Researcher Development and Travel Grants
Terms and Conditions

These terms and conditions apply to applications made and grants awarded by the **Royal Society of Chemistry** (a company incorporated in England by Royal Charter (Registered No. RC000524) and a Registered Charity No. 207890, with its registered address at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BA) ("**RSC**") in respect of the **23 June 2025 – 28 July 2025** application round of the researcher development and travel grants ("**RDTG**").

Please read the following terms and conditions before making an application.

1.   About the grant

1.1   A maximum of up to £500 GBP ("**Grant**") will be awarded by the RSC to the successful applicant ("**Recipient**"). The Grant must be used by the Recipient to undertake an activity to develop their research skills and/or career as an early career researcher. Examples include attending conferences, workshops or training courses, or organising a scientific meeting. The Grant is provided as a contribution towards the total cost of the activity. It is not intended to cover all costs and expenses.

2.   Duration and start of award

2.1   The Grant is available for activities starting on or after 1 October 2025.

2.2   The "**Grant Period**" is the period from the date of the Award Letter (see section 9.2) until the date the RSC's receives the Final Report (see section 12.1).

3.   Eligibility

3.1   Each applicant ("**Applicant**") must be either an Affiliate, Associate Member (AMRSC), Member (MRSC) or Fellow (FRSC) of the RSC before they submit their application and for the duration of the grant. Undergraduate Student Members (AFU) are ineligible. The Applicant's RSC membership must have been confirmed by the RSC before the grant application deadline – it is not sufficient to simply have a membership application in process. Please see our frequently asked questions for more guidance.

3.2   At the time of the application deadline and for the duration of the Grant Period, Applicant's must be either:

3.2.1 a PhD student actively undertaking a PhD course in the chemical sciences; or

3.2.2 A researcher in the chemical sciences (including post docs and research technical professionals), working in academia, industry or any other sector, within 10 years of leaving full time education. The 10 years proceeds from the year of graduation. Applicants must state the reason for any career breaks within their application so the RSC can take this into consideration e.g. a period of parental/adoption leave, family commitments, illness, or other exceptional circumstances;

3.3   Applicants to an RDTG can only receive one Grant every three calendar years. For example, if an Applicant is awarded a Grant in 2024, the Applicant is eligible to apply again for an RDTG in any application round that awards funding in 2027 or later. This restriction does not apply to RDTG awarded in 2023 or earlier.

3.4   Applicants can only submit one application per funding round.

3.5   Unsuccessful Applicants can reapply for future funding rounds as long as their new application meets all of the eligibility requirements.

3.6   Any given activity may not receive more than one RSC grant, with the exception of our Grants for Carers and Accessibility Grants. Applicants must inform the RSC if an activity is successful in multiple RSC grant applications.

3.7   The Applicant is solely responsible for ensuring they are not under any obligation which prevents them from applying for or receiving the Grant, whether the obligations are imposed by their home organisation (e.g. their employer) or otherwise.

3.8   The Applicant is solely responsible for clarifying the position relating to intellectual property rights ("**IPRs**") of any research undertaken with the Grant. For the avoidance of doubt, the IPRs in the research will not belong to the RSC.

4.   Application timelines

4.1   The application timelines are:

   4.1.1 Applications open: 23 June 2025

   4.1.2 Application close: 28 July 2025 14:00 UK time

   4.1.3 RSC funding decisions: early September 2025

5.   Application requirements

5.1   Applicants must make their applications through the RSC's online application system, SurveyMonkey Apply. Before completing the online form, all Applicants should check that they comply with the eligibility requirements that are stated in section 3 above.

5.2   Applicants may only register for one SurveyMonkey Apply account.

5.3   Applicants must only use their own SurveyMonkey Apply account to submit an application. Your application will not be considered if it is submitted through another person's account.

5.4   The application form will ask each Applicant to provide:

   a.   information on the activity for which they seek funding (see Appendix A for more details);

   b.   how the Applicant will benefit from participating in the activity;

   c.   details on how any awarded Grant will be used;

   d.   a declaration from either the Applicant's current Supervisor, Line Manager or Head of Department in support of their application (also see section 7 below).

5.5   Applicants must inform the RSC of any changes to the application as soon as possible. If the Applicant receives any extra funding towards the activity outlined in the Grant application, whether before any award of funds or during the Grant, the Applicant must inform the RSC as soon as possible by contacting funding@rsc.org.

5.6   The RSC reserves the right to carry out any relevant checks including verifying the Applicant's RSC membership status and contacting the host and home organisations to confirm the identity of the Applicant and the legitimacy of an application.

6.   Eligible costs

6.1   All costs should be essential in order to undertake the activity, as well as be reasonable and appropriate for the activity.

6.2 Applications should not include costs that might reasonably be covered otherwise, for example by employers or a PI's research grant.

6.3 For activities involving travel, Applicants are encouraged to travel by the most economic fare. Wherever possible the environmental effect of travel should be considered.

6.4 Applicants may not request more than £30 a day for food and drink costs (your application will not be considered if this is not met).

6.5 Applicants may not request more than £50 in total under the "Other" expense category (your application will not be considered if this is not met).

6.6 Recipients will be expected to make their own travel, accommodation and visa arrangements. Recipients should ensure they have insurance or access to additional financial support in case their costs unexpectedly increase.

6.7 Recipients who are travelling or participating in in-person activities should follow relevant institutional and government guidelines and policies.

6.8 RDTGs will not be awarded to fund:

a. direct or indirect research costs (for example, chemicals/equipment, computer hardware or article processing charges);

b. salary contributions, including consultant fees;

c. social excursions or attendance at social activities, except for official activities that are a part of a conference or event programme e.g. a conference dinner;

d. Dissemination or marketing costs associated with the activity;

e. Participation at "predatory conferences" (please see Appendix B); or

f. Language courses or qualifications.

7. Inviting people to provide their support for the application.

7.1 Applicants must include a declaration of support from either their current Supervisor, Line Manager or Head of Department within their application. ***Please make the nominated person aware of this before entering their details into the application system.*** The declaration cannot be provided by the Applicant.

7.1.1 If you are a PhD student, the person you nominate should be your PhD supervisor or Head of Department. If you are working in research (including postdocs), this person should be your current Supervisor, Line Manager or Head of Department.

7.2 The purpose of this declaration is to ensure that your current Supervisor/Line Manager/Head of Department knows about this application and that there are no barriers to your participation in the activity. We cannot consider applications that include a declaration from a previous Supervisor/Line Manager/Head of Department.

7.3 The Applicant is required to complete all sections of the application form before the Applicant can access the declaration of support section of the application form.

7.4 Once Applicants enter the details of a Supervisor/Line Manager/Head of Department, the SurveyMonkey Apply System will send the nominated person an email, which includes a link to the application. Clicking this link will allow the nominated person to login (or sign up) to confirm their support. If they have not received a link, it may have gone to their junk folder. Please contact funding@rsc.org if there are any problems.

7.5 **Confirmation of support needs to be completed by the Grant deadline.** The RSC will recommend to the nominated person making the declaration that this needs to be

done in advance of the Grant deadline. The Applicant will not be able to submit their application form until the status for the declaration shows as 'complete'.

7.6   If the Applicant needs to make any final edits after submitting their application before the application deadline, they should contact funding@rsc.org for guidance.

8.   Application assessment process

8.1   All applications will be checked by RSC staff. Applications will not be considered for funding if:

   a) the Applicant does not meet the RSC's eligibility criteria (see section 3);

   b) the Applicant's chosen activity takes place before the eligible activity date given in section 2;

   c) the application is incomplete (see section 5);

   d) the Applicant's funding request exceeds £500 (see section 1);

   e) the application includes ineligible costs (see section 6);

   f) the application does not make it clear how the activity will develop the Applicant's research skills and/or research career (see section 5.4); or

   g) the application does not make clear what the Grant will be used for (see section 5.4).

8.2   All remaining applications will be considered for funding. In the event that there are more applications than the available budget, funding will be allocated by the RSC at random.

9.   Successful applications

9.1   Recipients will be notified by email of any funding decision.

9.2   The Grant offer is conditional upon the RSC receiving in writing from the Recipient the details of the bank account the Grant is to be paid into. The Recipient must provide this information within fifty (50) working days of the date of the RSC's letter confirming the Grant is being awarded ("**Award Letter**"). The Grant will be paid in a single payment to the Recipient or their employer only. Therefore the Recipient must ensure the bank details provided are those of the Recipient or their employer, and shall provide evidence upon request to support this.

9.3   The Grant must be used solely for the purposes set out in the application.

9.4   Recipients should acknowledge support from the RSC.

9.5   Recipients must comply with the RSC's brand identity guidelines (as may be amended from time to time), including the use of the RSC logo, which the RSC will provide to the Recipient on request.

9.6   The RSC reserves the right to publicise the Grant awarded and the name of the Recipient.

9.7   The RSC reserves the right to terminate an award of a Grant if a Recipient is in breach of any of these terms and conditions, or chooses to stop the activity funded by the Grant, or becomes unfit or unable to pursue the activity, or leaves their employer at any time during the activity. In such circumstances the Recipient may be required to return any money already paid to the Recipient under the Grant.

10.   Data Processing

10.1 The RSC processes personal data in accordance with its Privacy Statement available via: Our privacy statement (rsc.org) (as may be amended from time to time) and these terms and conditions (in particular, please see clauses 9.6 and 12.1).

11. Liability

11.1 Nothing in these terms and conditions shall exclude or restrict the liability of the RSC for death or personal injury resulting from its negligence, or for fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation, or in any other circumstances where liability may not be limited or excluded under applicable law.

11.2 Subject to clause 11.1:

11.2.1 the RSC accepts no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for any expenditure, claim or liability, whether direct or indirect, arising out of the use of the Grant or non-payment of the Grant; and

11.2.2 the RSC shall have no responsibility for and no liability in respect of, the employment of the Recipient or for providing appropriate support or facilities for any activity undertaken by the Recipient with the Grant.

11.3 The Recipient will be responsible for its own conduct and how the Grant is spent.

12. At the conclusion of the Grant

12.1 The Recipient shall submit to the RSC a report ("**Final Report**") outlining the impact of the activity the Grant monies were used for within four weeks of the end of the activity. This must include an account of the expenses incurred, any skills, training, scientific outcomes, experience and value gained from the activity funded by the Grant, and any proposed future next steps for the Recipient (the RSC will provide a standard form to capture this). This should be authored by the Recipient and approved by their Line Manager or Supervisor. The RSC has the right to publish the Final Report produced by the Recipient along with a photograph and short biography of the Recipient.

12.2 During the term of the Grant, the RSC reserves the right to reclaim any unspent funds from the Recipient, or reclaim any funds where the Recipient has received duplicate funding, or where section 9.7 applies. The Recipient shall refund the sums requested by the RSC to the bank account confirmed by the RSC by the due date specified by the RSC.

13. Governing law and jurisdiction

13.1 These terms and conditions are governed by English law.

13.2 Any court proceedings in relation to the Grant must be entered into within the courts of England and Wales.

14. Contact information

14.1 For questions about the Grant please contact funding@rsc.org. Before contacting the RSC, please check the Frequently Asked Questions document for the Grant in case this answers your question.

Appendix A

Information required from applicants about their event/activity

For applications to participate in a meeting or training course:

    a. Name, location and dates of the event

    b. Either a URL to the event webpage or another document/URL detailing the activity, e.g. catalogue, event leaflet, marketing email, a letter/email of invitation or confirmation of registration.

        • To consider your application, we need to verify the activity you wish to participate in, including dates, venue/location, and any associated participation costs, e.g. registration fee.

        • **Activities that cannot be verified will not be considered for funding.**

    c. (If you intend to present work at the meeting) a short description of the research you aim to present. This does not need to be an abstract if one is not yet prepared.

For applications to organise a meeting or event:

    a. A description of the event, including:

        • Event objectives and how you will measure success

        • Estimated attendance

        • Audience type and choice of speakers

        • Choice of location/venue

    b. Programme and speaker list. If a confirmed list is not available, please submit a draft or preliminary programme.

For applications to undertake a lab visit:

    a. Description of your activity, including:

        • Visit objectives

        • Reason for the chosen location/collaborator

        • Expected outcomes from the visit

    b. A letter of support from your host collaborator

Appendix B

A note about predatory conferences

The RSC advises all Applicants to be cautious when choosing conferences or meetings to attend. There are an increasing number of so-called "predatory conferences" which are expensive and provide little or no scientific benefit for the attendees. This Chemistry World article provides more information about "predatory conferences" and below is a list of potential warning signs to look out for when considering attendance at an unfamiliar conference or meeting ("**Meeting**").

If Applicants have any concerns or doubts about a Meeting, please do not hesitate to contact the RSC before applying for a Researcher Development and Travel Grant.

The RSC will also inform Applicants as soon as possible if the RSC spots an application for attendance at a suspected "predatory conference". The RSC are unable to support grant applications for "predatory conferences".

Potential signs of a "predatory conference" are:

- the conference organiser is holding multiple meetings on the same day(s) and in the same location;

- the conference venue does not reflect the supposed size of the meeting (e.g. a "World Congress" that is held in a hotel, rather than a conference centre);

- there is an unusual combination of words and phrases, or loosely related fields of study, in the conference name;

- photos of previous meetings on the organiser's website only show meetings of about a dozen participants in a small meeting room;

- the Applicant has been invited to give a talk in a subject matter outside of their expertise;

- the invitation addresses the Applicant in superlative terms;

- the conference has an unusually broad subject matter or coverage;

- the language of the invitation is unusual for the Applicant's professional practice or has grammatical errors;

- the editorial board or conference organisers are not well-known in the Applicant's research field;

- the "business" address of the organiser is unusual (e.g. if Google Street View shows it to be a residential address);

- the registration fee is high or if invitations are repeatedly sent to the Applicant;

- the conference website does not include subject matter that is at the frontier of knowledge;

- the high-level speakers in the programme are listed as "subject to confirmation"; or

- the Applicant does not recognise the journal, conference or participants.