ResearchBite – Identifying Research Funding Opportunities

Aberdeen Grants Academy

Dr Andrew Phillips
Research And Innovation
Welcome – ResearchBite Finding Funding

• Explore how to identify and understand types of available internal and external research funding sources.

• Signposts to internal resources via the Grants Academy and to external resources via online tools and funders web-pages.

• A live demonstration of an online funding database and group discussion.
Grants Academy

https://www.abdn.ac.uk/grantsacademy

- Against a backdrop of a challenging landscape and success rates at UK funders.
- Identified a need to “strengthen existing supportive mechanisms available to colleagues preparing grant applications”
Grants Academy Aims

• Offer a comprehensive **programme of development**, directly linked to our strategic objectives.

• Significantly **enhance our research environment**, which will directly impact our REF submission.

• **Enhance career prospects** of all researchers, but particularly those at earlier career stages who may need more assistance to build their external research grant portfolio.

• Offer the ability to be better prepared for opportunities and **enhance our ability to respond to calls**.
Goals of the Grants Academy

• Support at **ALL STAGES** of the research grant life cycle: conception of ideas, through development and refinement of an application, to research delivery and realising impact of the research we undertake.

• **Measureable increase in the quality and quantity** of research grant applications.

• **Sharing best practice and training.**
How the Grants Academy Works

• Developed as a series of interwoven elements including sandpits to support the development of ideas and projects, grant writing workshops, rebuttal support, support for delivery of outcomes and outcomes management and more.

• Relevant to today, supports:
  • Effective horizon scanning
  • Facilitation of early ideas development
  • Supporting interdisciplinary working
The Grants Academy supports our researchers in all stages of the research grant cycle, from conception of ideas, through development of high quality funding applications to research delivery and realising the impact of our research.

ResearchBite - Consultancy and Contract Research - What is the Difference? 16 October 2019 12:00-13:30 Crombie A010

Learn more about these important phases of income and the support available from first approach to project conclusion. Find out the steps involved, the timescales to consider, the pros & the cons...

A structured framework of support includes:
1. significantly enhance our research environment, which will directly impact our EPS submission.
To consider before seeking funding?

- What’s the big question?
- Why is it important?
- Does it fit RCUK (or charity) strategy?
- Why are you the person(s) to address it?
- Why should it be done now?
- Do you have a research strategy?
- What is novel?
- What will the impact be?
What type of funding / career stage

- Research Grants
- Travel Grants
- Equipment
- Pump-priming
- Early Career – named on grants
- Fellowships
- Impact and Knowledge Exchange
- Translation
- Public Engagement
- Tenders
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed on grant</td>
<td>First responsibility is to deliver research findings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Named on grant</td>
<td>Some input into application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant on grant</td>
<td>Application for salary Joint with PI – roles?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>You write the application</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Fellowship Traffic Light Process

• Attend internal fellowship workshop in spring and submit documentation

5 Steps to fellowship applications

1. Early induction workshop: Early career researchers
   This mandatory induction workshop will introduce the types of fellowship schemes that are available and provide information on the benchmarks of competitiveness that should be achieved. An early grant writing course, which is part of the induction, will focus on managing expectations and in enabling prospective candidates to focus on the c.v.-building aspect of their careers.

2. Complete required documents
   You are required to complete a survey indicating the funders/schemes they wish to target, along with an abstract of their proposed project and CV. This form is the basis of discussions in step 4. Not all early career researchers will be aiming to submit applications within a year, but completion of the survey by all will help forward plan for future years.

3. The Spring traffic-light interview
   All potential applicants are interviewed by a group of senior staff to critically assess the strength of their project proposal. The interview outcome will be classified as follows, in descending order of grade: green, amber, red. Follow the link provided for more information or download the full document.

4. Institutional endorsement
   High rated applicants will be considered for endorsement in the context of future strategic plans. Green rated applicants may not be supported if they intended developing a research field outside the strategic ambit of the College. In this case, support could be given to use the fellowship mechanisms to enable their relocation to another institution.

5. Personal timetable
   After interview and endorsement, the successful candidates will be assigned an application mentor, peer reviewer(s) and fellowship buddy, and be given a personal timetable towards submission. Peer reviewers must see complete applications and will report back to the traffic light committee with their comments.

• Traffic Light ‘Interview’ with senior staff (green, amber, red)
• Allocation of application mentor, peer reviewers and timeline!
Funder’s Perspective

- Little time
- Pressure on funds
- Priorities and politics
- Pressure to be impartial
- Pressure to short list (grants which don’t play by the rules are the easiest to eliminate)
- The panel may not know you
- The panel does not necessarily care about your subject
- Panel may have no specialist in your area

So, what shall we do with the $19.10 this year?
Funder’s Perspective

• Assume panel sees 80 grants/round
• ~5 will be truly exceptional and will funded with little further analysis;
• The majority (~60) will not receive serious consideration due to intrinsic faults leading to adverse consequent referee’s comments;
• ~15 will be argued over - some will fail and others be funded;
• the committee need to be convinced!
Establishing credibility (risk reduction)

- Track record
  - previous grants
  - publications
- Pilot study
  - existing research projects
  - summer students
  - honor's students projects
  - appendices
- Compete or collaborate?
  - letters of support
  - offers of materials
  - offers of expertise

"This is Doctor Bagshaw, discoverer of the infinitely expanding research grant."
Improving Chances of Success

• Start early and plan in advance
• Accept mentoring and internal peer review
• Be positive but be realistic
• Read and follow the rules
• Present case logically and simply
• Justify the importance of your research
• Ensure essential collaborations are in place
• Make sure the outcomes are clearly stated
Write 3 sentences that convey the essence of your next grant

36 words max; 5 min

• Research Problem; Strategy; Importance.

Pass to person on left, who summarizes it (as if for grant committee).
Promote Use of RESEARCHconnect

https://www.researchconnect.co.uk

Looking for Research Funding Opportunities?
The University of Aberdeen subscribes to the web-based funding service at RESEARCHconnect, a comprehensive and reliable source of funding opportunities. You can save complex searches to re-run at a later date or set-up automated email alerts for funding opportunities. Guidance and further information available here.
Fit to Strategy

Special national and international / EU initiatives – panels chosen to represent the field – knowledgeable and strongly favour funding in that area. Make sure you connect with their mission statement.

Specialised charities have specific missions – make sure that you fit their mission; but they favour your research area.

Look at delivery plans, mission statements and align
Opportunities for Growth

Exploring three major areas of funding to achieve growth and impact:

• International Development Challenges – around the UN SDGs
• Industrial Partnership funding around technology challenges and enterprise
• Cultural engagement and enrichment
• Aberdeen City Deal

All of these require interdisciplinary responses
Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

A 5-year £1.5 billion funding stream, to ensure that UK research takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries.

• challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research.
• strengthening capacity and capability for research and innovation within both the UK and developing countries.
• Harnessing UK’s world-class research base to pioneer new ways of tackling global challenges.
• providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.

Cutting edge research which addresses the problems faced by developing countries
2015 Government Spending Review Outcomes
Grants Academy Supports ...

The University of Aberdeen under the Aberdeen Grants Academy manages several internal funding opportunities to pump-prime research and knowledge exchange activities.

Deadlines are announced throughout the year for the various streams, but we also welcome ad-hoc applications and questions at anytime.

- Global Challenges Research Fund Internal Pump Priming (GCRF-IPPF)
- Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support fund (ISSF)
- Core Facilities Voucher Scheme
- REF2021 Impact Support Award (RISA)
- Research Enhancement Scheme
NEW: Grants Academy: Conversations on .... series
Promoting Inter-disciplinary research

Conversations on .... is a new series of facilitated sessions, over a sandwich lunch, to bring together anyone from within the University (and beyond) with an interest in joining an early ideas discussion on the chosen topic. A list of the upcoming sessions is below, if you are interested in participating please register via the Eventbrite links.

Ideas for new topics? Please submit these to grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk or speak to your R&A BDO.

Upcoming Grants Academy: Conversations on.....

HEALTH AND NUTRITION WORKSHOP ON THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE RESEARCH FUND
Where: Institute of Medical Sciences Level 7 Conference Room

Managing fellowship applications - Traffic Light Process
Next deadline to return traffic light documents: 22 May 2018
Traffic Light System overview session and Funding Opportunities:
# Research and Innovation

[https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/research/](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/research/)

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## Develop a proposal

**Preparing**
- Intention to submit
- Funding opportunities
- Internal Funding
- RESEARCH Connect
- Grant writing tips
- Fellowship applications
- Ethics and governance
- Impact and engagement
- Data management plans

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## Run a project

**Management**
- Accepting an award
- Post award financial management
- Data protection & GDPR
- Data storage and archiving
- IT services for researchers
- Research data management
- Reporting

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## Achieve impact

**Impact & Knowledge Exchange**
- KTP
- Consultancy
- Commercialisation
- Intellectual Property (IP)
- Maximising impact
- PERU
- Working with industry
- PURE
- Communications
- Open Access/Data
- ORCID

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## Finance and costing

- Costing an application
- IT costs

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## Legal and contracts

- Contracts for research

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## Development

- Researcher Development
- Researcher’s Toolkit
- Continuing Professional Development

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*Aberdeen Grants Academy*  
*Follow us on Twitter* @UoAResInnov
Grants Academy Supports ...

• Effective horizon scanning
• Facilitation of early ideas development
• Supporting interdisciplinary working
• Pump-priming for GCRF and others
• Supporting engagement with industry
• Capacity building in strategic areas

And more…
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