

Carnegie Research Incentive Grants Eligibility Criteria

Aims of the scheme

1. The purpose of the Research Incentive Grants (RIG) scheme is to make it possible for an Early Career Researcher to undertake, as the Principal Investigator, their own project or line of research, either of a stand-alone nature or in the form of an initial study that could be expected to lead to a more extensive project.
2. The planned research must be original and address a new idea/research question/hypothesis or extend existing knowledge, or develop new methodologies. There should be a clearly defined, discrete piece of research, which will have an identifiable outcome on completion of the Carnegie funded component of the research. The proposed project should be of benefit to the Principal Investigator's personal development and enable them to acquire new skills or extend existing ones, build their network, collaborate with other researchers, practitioners or industry partner as well as disseminate their research through publications, conferences, workshops, knowledge exchange or public engagement activities.
3. The RIG scheme is open to applications in any field of research and there is no restriction as to the type of research methodology applied. Proposed projects will vary considerably in their approach to conceptualisation, methodology and/or outputs, depending on the discipline. Where relevant, creative and professional practice may play a significant role in shaping the methods and/or outcomes of research. In all proposals, a clear intellectual, scientific or scholarly rationale is required for the choice of research methods, processes and outputs.
4. The RIG Scheme does not support projects that are mainly aimed at the formation and operation of networks or similar discussion groupings; directed at digitising, cataloguing or archiving existing data; centred on running conferences, workshops, seminars, summer schools or similar symposia, knowledge exchange projects; or aiming to confirm and disseminate previously acquired research results. The scheme is not intended to support exchanges between Scottish based researchers and RUK or international researchers where there is no planned joint research activity.

Applicant eligibility

5. The Principal Investigator (= Applicant) must be an Early Career Researcher, employed by a Scottish university (Aberdeen, Abertay, Dundee, Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier, Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian, Heriot-Watt, Highlands & Islands, Queen Margaret, Robert Gordon, St Andrews, Stirling, Strathclyde, West of Scotland), the Glasgow School of Art, or the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, on a contract consistent with their having the time and resources to undertake the proposed research.
6. For the purpose of the Trust, an Early Career Researcher is defined as a researcher who, at the time of applying (e.g. the closing date for applications) is either:
 - a. Within 7 years of successfully completing their PhD (measured from the date of submission), **OR**
 - b. Within 7 years of starting their independent research career (e.g. from gaining their first lectureship, personal research fellowship or any other academic post that includes time for research etc.)

Note: When determining eligibility, allowances are made for part-time staff, breaks such as parental leave, extended sick leave, secondments out with academia or periods of unemployment. If you are unsure of your eligibility, do contact the Trust to check.

7. Researchers on a fixed term contract are eligible to apply if their contract extends for at least two months beyond the end date of the proposed research project.

8. Researchers whose post is funded by another Principal Investigator's grant may apply but will be required to forward written confirmation from their PI/funder stating that the applicant can undertake the proposed project under their terms of employment. Such confirmation must be sent to the Carnegie Trust prior to the closing date for application. Failure to do so will result in the applicant's proposal not being progressed to peer review.

Collaborators

9. The above eligibility criteria only apply to the Principal Investigator (= Applicant) and a proposal may include Collaborators who are not Early Career Researchers. Collaborators may be academics, working in industry or in a sector relevant to the proposal. Collaborators can be based in countries other than Scotland.

Project length and eligible costs

10. Research Incentive Grants are tenable between 2 and 12 months. The maximum award that can be applied for is £15,000 and the minimum is £1,500.
11. Funds may be requested to support the direct costs of the research activities described in the proposal which will be incurred by the applicant and/or collaborators.
12. The applicant must demonstrate that the funds are required to enable the advancement of their research, and that without the support of the Trust, the planned research would not take place or would be significantly delayed.
13. Retrospective applications will not be considered. Funds awarded by the Trust may only be applied to the research activities described in the proposal undertaken after the Award has been formally notified to the applicant and accepted by the applicant and their university.
14. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to, payments for:
 - i. travel, accommodation, and subsistence
 - ii. research support staff, technical or administrative staff
 - iv. surveys, experiments, including compensation to participants such as gift vouchers
 - v. laboratory consumables
 - vi. equipment essential to the project
 - vii. costs associated with disseminating results arising from the project – through publication, Open Access charges, or presentation at a specialist conference, knowledge exchange or public engagement activities (up to a maximum of **10%** of the requested budget).
 - ix. childcare costs while the PI or Co-I is conducting research away from home and it is not possible to make alternative arrangements. The costs of normal regular childcare whilst at home are not eligible for support.
 - x. other research costs, as deemed appropriate by the Trust.

Note on inflation: applicants may include contingency in their budget to allow for cost variations due to inflation between the writing of the proposal and the actual start date of the research project, as long as the total costs remain within the £15,000 limit. No top-up funding is available to mitigate the impact of inflation.

15. The following costs are not eligible:
 - i. the applicant's (and collaborators', if applicable) own time or that of dependants, or buy-out of their time;
 - ii. stipends or scholarships for students;
 - iii. indirect overhead costs and bench/desk fees;
 - iv. insurance cover.
16. Submissions will not be accepted from applicants when a report on a previous grant is overdue. Applicants can only submit one application as a Principal Investigator in any round of funding.