

# Researcher Development and Travel Grants

## Eligibility & Guidance for Applicants

### A note about travel and in-person activities

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 one of the following:
  - PhD student;
  - academic researcher within 10 years of completion of a PhD;
  - working in industry within 10 years of leaving full time education or;
  - technician within 10 years of leaving full time education.Restrictions exclude time for career breaks, parental leave, etc..
3. Each member can *receive* up to one Researcher Development and Travel Grant per calendar year. This means that you can apply again this year if the previous successful grant decision email from us was dated before 31 December 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. Our [additional guidance](#) document provides further details about this and eligible costs.
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. Your activity must start at least 2 months from your month of application. For example, applications made in March can only be for activities starting 1 June or later.

### APPLICATION

8. We recommend you submit your application as soon as you can, ideally at least 12 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 within 8 weeks of the month of 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, where relevant.
  - submit your oral or poster abstract(s), if applicable to your activity e.g. if you are

participating in a conference.

10. For applications to attend conferences, we would normally expect the applicant to be presenting their work (either oral or poster). Applicants should provide a reason for their participation at the meeting if they are not presenting.
11. Please ensure you carefully read our Additional Guidance document, which provides important details about eligible activities and expenses.
12. You can only receive one grant from the RSC for a particular activity, with the exception of our [Grants for Carers](#) and [Accessibility Grants](#) which you can add to a Researcher Development and Travel 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.
13. If an unsuccessful applicant wishes to apply again, their new application should be substantially different to the previous and should be for a different activity (unless a resubmission is otherwise invited by the RSC).

## SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

14. 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 take around 3 weeks for payment to appear in your bank account.
15. We request that you keep expenses as reasonable as possible, e.g. using economy/second class travel.
16. 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.
17. Please return any unused funds to the RSC. We will contact you about this after you submit your post-activity report.
18. We would be grateful if you acknowledge support from the RSC as you feel appropriate, for example in presentations or publications