

## Researcher Development and Travel Grants: additional guidance

The Researcher Development and Travel Grants can be used for a wide range of activities that support the development of knowledge, skills or networks for a researcher. The following provides additional guidance on what are suitable activities or costs for applicants to the scheme. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list, so if you have any questions or doubts, please contact us at [funding@rsc.org](mailto:funding@rsc.org).

### Eligible activities

We will consider applications for most activities for which development of knowledge, skills and network is a key feature. Examples of what this grant can be used for include (but not limited to):

- Conference participation
- Training courses
- Enabling funds to organise small scientific meetings and workshops
- Short research visits, for example, to learn a new research technique or meet with a collaborator.

Those looking for funding for outreach or inclusion & diversity activities may also be interested in our [Outreach Fund](#) or [Inclusion & Diversity Fund](#), which may be a better fit for your needs. Technicians wishing to participate in an activity organised by someone else may be interested in our [Technician Travel and Training Grant](#), which provides up to £1800 of support. Please note that members can only receive one grant from the RSC for a particular activity.

### Eligible costs

The Researcher Development and Travel Grants is awarded in the spirit of “enabling funding” and applicants should only request funds for key expenses needed for their activity. All requested funds should also be justified in the application.

Typically, this grant is used by our members for:

- Travel (including visa applications), event registration (including conference dinners), accommodation and subsistence to attend an activity hosted/organised by someone else, or to visit a collaborator.
- Expenses to enable or scientifically enhance an activity organised by the grant applicant, for example, venue hire, equipment costs, catering/refreshments, speaker expenses
- Please note that costs should be kept to a minimum, where possible, for example, by using second-class travel or taking public transportation where appropriate.
- We also ask applicants to be mindful about environmental sustainability when planning their trips or activities. You may consider, for example, minimising flights, car sharing or undertaking remote activities where appropriate.

### Ineligible costs

This grant **cannot** be used for:

- Direct or indirect research costs (for example, chemicals/equipment, computer hardware or article processing charges)
- Salary contributions
- Attendance of social activities. This does not include activities that are official parts of a conference or event programme

### A note about predatory conferences

We advise grant applicants to be cautious when choosing conferences to attend. There are an increasing number of 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 for when considering attendance at an unfamiliar meeting.

If you have any concerns or doubts about a meeting, please don't hesitate to contact us before you apply for a Researcher Development and Travel Grant. We will also inform our applicants as soon as possible if we spot an application for attendance at a suspected predatory conference. We are unable to support grant applications for predatory conferences.

**Potential warning signs for a predatory conference:**

- The conference organiser is holding multiple meetings on the same days 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.
- You are invited to give a talk in a subject matter outside your expertise
- The invitation addresses you in superlative terms
- The conference has an unusually broad subject matter coverage
- The language of the invitation is unusual for your professional practice or has grammatical errors
- The editorial board or conference organisers are not well-known in your 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
- Invitations are sent to you repetitively
- The conference website does not include subject matter that is at the frontier of knowledge
- The high-level speakers in the programme are listed "subject to confirmation"
- You simply don't recognise the journal, conference or participants