exchange.

- The fund will not support founders (or members of their teams) of spin out companies exchanging into spin out companies.

- The fund will not support attendance at conferences or other general out-reach activity.
• The fund will not support the cost of studentships (fees, stipend etc) although applications may be made for projects that will enhance planned or existing studentship projects.

• External partners shall be expected to meet their own costs such as staff and subsistence costs when staff are exchanged into the University.

• Companies should be reasonably financially secure (trading for at least two years or with investment) and able to invest in new technology to innovate.

• Projects must be completed by 31st August 2018.

• All applications will require a letter of support from the external partner that will confirm how the project will benefit the partner and the contributions the partner is making.

• Applications will be scored by the Exchange@Aberdeen assessment panel consisting of internal and external members using the published scoring matrix.

• Successful applicants will be required to produce occasional update reports when requested by Research & Innovation, such as for Research fish submissions.

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<tr>
<th>Assessment criteria</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project proposal</td>
<td>• Is this a clear knowledge exchange project and/or one that will help build partnerships and/or understanding?</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Score</td>
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| **External partner (where applicable)** | • Is there a letter of support showing clear commitment to this Exchange@Aberdeen proposal?  
• Does this demonstrate a shared understanding of the planned programme of work/deliverables and its potential outcomes? | 15    |
| **Project plan**                   | • Is there a defined plan with clear objectives?                |       |
| **Potential benefit**              | • Is there a clear understanding of the potential benefits of participation for both partners  
• Is the benefit identified both realistic and likely to be delivered by the activities described? | 10    |
| **Potential impact**               | • Could this Exchange@Aberdeen secondment result in personal development of the secondee and potentially generate impact that can deliver significant economic, environmental and/or societal benefits for UK citizens or reach a large number of beneficiaries, or both?  
Are there **appropriate plans** in place to maximise this?  
• For non-UK partners, is there realistic potential for net benefits to the UK? | 15    |
| **Resources**                      | • Are the resources applied for appropriate and justified?      | 10    |
|                                    | • Does this represent good value for money?                     |       |
| **Added value/leverage**           | • Could this proposal provide further benefit to the University? | 10    |
| **Follow-on plans**                | • Is there potential for the project to lead to the development of a longer-term partnership?  
• Is there a plan for this collaboration/relationship to continue (in any form) after the duration of this Exchange@Aberdeen project? | 15    |