

# WHAT MAKES A GOOD RSE APPLICATION?

## SEVEN GUIDANCE POINTS FOR APPLICANTS



The below points of generic guidance are intended for the benefit of intending applicants to the Royal Society of Edinburgh's programme of research awards and funding. The RSE regrets that it is unable to offer individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants at this time.

### **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.

#### **1. BE CLEAR AS TO THE KEY QUESTIONS AND THE PURPOSE OF THE APPLICATION**

---

Good applications make clear what is being proposed, how it is to be done, why it is important that it is done, and done now. It is important that the purpose of the application is clear to the informed non-expert and to those with expertise in your proposal.

#### **2. BE CLEAR OVER THE COSTINGS SOUGHT AND JUSTIFY THOSE COSTINGS**

---

Be as precise as you can with the costs of travel, material and other equipment costs, and any related staffing costs.

#### **3. EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY THE TIMESCALE OF THE PROPOSAL**

---

Make sure you are neither over-ambitious nor likely to under-achieve. Indicate how and when you will monitor the progress of your research at appropriate moments in the lifetime of the proposal.

#### **4. JUSTIFY ANY TRAVEL DEEMED NECESSARY IN YOUR PROPOSAL**

---

The RSE expects to see clear justification for any stated travel costs and the need for, and costs of, face-to-face meetings (for example, conference attendance, meetings with research colleagues and participants).

#### **5. IDENTIFY THE EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF YOUR PROPOSED RESEARCH AND THE PATHWAY TO THOSE OUTCOMES**

---

The RSE recognises that it is not always possible to give precise outcomes when the research itself has not yet been undertaken and completed. Care should be taken, nevertheless, to identify what you intend as the outcomes, how you intend to realise them (the pathways to impact), and the audiences and beneficiaries.

#### **6. GIVE FULL DETAILS OF ANY SUPPORTING PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER OUTPUT RELEVANT TO YOUR PROPOSAL**

---

Make clear how prior work by you, or in collaboration with others, is relevant to the proposal.

#### **7. ADVISE YOUR REFEREES IN TIME AND GIVE THEM PROPER GUIDANCE**

---

Ensure that the referees for your proposal have enough time to write on your behalf and that they are aware of any specific requirements. Advise your referees that what is wanted is a clear and critical analysis of the merits of the research proposal, not a commentary on the standing of the applicant.

### **CONTACT US**

---

Please direct enquiries to: [Awards@theRSE.org.uk](mailto:Awards@theRSE.org.uk).

**RSE**

*The Royal Society  
of Edinburgh*

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