Advancing Research and Innovation at Coventry

Calls for Investment 2019-20

# Early Career Researcher Networking and Skills Development

**Overview**

This scheme enables early career researchers at Coventry University to spend time with a mentor in a research group OR external organisation to support skills development, networking, and the development of future partnerships with external organisations.

A proportion of funding for this scheme will be ring-fenced for activities that partner with institutions or organisations located in: Australia, China, India, USA, and South Africa.

Costs of travel, accommodation and subsistence can be requested, together with the time of an external mentor. The maximum award for a single applicant is £4,000. For team-based applications, the maximum award is £10,000. The average value of individual awards is expected to be lower. All activities must be completed by 31st July 2020.

If applying for the skills development stream, consumables and/or access to specific facilities may be costed as part of the application. This fund, however, does not support pump-prime projects.

This scheme may be used as match for other externally and internally funded schemes. If so, the application will need to make clear how funds will be used should the match in funding not be received.

**Eligibility**

This scheme is open to individuals and teams of early career researchers who are members or associate members of Coventry University Research Centres. Early career researcher is defined as those within the first five years of their first substantial academic/research post (Grade 8). Those on Grades 6 and 7 are also eligible to apply.

**Faculty Research Centre and GLEA can put forward a maximum of 3 applications to this scheme. FTC, TPSR and CAWR can put forward 5 applications.** All applicants must discuss their application with their Centre Director or Research Director. Anyone who has received funding from any of the 2017/18 or the 2018/19 institutional funding schemes is ineligible to apply as lead applicant for this round of funding.

**The funding application consists of three main components:**

1. An application detailing a project or series of activities that are to be undertaken with a named mentor (the applicant would need to identify them in advance), explaining how this relates to the longer-term career development of the applicant or team. The application should also demonstrate additionality i.e. explain why this opportunity would not otherwise be available.
2. A brief letter of support or email from the Centre Director explaining how this proposal relates to the centre’s broader training and development plan and research strategy. A key aim of the scheme is to ensure that the programme supports new and sustainable activities.
3. A brief letter of support or email from the mentor with whom the researcher plans to work, outlining the support to be made available to the researcher, (including their time).

**Assessment Process**

Applications will be peer-reviewed by an interdisciplinary panel of CU Researchers, following Research Council best practice, with each application given an overall score out of 6. A panel including the Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Director of the Doctoral College, and Director of Research Services will subsequently determine the applications to be funded.

**Assessment Criteria**

The Early Career Researcher Networking and Skills Development Scheme will be assessed using the following criteria:

* **Quality:** the extent to which the proposal meets the specific aims of the scheme in terms of the development plan, the quality of the mentors and collaborators, the sustainability and appropriateness of activities to foster high-quality personal and research development.
* **Importance:** the significance of the proposed activity in terms of the applicant’s personal development and the potential benefit to the Centre and to the University.
* **Project Plan and Budget:** the extent to which the proposal is well planned, the extent to which the activities can be completed within the specified timeframe, and the extent to which the likely outcome of the activities will represent value for money in terms of the relationship between the funds that are sought and the significance and quality of the projected outcomes for the researcher.
* **Outcomes and Impact:** the extent to which the activities are recorded and evaluated to ensure continued professional development; the likelihood that the learning and outcomes of the project will be highly valued and widely exploited, both in the Coventry University research community and in wider contexts where they can make a difference.

**Submission and Outcomes**

Completed applications with supporting statements should be sent to recap@coventry.ac.uk

The following file format should be used:

2019NSD\_[RESEARCH CENTRE ACRONYM]\_[SURNAME]\_[FIRSTNAME].docx

Closing date: Monday 24th June 2019, 5pm

Expert Review: 24th June 2019 – 15th July 2019.

Panel: week beginning 29th July 2019.

Notification of Award: week beginning 5th August 2019.

Deadlines and timelines cannot be changed.

**Queries**

Please direct any queries to [recap@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:recap@coventry.ac.uk)

**Appeals and Complaints**

If applicants have any concerns or complaints regarding any element of selection process these should be sent directly to Rebekah Smith McGloin, Director of the Doctoral College and Centre for Research Capability and Development.

# Application Form: Early Career Researcher Networking and Skills Development

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| **Project Lead** |  |

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| **Research Centre** |  |

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| **Pure Portal Link** |  |

***A Pure Portal link must be provided for applications to be considered. Information on setting up your Pure Profile can be located*** [*HERE*](https://share.coventry.ac.uk/staff/ps/research_office/pure/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/staff/ps/research_office/pure/Frequently%20asked%20Questions/PURE%20FAQs.docx&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1)***.***

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| **Project Team** |  |

***If appropriate, please provide name, research centre, and Pure Portal link for each ECR co-applicant.***

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| **Project Title** |  |

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| **Summary**  **(200 words)** |  |

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| **Aims and Objectives (max. 200 words)**  What are you hoping to achieve and what are the tangible and specific measurable goals? |

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| **Project Plan (max. 500 words).**  What activities will take place? A Gantt chart may accompany this section and be inserted here or at the end of the document |

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| **Nature of the Collaboration/Mentorship (max. 250 words)**  Provide details of the partner institution/organisation and mentor with whom you will work. How will this partnership support your research activities and the work of the Centre? |

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| **Benefit to Personal Development (max. 250 words).**  How will this project support your personal development or the development of the team? Pleasemake reference to [Vitae’s Researcher Development Framework](https://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers-professional-development/about-the-vitae-researcher-development-framework) |

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| **Project Outcomes (max. 200 words)**  What are the tangible outcomes of the project? How will you measure progress against your aims and objectives? |

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| **Academic Impact (max. 100 words)**  How will this project advance your research and research field? What further collaborative projects, funding applications, and research/impact activities might this project lead to? |

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| **Pathways to Impact (max. 100 words)**  Who might benefit from this project now and in the future? What are the potential impacts, which could be used in the public domain? Visit the [UKRI website](https://www.ukri.org/innovation/excellence-with-impact/pathways-to-impact/) for more support and guidance on pathways to impact. |

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| **Budget (with justifications)**  Please provide a comprehensive budget with a justification for each activity taking place. |