

WHAT MAKES A GOOD RSE APPLICATION?

GUIDANCE POINTS FOR APPLICANTS



These points of guidance are intended for the benefit of applicants to the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Research Awards Programme. The RSE regrets that it is unable to offer individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH (RSE)

As Scotland's National Academy, the 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 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. OUTLINE AND JUSTIFY COSTINGS

Be as precise as possible any justify costs of travel, materials, equipment costs, and related staffing costs.

3. OUTLINE AND JUSTIFY THE TIMESCALE

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. OUTLINE AND JUSTIFY TRAVEL

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 AND OUTLINE THE PATHWAY

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 SUPPORTING PUBLICATIONS/OUTPUTS RELEVANT TO YOUR PROPOSAL

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

7. CONTACT YOUR REFEREES IN GOOD TIME

If the award scheme you are applying for requires references, please ensure that your referees 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.



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SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SC000470