The following document provides guidance on the eligibility and application process for the 27 November 2023 – 29 January 2024 application round of the Royal Society of Chemistry ("RSC") Researcher Development and Travel Grants ("RDTG").

Please read these before making an application.

1. About the grant
1.1 Up to £500 GBP will be awarded to the successful applicant to undertake an activity to develop their research skills and/or career as an early career researcher. Examples include attending conferences, workshops or training courses, or organising a scientific meeting. The RDTG is provided as a contribution towards the total cost of the activity. It is not intended to cover all expenses.

2. Duration and start of award
2.1 Funding is available for activities starting on or after 1 April 2024.

3. Eligibility
3.1 Applicants must be an RSC member (at any level) at the time of the application deadline and for the duration of the grant period. This will be checked by RSC staff and the applicant's RSC membership must be confirmed at the grant application deadline – it is not sufficient to simply have a membership application in process.

3.2 At the time of the application deadline and for the duration of the grant period, applicants must be either:
   3.2.1 A PhD student actively undertaking a PhD course in the chemical sciences; or
   3.2.2 A researcher in the chemical sciences, including post docs, working in any sector, within 10 years of leaving full time education (at the time of the application deadline). Career breaks will be taken into consideration e.g. a period of parental/adoption leave, family commitments, illness, or other exceptional circumstances;

3.3 Applicants can only receive one RDTG every three calendar years. For example if you are awarded an RDTG in 2024 you are eligible to apply again in any application round that awards funding in 2027 or later. This restriction does not apply to Researcher Development & Travel Grants awarded in 2023 or earlier.

3.4 Applicants can only submit one application per funding round.

3.5 Unsuccessful applicants can reapply for future funding rounds as long as their new application meets all the eligibility requirements.

3.6 Any given activity may not receive more than one RSC grant, with the exception of our Grants for Carers and Accessibility Grants. Applicants must inform the RSC if an activity is successful in multiple RSC grant applications.

3.7 The applicant is solely responsible for ensuring they are not under any obligation which prevents them from applying for or receiving the funds, whether the obligations are imposed by the home organisation or otherwise.
4. Application timelines
   Applications open: 27 November 2023
   Application close: 29 January 2024 14:00 UK time
   Funding decisions: by 11 March 2024

5. Application requirements
   5.1 Applications will be made through our online application system, SurveyMonkey Apply. Before completing the online form, all applicants should check that they comply with the eligibility requirements in section 3.
   5.2 The application form will ask the applicant to provide:
      a. Information on the activity for which they seek funding;
      b. How they will benefit from participating in the activity;
      c. Details on how any awarded grant funding will be used;
      d. A declaration from either their Supervisor, Line manager or Head of Department in support of the application. The declaration cannot be provided by the applicant.

6. Eligible costs
   6.1 RDTGs can be used for activities that support the development of research skills and/or research careers. All costs should be essential to undertake the activity, as well as reasonable and appropriate for the activity. Applicants will need to include details on how the funding is to be used in the application.
   6.2 For activities involving travel, members are encouraged to travel by the most economic fare. Wherever possible the environmental effect of travel should be considered.
   6.3 Grant recipients will be expected to make their own travel, accommodation and visa arrangements. Successful applicants should ensure they have insurance or access to additional financial support in case their costs unexpectedly increase.
   6.4 Grant recipients who are travelling or participating in in-person activities should follow relevant institutional and government guidelines and policies.
   6.5 Subsistence costs must not exceed £30 a day.
   6.6 RDTGs will not be awarded to fund:
      a. Direct or indirect research costs (for example, chemicals/equipment, computer hardware or article processing charges);
      b. Salary contributions, including consultant fees;
      c. Social excursions or attendance of social activities, except as official part of conference or event programme eg conference dinner;
      d. Dissemination costs associated with the activity;
      e. Participation at predatory conferences (please see Appendix A);
      f. Language courses or qualifications;

7. Inviting people to provide their support of the application.
   7.1 Applicants must include confirmation of support from either their Supervisor, Line Manager or Head of Department in support of the application. Please make them
aware of this before entering their details into the application system. The declaration cannot be provided by the applicant.

7.2 You are required to complete all previous sections of the application form before you can access the confirmation of support section of the application form.

7.3 Once applicants enter the details of a Supervisor/Line Manager/Head of Department, the SurveyMonkey Apply system will send the nominated person an email, which includes a link to the application. Clicking this link will allow them to login (or sign up) to confirm their support. If they have not received a link it may have gone to their junk folder. Please contact funding@rsc.org if there are any problems.

7.4 Confirmation of support needs to be completed by the grant deadline. We will recommend to those making the declaration that this needs to be done in advance of the grant deadline. You will not be able to submit your application form until the status shows ‘complete’.

7.5 If you need to make any final edits after submitting your application before the application deadline, please contact funding@rsc.org for guidance.

8. Application assessment process

8.1 All applications will undergo screening by RSC staff. Applications will not be considered for funding if:
   a) You do not meet our eligibility criteria (see section 3);
   b) Your activity takes place before 01 April 2024;
   c) Your application is incomplete (see section 5);
   d) Your funding request exceeds £500;
   e) Your application includes ineligible costs (see section 6);
   f) The application does not make clear how the activity will develop research skills and/or a research career;
   g) The application does not make clear what the funds requested will be used for;

8.2 All remaining applications will be considered for funding. In the event that there are more applications than available budget funding will be allocated at random.

9. Successful applications

9.1 Applicants will be notified by email of any funding decision.

9.2 The funding offer is conditional on RSC receiving, within fifty (50) working days from the date of the Award Letter, bank payment details and agreement to all of the conditions set out in the Standard Conditions of Grant.

9.3 The grant will be paid in a single payment to the applicant or their employer only.

10. Contact information

If you have any questions about this grant please contact funding@rsc.org. Before contacting us please check the Frequently Asked Questions document for the grant in case this answers your question.

Appendix A
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 signs of 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