# RSC Sustainable Laboratories Grant
## Frequently Asked Questions

**Membership requirements & details on how to join the RSC**
For an application to be eligible, either the lead applicant or the co-applicant must be an RSC member (of any category). Your membership must be confirmed by the time of the grant application deadline (it is not enough to have only applied for membership). Please note that you should allow a couple of months for membership applications to be processed.

For more information about RSC membership, please see: https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/

If you have questions about RSC membership, please contact membership@rsc.org.

**Please explain the difference between lead applicant and co-applicant**
The lead applicant is responsible for submitting the application and the overall delivery of the project. They are the main point of contact and are responsible for the use of the grant and submission of the grant report upon completion of the project. Any grant funds awarded will be paid in a single payment to the lead applicant's organisation. We anticipate that in most cases, the lead applicant will be an RSC member.

Applications may also involve a co-applicant. The co-applicant is someone that is part of the project team and has a clear role and responsibilities in the project. They should be involved in developing the project proposal as well as making a significant and essential contribution to its delivery. Co-applicants must not be added solely to fulfil grant eligibility requirements. Applicants will be asked to provide information on the co-applicant's role as part of the application.

Please note that for an application to be eligible, either the lead applicant or the co-applicant must be an RSC member at the time of the grant application deadline and for the duration of the grant period.

**Can I apply for more than one Sustainable Laboratories Grant?**
No, if you are already a lead applicant or co-applicant on an application, you cannot be part of another application (either as lead or co-applicant) in the same application round.

**I am not a chemistry researcher. Can I apply?**
Applicants do not need to be researchers or working in the field of chemistry (as long as all eligibility criteria are met). However, the project in your application must relate to sustainability in chemical sciences research. For example, we will be happy to receive applications from technical staff or social scientists undertaking a project on behavioural change related to sustainability in chemical sciences research.

**What projects, initiatives or activities can I apply to this scheme to support?**
The Sustainable Laboratories Grant is a broad scheme and we will consider any application for projects, initiatives or activities that seek to accelerate the chemical sciences community's journey to environmentally sustainable research and innovation. For consistency, we refer to any eligible project, initiative or activity as "project" in our documentation for this grant scheme.

Eligible projects achieve one or more of the following aims:
- Advance understanding of environmentally sustainable laboratory practice in the chemical sciences
- Increase the take-up of environmentally sustainable laboratory practices in the chemical sciences
- Facilitate sharing of best practices

Importantly, projects must also have benefits to the wider chemical sciences community beyond the grant recipient. If you are unsure whether your project qualifies, please contact us at funding@rsc.org.

**What do you mean by "sustainable research practice"?**

We are using the term **research practice** to refer to the way that scientific research is done, and the activities that researchers carry out when conducting research (whether in wet or dry lab, computational, field or other settings). **Environmentally sustainable research practice** refers to doing research activities in a way which minimises their impact on the environment.

The environmental impacts of scientific research (as discussed in detail in the RSC Sustainable laboratories report) can include:

- the energy consumption of laboratories and laboratory equipment (including equipment for computation)
- water usage in laboratories
- chemicals and consumables and their sourcing, manufacture, use and disposal

Environmentally sustainable research practice is distinct from sustainable or sustainability-focused research, where the outcomes are not applicable to a laboratory or other scientific research setting.

Please refer to the [RSC Sustainable laboratories report](#) for further information about environmentally sustainable research practice, including challenges and potential solutions identified in a survey of chemical sciences researchers. You may also find this recent [Chemistry World webinar](#) useful.

If you are unsure whether your project is in scope for this scheme, please contact us at funding@rsc.org.

**What do you mean by "wider benefit beyond the grant recipient"?**
This scheme aims to accelerate the chemical sciences community's journey to environmentally sustainable research and innovation. This will necessitate the entire community working together towards this goal. As such, applications that only impact the sustainability of the applicant's (or their immediate colleagues) research will not be funded. For example, an application to purchase a more energy efficient piece of equipment that will improve the sustainability of the research of the applicant and their lab group is unlikely to be successful. However, equipment purchase as part of a project that has benefits to others (e.g. through sharing of knowledge or resources) would be an eligible expense. Applications for projects aiming to increase knowledge (e.g. data collection) should also include plans to disseminate that knowledge to the wider community (e.g. through conferences or data repositories).

**How do I submit my application to the Sustainable Laboratories Grant?**
You need to log onto our online application system. If you have not used the SurveyMonkey Apply system before, you will need to create an account (this is not an RSC system and so your RSC membership login will not work). Once you have created an account, it will take you step-by-step through completing your application, from entering your details, uploading your project proposal and obtaining the required contributions from your project sponsor.

**I would like to apply to the Sustainable Laboratories Grant but I am not based in the UK or Ireland.**
The Sustainable Laboratories Grant is open to applicants anywhere in the world. Either the lead applicant or co-applicant must be an RSC member.

**Can I save my application to return and complete at a later stage?**
You are not required to complete your application on the same day you start it. You have the option to save your application as you go through allowing you to return multiple times prior to submission.

**I am unable to access the part of the form to provide details of my project sponsor**
You are required to complete all previous sections of the application form before you are able to access the project sponsor parts of the application form. Please note, you will not be able to submit your application until approval has been received from your project sponsor.

**How do I include the declaration from my project sponsor in my application**
Once you complete your application form and upload your proposal documents, you will be able to enter the details of your project sponsor in a separate task in your application screen. The SurveyMonkey Apply system will then send them an email, which includes a link to your application. Clicking this link will allow them to login (or sign up) to complete their tasks online.

**What does my project sponsor need to do for my application?**

Project sponsors are asked to confirm that they are supportive of your project and application, that there are no hindrances to its successful delivery and that they will make resources available if necessary. Please refer to the Guidance for Applicants for full information.

**How long does my project proposal need to be?**
The total project proposal cannot exceed two A4 pages at font size 10 (including references). Please note that we reserve the right to reject any application that do not meet length restrictions.

Full details are given in the application form.

**Can I apply to the Sustainable Laboratories Grant and another RSC grant scheme concurrently, and with the same (or different) proposal?**
Applicants can only receive one RSC grant for a given project. You can concurrently apply to other RSC schemes for the same project as in your Sustainable Laboratories Grant application, but if you are successful on multiple applications, you should inform us immediately and indicate which one you would like to take forward.

This restriction does not apply if your applications are for different projects.

**Is there a timeframe for completion of my project?**
The maximum grant period is 12 months (the start date specified in the grant agreement), within which time you must have completed your project. If your project is complete before 12 months, we would be happy to conclude your grant as soon as you submit your grant report.