

**FACULTY RESEARCH INITIATIVES FUND
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

1. Introduction

Applications are invited from eligible academic and research staff within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences for small grants from the new Faculty Research Initiatives Fund.

Established as part of the Faculty Research Strategy 2016-2020, the Fund seeks to support new and innovative early-stage research activities that have the potential to lead to the production of high quality research outputs, grant proposals and/or impact. It is expected that typical funds sought will be in the region of £500 to £1,500. However, and in exceptional circumstances, awards of up to £3,000 will be considered.

Applications, following the guidance set out below, should be emailed to Clare Conway at: c.conway@qub.ac.uk by **4.00pm on Friday 27th January 2017**. Late applications will not be accepted. A second call for applications from this Fund will be issued in April 2017.

2. Focus and Eligibility

The Fund is intended to encourage the development of new and emerging research initiatives that are highly original and innovative in nature. The purpose is to support great ideas, at the cutting edge of their disciplines, that have the potential to translate into world-leading research.

Whilst not exhaustive, the focus of activities can include the production of research outputs, development of new collaborations and networks, early-stage development of grant applications, public engagement and/or preparations for impact. Within the broad criteria set out below, the nature and type of activities that will be funded remains open. Rather than being prescriptive, applications that seek to develop new and innovative research activities are encouraged.

In relation to eligibility:

- Applications are invited from academic or contract research staff in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. All staff are eligible to apply, whether full-time or part-time and/or whether on probation or confirmed in post.
- Applications for a wide range of research activities will be considered, provided they do not fall within the remit of, and thus are eligible for funding from, the following existing University-wide funding schemes:
 - Research Grant Enabler Fund
 - EU Networking Fund
 - Support Fund for EU Applications
 - Impact Case Study Fund
 - Academic Staff Conference Fund
 - Staff Training and Development Unit Short Course and Conference Fund

Links to further details in relation to the above funds can be found on the [Research and Enterprise website](#). In summary, typical research activities that are covered by the above schemes and thus are not eligible for support from this current Fund include:

- Activities focused on the final preparation and submission of research grant applications to RCUK and/or EU funding bodies.
- Activities focused on enhancing potential impact case studies that have already been identified for possible inclusion in REF 2021.
- Attendance and participation in conferences and/or short courses.
- Funding to cover replacement teaching costs.

Whilst funding is not provided for individuals to attend training courses, applications will be considered for training events to build research capacity that would be hosted at Queen's for the benefit of academic and research staff.

3. Applications

Applications should be submitted as email attachments and be no longer than two sides of A4. Text should be at least font size 12 and margins no smaller than 2.5cm. Applications should include details under the following headings:

- Title: A short title for the proposed research activities.
- Applicants: The name and School of the proposed lead applicant and other staff involved in the application.
- Affiliations: Which Core Disciplinary Research Group (CDRG), GRI and/or PRP the research activities are associated with.
- Rationale: A clear rationale for the proposed research activities, locating them in an existing field of work and demonstrating how they will seek to be original and innovative.
- Aims and Objectives: The key aims and objectives of the proposed research activities.
- Activities and Outputs: Details of the research activities themselves, including timelines and clear milestones and outputs to be achieved.
- Budget: A detailed budget and statement of how the funding will be used to facilitate the activities outlined above.
- Contribution: The intended benefits from the proposed research activities, particularly in terms of their potential added value to existing areas of research strength within the relevant CDRGs, GRI or PRPs.

4. Criteria

Preference will be given to applications that can demonstrate at least one of the following:

- Are interdisciplinary
- Are able to leverage some matched funding
- Have clear plans to lead to the development and submission of grant applications to RCUK and equivalent funders
- Have the clear potential to lead to the production of high quality (4*) research outputs

All applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Clarity and coherence
- Originality and innovation
- Alignment with and potential contribution to a GRI, PRP and/or CDRG
- Quality of the outputs identified
- Value for money

5. Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to produce a short report detailing the activities that have taken place and the outputs produced. The report will be considered and approved by the relevant CDRG Lead or GRI/PRP Director.

For those who are successful in this round, their eligibility to apply for future funding will be dependent upon having successfully completed a report and it being approved.