ScotCHEM ECR Funding Call Guidelines

Scope:

For the last few years ScotCHEM and the SFC have been supporting early career researcher (ECRs) through the PEER and PECRE funds. Due to recent events surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic the remit of these calls seems less appropriate as travel restrictions continue to be very unpredictable. Therefore, ScotCHEM is pleased to open a funding call for ECRs with as much flexibility as possible.

The funding call will be split between two types of applicants and awards, non-independent and independent ECRs (see eligibility criteria below).

Non-independent ECRs can apply for up to £500 while independent ECRs can apply for up to £4000. A minimum of 8 projects will be funded for non-independent researchers and a minimum of 4 projects will be funded for independent researchers.

The project proposal must highlight how it will have a positive impact on the lead applicant's career and must also fulfil at least one of the following aims:

- building a new collaboration (for non-independent ECRs a collaboration not currently existing with the supporting applicant).
- access to facilities for generation of proof of concept data or for enhancing impact of ongoing research.
- access to training under the scope of continuing professional development.
- small equipment, specialist glassware, consumables, software licence etc. that is/are integral to the delivery of proof of concept data or enhancing impact of ongoing research.

Eligibility:

- Non-independent ECR, describes those at Masters, PhD or Postdoctoral level not currently named as investigators on a grant (PI, Co-I or Researcher Co-I)
- Independent ECR, describes those researchers currently named on a research grant (PI, Co-I or Researcher Co-I) and within 5 years of becoming independent.
- Non-independent researcher will require the support of independent research staff (which can include those applying for the Independent ECR award). Only one application for this award should be submitted per research group (we therefore expect PIs to do internal selection within their groups for this award).
- The lead applicant must be employed or a registered student at a ScotCHEM University and have at least 3 months remaining on their studies or contract from February 1st 2021.

Review process and equality of opportunity:

Each project proposal will be reviewed by a panel of referees and feedback will be provided to all applicants in the spirit of providing valuable training for this type of activity. The level of feedback will be dependant on the volume of applications received and may be provided at a later stage.

Proposals will be reviewed blind, with the applicant(s) names and affiliation removed. Letters of support required for non-independent researchers will be omitted from the review process but will be required for the proposals to be admissible.

Funding information and conditions:

Projects will be funded from February 1st 2021 and run for no more than 6 months (end-date prior to July 31st 2021).

Applicants for the non-independent researchers grant require a letter of support from their PI which demonstrates their support for both the project and the applicant.

Application guidelines and submission:

Applications must fulfil the above criteria for scope and eligibility. In addition, applicants must adhere to the provided template and not exceed one page including supporting references. Letters of support, if required, also must be with one page of A4 and signed by both the supporting PI and applicant (electronic signatures are admissible).

Applications must be submitted no later than **5pm on December 18th 2020** to Scotchem@st-andrews.ac.uk

Notification of outcome:

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission by email from ScotCHEM@st-andrews.ac.uk by **January 22nd 2021**.

Payment of funds:

If successful, funds will be transferred to the lead institution. Funds must be either spent or claimed before **July 31st 2021**.

Reporting:

Successful applicants will be required to submit a report to ScotCHEM no later then **August 31st 2021**. The report should include a short paragraph on how the project impacted your career progression and should include any outcomes and impact generated by the project.

Key contact:

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