



Royal Society of Chemistry ResearchFund

Terms and Conditions 2023

THIS DOCUMENT APPLIES TO THE APPLICATION ROUND 5 JUNE 2023 – 10 JULY 2023

Eligibility and application requirements

1. Applicants must be RSC members (Associate Member or above) at the time of the application deadline and must be employed in a position that allows for independent research at a higher education institute or research institute at the time of application and award. Typically, eligible applicants are:
 - undertaking self-directed research, and
 - not employed on a supervisor or Principal Investigator's grant, and
 - not otherwise benefiting from funding from a supervisor or Principal Investigator.

Researchers employed on a Fellowship may apply but should be aware about explaining 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 funding situation of the applicant (please refer to our website for more information).

We typically would not expect postdoctoral research associates (or equivalent) to be eligible under this definition. However, if you believe you should be eligible based on the above definition, please contact us on funding@rsc.org to discuss your situation. If you have any uncertainty, we would also recommend that you get in touch with us before applying in order to ascertain eligibility.

2. Projects are for a period of 12 months' duration. Up to £5000 GBP will be awarded to the successful applicant for chemicals, consumables and equipment.
3. Applications are limited to one per department and MUST be authorised by the head of that department prior to submission.
4. All applicants will be required to obtain a referee report as a part of their application. This referee should assess the scientific content of the research proposal submitted.
5. Applicants are required to provide information on:
 - a. The nature of the research in which they desire to engage and of the scientific results expected to follow there from.
 - b. The approximate full cost of the research and a breakdown of the manner in which it is proposed to spend any grant that may be awarded. This should include quantities and approximate costs for each item.
 - c. What sources of financial assistance are normally available to the applicant for research, whether these are available in this instance and to what value.
6. Funding should not replace or reduce institutional or funding agency support. Applicants also may not seek funding for the following within their RSC Research Fund application:
 - a. Travel costs
 - b. Salary contributions
 - c. Departmental overheads (including office equipment)
 - d. Costs for the dissemination of work (including conference attendance and publication costs).
7. Applicants must not be currently holding another active Research Fund Grant (i.e. previous Research Fund Grant holders must have completed and sent us their project reports before they can begin another Research Fund Grant application).

8. Institutions are encouraged to allow the maximum number of applicants they can over a 12 month period. If an unsuccessful applicant from the previous round wishes to apply again, their new application should be substantially different to the previous.
9. Strong preference is given to those working in less well-endowed institutions. Applicants from developing countries and early career researchers are encouraged.
10. A grant will not normally be awarded to the same applicant for more than three consecutive years.
11. The applicant is solely responsible for ensuring they are not under any obligation which prevents him/her from applying for and for receiving the funds applied for, whether obligations imposed by the home organisation or otherwise. Furthermore the applicant is responsible for clarifying the position relating to intellectual property rights (“IPRs”) of the research undertaken with funds received by way of this Grant. For the avoidance of doubt, the IPRs in the research will not belong to the RSC.

Application assessment process

12. The selection and awarding process will be based upon a proposal by a candidate to undertake specified work at a specified organisation. This proposal will be assessed by the RSC acting through a group appointed as the Research Fund Assessment Panel or as the RSC otherwise directs.
13. Any changes to the specified work after the award of a grant must be approved by the RSC.
14. The RSC (acting as set out in clause 9) has oversight of the awarding process and will seek clarification or further information relating to decisions if they deem it to be necessary.

Successful grant applications

15. The awarded funds will be paid in a single payment to the home organisation (being the university or research organisation by which the Grant recipient is employed), upon successful application. No funds will be paid directly to the Grant recipient from the RSC. It will be expected that the home organisation administers payments to the Grant recipient. Applicants should contact the RSC directly to discuss any anticipated complications.
16. Should there be exceptional circumstances, wherever possible the RSC will allow a Grant to be deferred with the permission of the home organisation. No extra funds will be released in this eventuality.
17. Applicants must inform the RSC of any changes to the application as soon as possible. If the applicant (as Grant recipient) receives any extra funding towards the activity outlined in the Grant application, whether before any award of funds or during the Grant, the RSC must be notified forthwith and the RSC reserves the right to reclaim a proportionate amount of the Grant.
18. Grant recipients must comply with all applicable laws, regulations and codes of ethics and/or conduct including those of the recipient’s home organisations. Furthermore, the recipient must not act in any manner which may bring the RSC and/or the home organisations into disrepute.
19. Grant recipients must comply with the RSC’s Branding and Publicity Guidelines as may be amended from time to time, including the use of the RSC logo, which the recipient may request from the RSC
(https://www.rsc.org/images/RSC%20brand%20guidelines%202019_tcm18-246471.pdf).
20. The RSC reserves the right to carry out any relevant checks including verifying the recipient’s RSC membership status and contacting their home organisation to confirm identity of an applicant and the legitimacy of an application.
21. During the term of the Grant, the RSC reserves the right to reclaim any unspent funds under any circumstances.

At the conclusion of the grants

22. The Grant recipient will be expected to submit to the RSC a report outlining the outcomes of the work. This should include scientific outcomes, proposed future steps and wider benefits to

the applicant and others working on the project, including (but not limited to) publications, new job/promotion, new grants, etc. This should be authored by the Grant recipient. Over the longer term, the RSC will ascertain from the recipient whether the Grant led to further benefits. The RSC will provide a standard form to capture this.

23. The Grant recipient will be expected to submit to the RSC a short financial report outlining the breakdown of funds spent. Any unused funds remaining at the conclusion of the Grant should be returned to the RSC. The financial report should be submitted to the RSC together with the scientific report.
24. Grant recipients will be expected to give due acknowledgement to the Royal Society of Chemistry in any scientific papers published as a result of research carried out during the visit, and to give due acknowledgement of support in any scientific presentations (both oral and poster) as appropriate.