

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## RSE SCOTLAND-ASIA PARTNERSHIPS HIGHER EDUCATION (SAPHIRE) RESEARCH FUND



These are the terms and conditions for the SAPHIRE Research Fund. Applicants should read these carefully before completing and submitting their application.

### 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.

### RSE SAPHIRE RESEARCH FUND GRANTS

1. Launched in 2020, SAPHIRE is a grant scheme funded by the Scottish Government, aimed at enhancing and adding value to existing international research partnerships between Scottish universities, research institutes and partners in Asia. It is extended this year to include New Zealand.
2. The fund will help Scottish universities/ research institutes to:
  - a. enable the research to include a focus on environmental issues and climate change;
  - b. develop new or expand existing research partnerships (e.g. to other Scottish universities/consortia);
  - c. develop a practical application for the research and engagement with industry; and
  - d. widen the scope of the existing partnership.

### RESEARCH THEMES AND GEOGRAPHIES

3. Key themes:
  - a. Clean Energy and Environment (inc. animal welfare)
  - b. Digital, Physics and Space, Advanced Manufacturing

- c. Health
- d. Sustainable Cities and Urbanisation

4. Subthemes:
  - a. Food, soil and water, environmental change
  - b. Transport
  - c. Energy, resources
  - d. Advanced manufacturing
  - e. Health (Medicine and life sciences inc. public health)
  - f. Climate research, emissions research, or sustainable energy
  - g. Sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, water and food, circular economy, biobased industries
  - h. Sustainable Cities and Urbanisation (could include transport)
  - i. Space, ICT, Big Data, Cybersecurity
  - j. Robotics, autonomous systems, sensors/ internet of things and photonics
  - k. Marine science (ocean science e.g. climate related, or coastal protection etc)

### ELIGIBILITY

5. The SAPHIRE scheme is open to researchers, from all Scottish universities and research institutes, on open ended or continuing contracts, that wish to establish new or further develop existing peer reviewed research projects which:
  - a. Relate to one of the themes in points 3. and 4;
  - b. are already receiving peer reviewed funding (from UK or international funding bodies). For new projects the applicant needs to have experience/ track record of being awarded peer reviewed funding;
  - c. include a partner from either Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea, and Indonesia (projects can include additional partners from other countries).
  - d. Industry participation welcomed as part of consortia.

6. 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 the Research Fund but must be in contract for the duration of the award.
7. Successful applicants can start from Monday 1st January 2024. All award funds must be spent by 30th June 2024. In exceptional circumstances, awardees can apply for a time extension, however no money extensions can be granted after 30th June 2024.

## FUNDING

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8. The Scottish Government has made up to £80,000 available under the SAPHIRE scheme in 2023-24.
9. The scale of funding is £5,000–£10,000 per project. We will give priority to smaller projects, in order to benefit as many partnerships as possible.
10. Funding can be used to meet costs incurred by Scottish universities/research institutes in delivering research (e.g. materials, travel, facilities, IT, catering, staff time). Funding must be spent by 30th June 2024.
11. The funding can only be used to cover the activities of the applicant based in Scotland and cannot cover the activities of partners based overseas.

## SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

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12. Applications must be submitted by an individual employed by a Scottish university/research institute, with authorisation from an appropriate senior officer.
13. There is no limit to the number of proposals which can be submitted by each university or research institute, but in awarding funding, the RSE will aim to achieve a fair distribution across the sector.

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

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14. An institutional statement of support is required at

application stage. This should be from the research office, stating that they have read the application and agree that if an RSE award is granted and accepted by the applicant, the institution will be bound by the terms and conditions, will provide the necessary facilities, and will administer the award.

## ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS

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15. Proposals will be assessed against the scheme criteria by RSE subject-specific assessment committees. A SAPHIRE stakeholder panel comprising Scottish Government, Scottish Funding Council and the RSE reserves the right to decline proposals and to determine the level of funding offered in support of each proposal.

## AWARDS OF FUNDING

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16. The RSE will notify applicants about the panel's decisions by mid December 2023.
17. The RSE will issue a letter offering funding for each successful application. Awardees will be asked to respect the RSE news release embargo.

## MONITORING AND REPORTING

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18. Universities/research institutes will be required to submit a final report, accounting for the use of funding and summarising the impact achieved.
19. Once the awardee has completed their project, they will be required to send in an invoice, statement of expenditure and final report. These forms must be submitted together [we cannot accept forms sent in separately]. It is the responsibility of the awardee and the Finance Team at the awardee's Institution to organise to have these documents sent in. Only once received can their award payment be processed.

## CONTACT US

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



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