

Research Initiation Awards – supporting information

Who is eligible?

This scheme is only open to people or organisations from outside the university.

It is aimed at supporting individual applicants, or community organisations, to build the relationships or help create the conditions that underpin engaged research.

What is the aim of this funding scheme?

These small awards are not for research activities as such but rather are given to support activities that generate the conditions for future engaged research.

The award could be used to develop a project idea, formulate a research question or identify issues for further work or subsequent research.

All kinds of creative and imaginative proposals for using the award are welcome. It could be, for example, hosting a workshop to bring together a group to start the development of research ideas, initiating a small artwork or other creative intervention that opens up engagement around cultures and environments of health, reviewing existing literature on particular topics or approaches to researching an issue, working with an academic or other researcher to develop a research idea, generating a small social media campaign to draw people to an issue or topic ... we are open to suggestions.

What do you mean by ‘engaged research’?

For us, engaged research means we are committed to ensuring that the Centre’s research is influenced, created and conducted with people whose lives are affected by the research and its outcomes, on the basis of mutual and reciprocal respect.

You can read more about the Centre’s vision for [engaged research](#) here.

How much can I apply for?

We will make awards in the region of £300 - £500.

How many awards can I receive?

This award is a one-off; you can only receive one award.

Can I re-apply?

If your application is not successful first time around, you are welcome to re-apply but we would expect to your proposal to be revised in response to any feedback the Centre offers.

What are you looking for in a proposal?

The main criterion is that the proposal shows the potential for future engaged research. When we review proposals, we will ask ourselves if the proposal shows:

- how the RIA funding will be used to build the relationships or help create the conditions for future engaged research
- the people, communities, groups or organisations that could be brought together
- co-creation of the question that will be researched or co-development of the way the research will be carried out
- that the project is feasible in the time and with the resources available
- the potential for a continuing relationship with the Centre

Not all these questions will be appropriate for every proposal but they show the kind of qualities we will look for.

Can I discuss the proposal with someone before I apply?

If you'd like to discuss your ideas before you apply, please contact us via wcceh-engage@exeter.ac.uk

What can the funding be used for?

The Centre's funding comes from the Wellcome Trust, which is a charitable trust, and is run through the University of Exeter's finance systems. This means there are some restrictions on what the money can be used for and how it can be paid.

These are examples - if you are not sure whether what you want to include in your budget is allowable, we strongly urge you to check beforehand. Email us via wcceh-engage@exeter.ac.uk

The funding can be used:

- for people's travel – standard-class train or bus tickets, taxi fares or mileage (but *not* as cash to buy petrol)
- for some personal expenses, such as overnight accommodation (these have to be in line with the University's rules)
- for room hire
- for refreshments
 - the Centre can book all these items on your behalf, so that you don't have to use your own money
- to offer a token of thanks to participants for giving their time to take part (this can be as vouchers, or payments into a bank account but cannot be given as cash). The Centre will organise the purchase of vouchers
- to pay for a professional research assistant's time (as long as this doesn't take them over full-time employment)
- to buy materials or consumables
- for access to research papers
- to pay for special printing, such as a large poster or flyer (but *not* for ordinary office-type printing or to buy stationery supplies)

For things such as consumables and special printing, it would generally be quicker and easier to use the University's preferred suppliers, but if you have a reason for using something else, please confirm this with wcceh-engage@exeter.ac.uk before you spend any of your own money.

If you are not sure whether what you want to include in your budget is allowable, we strongly urge you to check beforehand. Email us via wcceh-engage@exeter.ac.uk. Please include 'research initiation award query' in the subject line and allow plenty of time for us to respond.

How does the funding come to me?

We need to keep things simple!

You will claim your funding in one payment as a casual claimant (E-claims) through the University of Exeter. Details of how to register on E-Claims are [here](#). We will ask you to give us a breakdown of how you spent the money before we can approve the claim.

How long is the timeline for the activity?

We would like successful activity to be completed within three months, starting from the date the successful applicant is notified. If your circumstances mean that you are likely to need longer than this (for example you have to fit it around work, or need to go to an event on a specific date), we will be happy to discuss changes to the schedule.

Research ethics

It is important for the Centre's reputation that research conducted with the Centre's support, or in its name, should meet the highest standards of ethical research. If your proposed activity involves the participation of, and especially gathering information and data from, human subjects, it is very likely that you will need to obtain ethical clearance before you begin. The Centre will offer guidance and support for obtaining any necessary ethics approvals.

What do you need back from me?

We'd like to know what you did and what happened as a result of your project. Exactly what this will look like will depend on the activity, but it could be a blog post, photo-journal, short film, or whatever works for you. We aim to post this feedback on the Centre website, as a record of activity and – hopefully – a source of inspiration to others.

How do I apply?

Apply online [here](#)

You can complete the form at any time. The award will be decided on the last working day of the month by a group comprising the Centre's Senior Lead for Engaged Research, the Assistant Centre Manager and a Centre Research Fellow.