# RSC Research Enablement Grant

# Frequently Asked Questions

***Membership requirements & details on how to upgrade membership***

All applicants must at least be Associate Level Members (AMRSC) or higher (\*see below).

If you currently hold Affiliate Membership, please contact [membership@rsc.org](file:///%5C%5CRSC%5CData%5CShares%5CRIGrants%5CResearch%20Fund%5Cmembership%40rsc.org) to find out about upgrading your membership and whether you are eligible to do so. Please note that your membership must be successfully upgraded before the application deadline, and you should allow a couple of months for applications for both new and upgrades of membership to be processed.

\* Levels of Membership

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| --- | --- |
| Affiliate | Ineligible: Requires upgrade to Associate or above. Needs to be approved by application deadline. |
| Associate | Eligible |
| Member | Eligible |
| Fellow | Eligible |

If your membership login shows your membership status as “Web Applicant / Applicant” this means your Membership Application is still being processed and you have not yet been admitted as a member. Your Membership application must be approved by the grant deadline.

***How do I submit my application to the Research Enablement Grant?***

You need to log onto our [online application system](http://rsc-research.fluidreview.com). If you have not used the SurveyMoney Apply system before, you will need to create an account (this is not an RSC system and so your 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 CV and project proposal and entering your referee and Head of Department’s details.

***I would like to apply to the Research Enablement Grant but I am not based in the UK or Ireland.***

The Research Enablement Grant is only for those currently working at a UK or Irish institution at the time of application and award. Our [Research Fund](https://rsc.li/research-fund) is available to international members and also provides funding for chemicals and equipment.

***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 Scientific Referee and Head of Department.***

You are required to complete all previous sections of the application form before you are able to access the Scientific Reference and Head of Department parts of the application form. Please note, you will not be able to submit your application until your referee has uploaded their reference, and your Head of Department has submitted their approval.

***How do I input my referee’s details?***

Once you enter the details of your referee, the SurveyMonkey Apply system will send them an email, which includes a link to your application. Clicking this link will allow them to login (or sign up) to upload their reference.

***What does my Head of Department need to do for my application?***

Heads of Department are asked to confirm that they support your application and that they are aware that we can only consider up to two applications from your Department.

***I am a PhD Student, can I apply to the Research Enablement Grant?***

Unfortunately, PhD students are not eligible to apply for the Research Enablement Grant, however your supervisor can request a salary contribution for a lab member, with appropriate justification. If this is something that might be relevant to your situation (e.g. if your funding is coming to an end, but you hope to finish off some experiments), you may wish to discuss this with your supervisor, who could make an application.

***What is your definition of an Independent Researcher?***

Typically, we expect an "independent research post" to be one that does not benefit from funding from a supervisor or Principal Investigator. Researchers employed on a Fellowship should also justify the need for the Research Fund grant on top of funds already included as part of the Fellowship; part of the grant's assessment criteria is the situation of the applicant (please refer to our website for more information).

***Can my Head of Department also be my Scientific Referee?***

No, your Head of Department cannot act as your scientific referee. Your scientific referee should be another researcher who is able to comment on your scientific proposal.

***Can I, as Head of Department, apply for the Research Enablement Grant?***

If you are the Head of Department, you are eligible to nominate yourself and approve your own application.

***Do I need to have a permanent position in the host institution?***

You do not necessarily need to have a permanent position, but you must hold an independent research position and you must be employed in your post for the duration of your project.

***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.

***How long does my CV need to be?***

Your CV cannot exceed one A4 page at font size 10. Please note that we reserve the right to reject any application that do not meet length restrictions.

***Can I apply to the Research Enablement Fund and the Research Grant concurrently, and with the same (or different) proposal?***

There are no restrictions to prevent you from applying to both schemes. However, please be aware that both schemes have strict limits on the number of applications a Department may submit each round and will require approval from your Head of Department. As such, you may wish to discuss this internally should you have colleagues who are also interested in applying.

***I currently hold an active Research Enablement Grant from a previous round, can I apply again?***

You are not eligible to apply if you currently have an active Research Enablement Grant.

***Is there a timeframe for completion of my project?***

There is no strict grant period should you be successful with your Research Enablement Grant application. However, we expect all projects to be achievable within a 12 month timeframe from when you are awarded the grant.