Researcher Development Grants
Eligibility & Guidance for Applicants

A note about travel and in-person activities
Despite the ongoing uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, we know there can be reasons or advantages to travelling or participating in in-person activities. We also know that specific situations vary depending on many factors including where you are based, where you might travel to and other individual circumstances.

We advise grant holders who are travelling or participating in in-person activities to continue to follow relevant institutional, government or other COVID-19 guidelines and policies. We also recommend you ensure you have insurance or access to additional financial support in case your costs unexpectedly increase, for example, if you are unexpectedly required to self-isolate at your travel destination or if an event you’re hosting needs to be postponed. If you are uncomfortable going ahead with your planned activity, please do not feel under any pressure to do so.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

1. You must be a Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) member when you apply. Any level of membership is acceptable.
2. You must be a PhD student or postdoctoral researcher.
3. Each member can receive up to one Researcher Development Grant per calendar year. This means that members who were awarded a Researcher Development Grant having applied in any application round before 1 January 2022 are eligible to apply for a Researcher Development Grant in 2022.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

4. Applications may be for any activity that develops your skills and experience as a researcher (including new lab techniques, networking skills, etc.). Types of activities might include presenting work at conferences, developing new skills by attending training courses or developing networks by organising a scientific meeting or participating in a workshop.
5. The activity applied for may be run by the RSC or by another organisation.
6. The activity can be in-person or online.
7. The activity must start on or after the 28th of the month following your application. For example, an application made in March for an activity starting on 27 April is not eligible.

APPLICATION

8. We recommend you submit your application as soon as you can, ideally at least 10 weeks before the start of your activity, particularly if you need a grant decision before booking travel. Please note that whilst we usually complete the review of applications in the calendar month following submission, this cannot always be guaranteed. We also do not normally fund applications retrospectively.
9. As part of your application, you will need to:
   • explain why you wish to undertake the activity and how it will benefit your research career.
   • include an accompanying letter of support from your supervisor or line manager.
   • submit your oral or poster abstract(s), if applicable to your activity e.g. if you are participating in a conference.
10. Eligible expenses for in-person activities are registration, travel (including visa application fees) and accommodation.
11. You can only receive one grant from the RSC for a particular activity, with the exception of

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our Grants for Carers and Accessibility Grants which you can add to a Researcher Development Grant. If you receive any other type of funding from the RSC for the same activity, including funding from RSC Interest Groups, please let us know.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

12. If your application is successful, we will ask you to submit your bank details for payment of your grant. We will process payment as soon as possible after receiving bank details. It would usually takes around 3 weeks for payment to appear in your bank account.
13. We request that you keep expenses as reasonable as possible, e.g. using economy/second class travel.
14. We request that when you complete the activity you submit a brief report summarising the benefits to you of having received the grant. This will help us in continually improving the scheme and making sure it is relevant for our members.
15. Please return any unused funds to the RSC. We will contact you about this after you submit your post-activity report.
16. We would be grateful if you acknowledge support from the RSC as you feel appropriate, for example in presentations or publications.