

Transformative Research Awards – supporting information

What is the purpose of this award?

This is a discretionary award to support leading-edge transformative research. We are open to novel, innovative and interesting proposals that are interdisciplinary, and where appropriate transdisciplinary, and that approach and pursue research in an engaged way.

Proposed research activities should **complement and extend the Centre's research themes** (Transforming Institutions, Transforming Engagement, Transforming Health across the life course and Transforming Relations). Proposals must be cross-disciplinary, and, where appropriate, generate and show routes for **collaborative, transdisciplinary engaged research partnerships** with communities (e.g. practitioners, publics, charities, voluntary organisations, community groups, etc.) and other relevant parties with a shared aim of contributing towards the development of healthy publics.

The proposed activity should:

- investigate **cultural and environmental dimensions of health and wellbeing**, enabling insight, debate and or new approaches to current health challenges
- develop **integrated approaches to health**, moving beyond established divisions and dichotomies (including health/ disease/ illness, communicable and non-communicable disease, global and local health, human and nonhuman/ environment, prevention and treatment etc.) to develop new kinds of evidence for health-related policy-making

We're also looking for work that excels in more than one of these criteria:

- demonstrates **innovation and novelty**, for example in the methods used or the communities conducting the research
- shows intellectual **excellence**
- forms or consolidates **engaged research partnerships**
- involves early career researchers
- develops international research links
- shows **good value for money**

What do you mean by 'engaged research'?

Building on the Centre's vision, our commitment to engaged research is to ensure that at all stages, the Centre's research is influenced, created, conducted and engaged in with and by people whose lives are affected by the research and its outcomes, on the basis of mutual and reciprocal respect. This begins with the articulation of the nature of the problem, the co-identification of issues to be researched and the co-creation of research questions, and leads on to collaborative research and the delivery of research outcomes that are beneficial for all partners.

Broadly, the Centre's principles for engaged research are that:

- The Centre's researchers seek to understand the nature of problems and the context for solutions by meaningfully engaging with people who have first-hand experience of the issues.
- Engagement is not an end in itself, an "add-on" or stand-alone activity. Engaged research is simply 'how we do research around here'; a means for doing the best possible research.
- As far as possible, no one – or no community – should be excluded (physically, financially or otherwise) from the possibility of co-creating, developing, participating in, or leading engaged research.

You can read more about the Centre's vision for [engaged research here](#) and download the current [engaged research implementation strategy](#) here.

What do you mean by 'transdisciplinary'?

Key to our [understanding of transdisciplinarity](#) is the will to go beyond and between boundaries between conventional disciplines; indeed, to dissolve boundaries to allow our research to focus on the construction of meaning in the context of real-world problems and issues. Thus, it is intimately related to the Centre's concept of engaged research.

Who can apply?

Research proposals can be generated by researchers working in the Centre, by members of the wider university or people/groups from outside the university. In the latter two cases, we would expect Centre members to be involved at some point; for example in discussing and developing the proposal or collaborating in the research.

How much can I apply for?

This is a discretionary award to support leading-edge, transformative research, so the budget will be commensurate with the length and level of research proposed. We anticipate that proposals will be between £10,000 and £20,000. However, one of the criteria on which the proposal will be judged is value for money, so it will be important to match budgets to proposed activity, outcomes and impacts.

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 College of Humanities' finance systems. This means there are some restrictions on what the money can be used for and how it can be paid.

We know that some aspects of the university's existing systems are not compatible with truly engaged and transformative research but we have to work with the existing systems. Where incompatibilities are identified, we will use this evidence make recommendations to the university (in collaboration with other parties working in an engaged way) to amend and adapt the financial systems.

The funding can be used:

- for staffing costs, such as short-term research or admin support
- for travel – standard-class aeroplane, train or bus tickets, taxi fares or mileage (but not as cash to buy petrol)
- for room hire and refreshments
- for some personal expenses, such as overnight accommodation (these have to be in line with the University's rules)
- to recompense non-university collaborators and participants for the time they give to take part
 - The College of Humanities currently allows such payments to be made via voucher (e.g. Amazon online vouchers, love2shop vouchers) or paid directly into participants' bank accounts
- to buy materials or consumables
- for access to research papers
- to pay for special printing by the university's printing services

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

Recompense for participants

The University of Exeter has issued guidance on research participation payments. This is based on HMRC guidelines, and the regulations surrounding the administration of finances for a publicly-funded institution:

Payments should cover no more than out of pocket expenses and compensation for the time spent so that the sums received do no more than reimburse the individuals' reasonable costs of participating in the trial or research, including the costs of travel and subsistence.^{1,2}

In essence, the guideline amounts are:

- Up to one hour: £25
- More than one hour: £50
- More than half a day: £100

HMRC has agreed that recompense at this level will not be viewed as income and will therefore will not affect income tax calculations for people employed outside the University or the income of people who are supported by benefits.

Expenses

Reasonable expenses, incurred in line with the University of Exeter's Expenses Policy,³ can be claimed by research participants. Participants may either book their own travel and reclaim this as expenses (subject to the usual UoE processing period) or can use the WCCEH travel form to request the Centre operations team to make bookings for them. All mileage claims must be submitted as expense claims.

Subsistence expense claims will be allowed, in line with the UoE policy. If you hold a workshop or meeting in the Centre, please follow the WCCEH refreshments policy.

Exceptions to support Equality and Diversity

The University is committed to opening research to participants from diverse backgrounds. This may require us to make exceptions to the standard rules. If this is the case, please discuss with the WCCEH Operations team before making arrangements with or on behalf of any participants.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be encouraged to maintain links with the WCCEH during the research. We also ask you to submit a report when the research is completed. The report should cover key indicators of activity and outcomes achieved, demonstrate that the activity has been good value for money and include any academic or other outputs or plans for future work or funding.

When planning for academic outputs, you should bear in mind that from 2020, all publications from Wellcome Trust-funded research must be published under open access terms. You will find more information on the [Wellcome Trust's website](#).

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. Please follow the usual procedures to apply for ethical approval from your home college. Funding will not be released until you have shown evidence that you have gained any approvals your college considers are needed.

How do I apply?

Apply online [here](#).

We anticipate making two or three awards annually. The closing date for application will be the last working day in June. The decision will be made during the summer, in anticipation of a start date for the research in the autumn. If you have good reasons for starting your activity at a different time, please mention this in your application.

¹ <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/employment/payandconditions/participationpaymentstoresearchvolunteers/>

² <http://www.ethicsguidebook.ac.uk/Compensation-rewards-or-incentives-89>

³ <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/finance/policies/expenses/>

Who makes the decision?

All the proposals will be reviewed by a special sub-group drawn from members of the Centre Directorate and management team.

Proposals will be judged against the criteria outlined below.

Transformative Research Awards – criteria

| Proposal lead applicant | "Gut feeling" score (0 - 10) |
|--|------------------------------|
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| Assessment criteria | Comments |
| 1. Fit with Centre research themes | |
| Does the proposal complement and/or extend at least one of the Centre's research themes? (Transforming Institutions, Transforming Engagement, Transforming Health across the Life Course, Transforming Relations) | |
| 2. Research excellence | |
| Does the research have the potential to be transformative (e.g. of theory, practice, policy, model ...)? Is the underpinning research novel and/or methodologically innovative? Are the aims and objectives/research questions/hypotheses clear? Is its excellence in terms of knowledge generation clearly identified, with suitable supporting evidence? Will it enable insight, debate and or new approaches to current health challenges? | |
| 3. Transdisciplinarity | |
| Is the research transdisciplinary ? Or, is the process of developing transdisciplinary working clear? Are the partners appropriate? | |
| 4. Engaged Research | |
| Are the processes for engaged research - or developing engaged research - clear? Is there evidence that relevant partners are or will be involved in shaping the research? | |
| 5. Research Processes and Methodologies (if appropriate) | |
| Are the research and research design processes clearly presented? Are the methods appropriate and/or innovative? Is the process of engaging partners sufficiently upstream to enable co-operative and collaborative engaged research? | |
| 6. Outputs / outcomes | |
| Is there evidence of planning for appropriate outputs or outcomes from the activity? Will the engaged research partners be involved in co-producing outputs? What are the plans to make any publications open access (Wellcome Trust requirement)? | |
| 7. Value | |
| Is the proposed activity feasible in terms of time? Does the proposed budget offer good value for money? Is the activity likely to be a good investment e.g. lead towards future sustainable research projects? | |