

**Aims of the Development Fund:**

Development Fund

Internal Call

June 2023

To support **HASS led** challenge-facing, curiosity driven innovative and interdisciplinary research projects, enabling investigators from any HASS discipline to build on collaborations and external partnerships to test new ideas, develop new methodologies and/or capture fresh data with the potential for applications to wider society.

Priority will be given to those project proposals with the ambition to develop research practice that reaches beyond the conventions of the base discipline, drawing on knowledge, methods and specialist skills across the spectrum of HASS-STEMM. All applications must present **a plausible pathway to achieving an external funding award**.

All Development Fund awards must be **spent by 31st July 2024** and cannot be transferred to external Co-Is or partners (although expenses can be claimed). No overheads can be requested.

**In summary:**

We WILL fund ‘proof of concept’ pilot projects, where there is a clear and convincing pathway to full-scale development.

We WILL fund activity associated with a project already funded IF it is to facilitate external follow-on funding or a second stage funded project.

We WON’T fund initial stage networking and collaboration building activity.

We WON’T provide ‘completion funding’ for a mature project which has unfinished or add-on activities.

**Please choose the most relevant Development Fund strand to meet your**

**research needs:**

1. **Development Fund: Policies Support:** (~£6,000 overall budget)

* Research must make a **measurable contribution** to evidence-based policy-making.
* Significant involvement of an external non-HEI- partner organisation **essential**.
* **Maximum amount you can request is £6,000.**

1. **Development Fund: ECR route:** (~£12,000 overall budget)

* ECR PI must be **within two years of their first permanent contract appointment at Exeter.**
* Must include a clear and convincing timeline for the submission of an external funding application, recognised and approved by their Department DoRI.
* **Maximum amount you can request is £6,000.**

1. **Development Fund: Interdisciplinary Focus:** (~£12,000 overall budget)

* Must include at least one Co-I from a different discipline to the PI.
* Involvement of an external non HEI- partner organisation **preferred.**
* **Maximum amount you can request is £6,000.**

1. **Development Fund: HASS – STEMM Collaboration:** (~£20,000 overall budget)

* Must include a Co-I from a STEMM discipline.
* **Maximum amount you can request is £10,000.**

**Eligible Directly Incurred (DI) activities for funding:**

* Travel and subsistence:
  + For UoE staff at 100%.
  + For UK based HEI collaborators at 50%.
  + For international based collaborators from ODI countries 100%.
  + For international collaborators from non - ODI countries 50%.
  + For UK third sector (Not HEI) collaborators at 100%.
  + For UK industry (non-third sector) collaborators at 50%.
* Delivering workshops, focus groups & interviews etc.
* Transcription/printing
* Access to data sources
* Community engagement
* Training
* Fieldwork & consumables
* Intern costs
* PDRA salary (DI) costs (no overheads included).

**Assessment Criteria:**

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. **Research Excellence:**

* How new is the research/how innovative are the concepts and methods being applied?
* Is it clear why the research is needed now and what measurable impacts it could make outside HEIs?
* Is there a plausible plan to submit to an external funding call within two years of the Development Fund award period?
* Is there evidence that external partners have been considered, involved or is there planned engagement with specific partners where potential value could be added?

1. **Interdisciplinarity:**

* What advantages does working with the chosen Co-Is bring to the research? e.g. are the collaborators appropriate to deliver the aims, objectives and chosen methodology?
* Are inter-disciplinary methods providing an innovative approach?

1. **Value for money:**

* Are the resources that have been asked for essential to test innovative ideas &/or build an evidence base?
* Are the resources that have been asked for likely to position the PI to be able to apply to an external funder within two years of the Development Fund award period?
* Has the research idea already received internal or external pump priming or seed corn funding?
* Is the Development Fund enabling a ‘step change’ to what could otherwise be delivered?

**Scoring System:**

Each application will have two reviewers and then will be discussed at a Panel meeting where funds will be awarded.

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| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Description** |
| 6 (Outstanding) | The proposal is OUTSTANDING in terms of its potential scientific merit. |
| 5 (Excellent) | The proposal is EXCELLENT in terms of its potential scientific merit. |
| 4 (Good) | The proposal is IMPORTANT as it has considerable potential merit. |
| 3 (Satisfactory) | The proposal has SIGNIFICAT potential scientific merit but is not of a consistently high quality. |
| 2 (Fair/Some Weakness) | The proposal will add to understanding and is WORTHY of support but is of lesser quality or urgency than more highly rated proposals. Such proposals are unlikely to have a significant influence on the development of research. |
| 1 (Poor) | The proposal is FLAWED in its scientific approach, or is repetitious of other work, or judged not worth pursuing; or, though it possibly has sound objectives, appears seriously defective in its methodology. |

**Timeline:**

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| **Submissions open:** | Monday 19th June 2023 |
| **Application deadline:** | Monday 9th October 2023 10 am |
| **Assessment and funding decisions:** | By Tuesday 31st October 2023 |
| **Projects to start from:** | Wednesday 1st November 2023 |
| **Latest project end date:** | Wednesday 31st July 2024 |

**Submitting Applications:**

All applications must be submitted using the Societies and Cultures Institute (SCI) Development Fund Application Forms for the appropriate strand you wish to apply for.

**Please email:** [**societiesandcultures@exeter.ac.uk**](mailto:societiesandcultures@exeter.ac.uk) **to request an application form** (so we can monitor interest).

**The deadline for applications is 10.00am on Monday 9th October 2023.** Please submit application by email to: [societiesandcultures@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:societiesandcultures@exeter.ac.uk)

**Further key points below**

**Please Note:**

* This does NOT need to go through your Research Services Cluster for costing – if you want to cost in PDRA salaries, please get in contact with: [societiesandcultures@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:societiesandcultures@exeter.ac.uk).
* If you are costing in PDRA salaries, **your HoD will need to approve covering the PDRAs related overheads.**
* You must ensure your **Head of Department gives approval for this application and any associated PI or Co-I time that is required** (and is non - funded).
* All funds will be held by the PI and manged in T1. The PI cannot transfer funds to external Co-Is or partners – although expenses can be claimed.
* All funds must be spent by 31st July 2024 and transacted through the T1 system.
* If you are successful in your application and need to log the project on Worktribe to gain Ethics approval, please alert your Research Services Cluster that the transfer of funds is being managed by the Societies and Cultures Institute and does not need involvement from Research Finance.

Any queries, please email: [societiesandcultures@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:societiesandcultures@exeter.ac.uk)