

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RSE PERSONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS



These are the terms and conditions of the RSE Personal Research Fellowships. Applicants should read these carefully, as well as the general terms and conditions, before completing and submitting their application.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH (RSE)

As Scotland's National Academy, the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) supports high-quality academic research and public engagement activities. The RSE delivers upon its mission 'to promote the Advancement of Learning and Useful Knowledge' by supporting academic researchers, practitioners and policy makers, and in assisting the development, dissemination and deployment of research. The RSE's Research Awards Programme sits within, and delivers to, this overall mission.

RSE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

1. Purpose: to provide eligible applicants with the opportunity to take between three to twelve months to focus on a research project of their choice. The award provides funding for the appointment of a temporary replacement to enable the awardee to take research leave, either in their own institution or elsewhere, whilst remaining in continuous employment with their present employer. In addition to funding the salary for the replacement member of staff (including on costs), this grant funds research costs for the awardee

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be existing members of academic staff on open-ended or continuing contracts in a Higher Education Institution (HEI), Research Institution (RI) or Cultural Institution (CI) in Scotland.
- Applicants on short or fixed-term contracts should ensure their contracts extend for at least 3 months after the end of the proposed project. Early Career Researchers (ECRs) on staged contracts to permanent lectureship positions

are eligible for Research Fellowships but must be in contract for the duration of the award.

- Awardees must not hold other paid appointments without the express permission of the RSE.
- Upon appointment, awardees will be required to devote themselves full time to the research project specified in the application form. Allowance will be made for graduate supervision and, exceptionally, other limited amounts of research-related administration.
- A new application will not be considered when a report on a previous RSE grant is overdue.
- RSE Personal Research Fellowships are open to early and mid-career researchers.
- Early Career Researcher (ECR) definition:** ECR applicants must be within seven years of the award of their PhD (from the point of successful PhD viva to the point of applying) and be within seven years of their first academic appointment (paid contract of employment which lists research or teaching as the primary role). Additionally:
 - Maternity/paternity/parental/adoption leave after award of PhD of up to 18 months per child is taken into consideration. Please include the time you were away from work on maternity/paternity/adoption leave in the section 'career history'
 - Documented periods of leave for other reasons, i.e., long-term medical absence will also be taken into consideration.
- Mid-career academics definition:** are normally within no more than 15 years from the award of their doctorate. This does not include career breaks.

RESEARCH ELIGIBILITY

10. Applicants are required to pursue their research in a Higher Education Institution (HEI), Research Institution (RI) or Cultural Institution (CI) in Scotland; only these are acceptable as host institutions. This may be different to their current place of employment.
11. The research can be in any academic discipline.
12. The research project proposed must align to one or more of the Scottish Government's National Outcomes, detailed in the National Performance Framework: <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/national-outcomes>

SELECTION CRITERIA

13. In addition to the criteria listed in the General Terms and Conditions, applications will be assessed according to:
 - a. **Relevance to Scottish Government National Outcomes:** The research projects proposed **must** align to one or more of the Scottish Government's National Outcomes, as described at <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/national-outcomes>
 - b. **Economic and Social Impact:** Whilst the research may be in any academic discipline including inter-disciplinary areas, preference may be given to research likely to enhance the transfer of ideas and technology from the research community into increasing sustainable economic growth and social benefits for all.
 - c. **Timeliness and promise:** The project should be timely with the potential to be sustainable.

PUBLICATIONS

14. Any publications arising from the research associated with the award should acknowledge the RSE's support

OTHER CONDITIONS

15. If undertaking research at an institution that is not their current place of employment applicants will be expected to negotiate their appointment

directly with the relevant Head of Department of the proposed host institution – please note this is not the RSE's responsibility.

FUNDING

16. The actual cost of replacement staff will be reimbursed 100% according to the University Academic Staff pay scale up to the maximum salary of £55,000 (including on costs), with the replacement determined by the employer according to normal qualifications and experience criteria. The employer may appoint replacement staff on a higher salary, but the additional costs will not be covered by the RSE.
17. Research costs will be funded up to the amount of £10,000:
 - **Eligible** costs comprise:
 - **Research consumables:** examples include licenses for archival material or for software that are required for research to be carried out; printed brochures for dissemination events; tea, coffee, lunch for meetings etc.; postage, stationery and photocopying. **Throughout the duration of the funded project, Scottish and UK Government, legislation and guidelines for Covid19-safe contact must be observed.**
 - **Research-related travel:** reasonable expenses, using standard class fares excluding first and business class travel; where using private car, the rate equivalent of GBP0.40 per mile is allowed. **Throughout the duration of the funded project, Scottish and UK Government, legislation and guidelines for Covid19-safe contact must be observed.**
 - **Ineligible** costs comprise:
 - Equipment.
 - Research assistants.

18. Grants are tenable for a minimum of three months and maximum of twelve months.

19. If you require funding from other sources in addition to the RSE in order to complete the research, this should be clearly stated in the application form. This should include the amount sought, and progress and likelihood of securing the funding.

EMPLOYMENT

20. The award of an RSE Personal Research Fellowship is separate from a contract of employment. An award will, however, normally be terminated if such a contract of employment is terminated.
21. Those holding awards may make visits abroad, subject to prior permission from the RSE where these are for periods of more than four consecutive weeks or for periods amounting to more than eight weeks in any one academic year. The exception is when the periods overseas have already been specified in the application form as part of the research work to be undertaken.
22. If the work on the funded project should be interrupted for more than a month, through illness or for other reason, the RSE must be notified. The grant holder must conform with local practice in informing their employer of absences on grounds of sickness or for any other reason. The employer is responsible for the replacement staff, and the RSE is not required to be notified, except where the nature or extent of the sickness absence is likely to affect payments to the replacement.
23. If the grant holder resigns from the research post or HEI, RI or CI before the project is complete, all unspent funds must be reimbursed to the RSE in full.
24. If a significant material change should occur in the applicant's circumstances after submitting the application, details should be notified in writing or by e-mail to the RSE Research Awards team.

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

25. By signing the application form and accepting the grant offer letter, both the host institution and the applicant agree to be bound by the general terms and conditions and research Fellowship terms and conditions upon acceptance of the award by the host Institution. Both the funder and the RSE shall be entitled to enforce these terms and conditions.

CONTACT US

26. Please direct enquiries to:
ResearchFellowships@theRSE.org.uk.



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL ACADEMY
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SC000470