

## RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

### Funder responses to Covid-19

Research Development has established an information page that pulls together information from research funders on how they are responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic as well as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to research funding and grant applications full details can be found here:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/coronavirus-faqs/researchers-and-funding/>

### Managing Existing funded projects

Most Research Funders have indicated that they are willing to provide no-cost extensions to ongoing projects to enable researchers to manage any impacts of Covid-19 pandemic on the proposed activities. Specific information can be found in the funder statements available at the webpage above.

The University is conscious that in some cases a no-cost extension will not resolve some of the issues that researchers are facing; research funders and government departments are exploring options as to how best to resolve the need for *costed* extensions. The University Executive Board, in conjunction with Russell Group partners we are actively engaging with funding bodies and will provide details of any resolution/mitigation efforts as soon as they become available.

In the meantime we are asking researchers to maintain a record of any impacts on their projects, including alterations to planned activities and details of any incurred costs that cannot be recovered.

If you have any questions about the impact of Covid-19 on your research please email the dedicated inbox [C19ResQueries@qub.ac.uk](mailto:C19ResQueries@qub.ac.uk)

### 'Consent to Proceed' process for Covid-19 related grant applications

The University has implemented a new process to manage and maintain oversight of research grant applications for projects related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A cross-faculty panel has been set up to conduct internal assessments for *all* proposals relating to Covid-19 research with *immediate effect*, to determine if proposals will or will not be supported for submission to funders.

The Panel will allow the University to assess:

- resource/estate implications (e.g. access to laboratories while maintaining social distancing requirements, access to equipment which may also be required for NHS purposes [incl. reagents/PPE], access to higher capacity computers on QUB estate);
- the perspective of identifying opportunities for the integration of different but complementary proposals;
- to avoid the duplication of effort; and
- to provide institutional oversight of the scale and diversity of this activity

All researchers planning to submit research grant proposals relating to Covid-19 research, or planning to apply for modifications of existing grants to accommodate Covid-19 research, are therefore **required to complete** the [pro-forma here](#) and submit it to [C19ResQueries@qub.ac.uk](mailto:C19ResQueries@qub.ac.uk) at least 5 working days prior to the application deadline/planned date of submission.

Note: this applies to any proposal addressing Covid-19 regardless of discipline or funding scheme and also includes applications where Queen's is not the lead.

**Current Funding Opportunities** Please see here for the latest [AHSS Research Funding Newsletter](#)

For details of funding calls specifically related to Covid-19 please see the dedicated webpage here:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/coronavirus/related-research-activity/funding-calls/>

### **UKRI Future Leader Fellowships (FLF)**

The [UKRI-FLF scheme](#) is due to launch a sixth call (albeit somewhat delayed) towards the end of this year and has announced a delay to the deadlines for the current (fifth) call.

Over the past few rounds there has been a noticeable drop off in applications from Arts, Humanities and Social Science disciplines (in particular from A&H) compared to the first round. Both UKRI generally and AHRC in particular are explicitly encouraging more applicants from the A&H (see: <http://orlo.uk/PYbf2>) and we feel there is a significant opportunity to respond to these calls. Over the coming months we will work with schools to identify potential applicants to this scheme from our existing early career staff across the faculty and any external candidates whom we might support to apply.

If you are interested in applying or feel that there is a colleague or external candidate who has the potential to be a viable candidate for this scheme, please do not hesitate to get in touch.