

White Rose Collaboration Fund: Information for Applicants 2016 – Autumn Call

Background

The White Rose University Consortium invites applications for projects to support and encourage emerging collaborations across the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York. The objective of the Fund is to support projects which have the potential to develop national and international linkages with the aim of these leading to larger more strategic initiatives.

The White Rose Executive Board regularly reviews the Funds progress and has recognised the value of these collaborations in supporting emerging activities by funding two calls per year. Applications are encouraged from staff in areas where there are no existing collaborations between the White Rose Universities. However this does not exclude existing areas of collaboration between the universities where support might lead to enhanced activity and significant funding opportunities. It is anticipated that 4 projects will be supported in this round. A summary of previously funded projects can be found on White Rose website (<http://www.whiterose.ac.uk/collaboration-fund/>).

Project support and reporting

- Each project should have a value between £8-11k
- Successful projects will be allocated a Collaboration Development Manager from the White Rose team who will work with the collaboration to help support securing further funding and assist in helping the project to achieve its goals.
- The collaboration will be given a project page on the White Rose website which can be used to highlight the activity being undertaken by the group. It is hoped that this will provide an external face to the project which will aid both in the dissemination of project achievements but also demonstrate successful collaboration for potential future funders.
- The project lead will be asked to provide progress reports at 6 and 12 months.
- The award is made to the lead university who then distributes to the others to cover their activities. A final expenditure report is submitted to White Rose at the close of the project.

Application criteria

The eligibility criteria are set out below:

- Applications are particularly encouraged from academics in an early stage of their career.
- Each application will include a minimum of two members of staff (post doctoral researchers are eligible) per institution, with a lead member of academic staff identified at each University. The partners need to identify an agreed lead academic/University as having overall responsibility for the project.
- Applications must include participants from all three Universities.
- All applications must be either in an area of demonstrable funding opportunity which applicants should evidence in their submission (e.g. by reference to the strategic priorities of research funders and any upcoming calls), or should be in an emerging area of research which applicants can demonstrate will be strategically important in the near future.

- Applicants will be required to demonstrate how working collaboratively across the three Universities will add significant value and why the proposed project is timely.
- The project proposals should include information on how the success of the project will be measured and what will be the short, medium and long term outputs.

Budget criteria

Guidance for allocating costs for the project set out below:

- Each application should describe the allocation of funds for their project with a total value of between £8-11K.
- Applicants are advised that they should hold a project inception event at the start of the project and may use up to £2K of the funds to cover the costs of this event (e.g. accommodation, facilitation, travel, external expert involvement etc).
- Collaboration Fund projects should use the funding within a 12 month period following award.
- Costs eligible for inclusion in the project are those directly incurred on project activities. No payment will be made for academic staff time or indirect costs.
- The following travel costs will be accepted as travel between the White Rose universities and should be used when describing these travel costs.

	Car (Return)	Train (Return)
Leeds - Sheffield	£40	£15
Leeds – York	£27	£20
Sheffield – York	£55	£25

Assessment Criteria

Your Application will be assessed against the following:

Primary:

The likely impact and outcomes of the project, including the potential to lead to a larger strategic initiative

Secondary:

The clarity and relevance of the project aims and objectives

Opportunity for staff in their early career

Demonstrable added value of working collaboratively.

Application process

Applicants should complete the application form, available from the White Rose [website](#) and submit electronically to Claire Pickerden by **1700 on Friday 18 November 2016**. It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of the outcome of this round of funding before Christmas.

If you have any enquiries regarding this scheme please contact Claire Pickerden at c.pickerden@whiterose.ac.uk.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you need all 3 universities for a bid?

Yes, it is essential that all three partner universities are in the bid.

Can additional partner organisations be part of a project? For example, could a 4th university be part of a project?

You may add additional partner organisations if this strengthens the project. One condition is that the project money is specifically for the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York, and so the additional partner organisation(s) should not receive money from the project.

Do you need 2 people from each university?

Yes, this is a minimum requirement. It is OK to include more than this.

How is the award made?

The award is made to the lead university who then distributes to the others to cover their activities. This is done between the universities. We at White Rose do not organise or manage these transfers, but do ask that a record is kept which can then be submitted with the final report.

In terms of outputs, what is meant by short, medium and long term?

Your intended outputs will be those used to measure the success of your project. In terms of timelines, we use the following definitions:

Short – during the project

Medium – towards the end of the project

Long – following completion

Can I pay for academic staff time?

Academic staff time is **not** an eligible cost. Technical or administrative expenditure may be considered but must be justified in terms of necessary costs for the implementation of the project.

What is an early career researcher?

We would usually class an early career researcher (ECR) as being:

- within eight years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training (this duration should exclude any period of career break, for example, family care or health reasons)

Or

- within six years of their first academic appointment (by 'first academic appointment', this is a paid contract of employment, either full-time or part-time, which lists research and/or teaching as the primary function).

Note: we advise people that the fund is designed to include opportunities for early career researchers, so while they don't necessarily have to lead the bid, there must be a clear case as to how early career researchers will benefit from the collaboration.

Any early career researcher with significant engagement in the project must have a contract of employment (fixed or permanent) for the entire project period ie a minimum 12 months from project start date.

Who makes the decision on what to fund?

The PVCs for R&I make the decision. Hence, bids should be written for an intelligent, but not subject specialist audience.

Can I spend the award on foreign travel?

The money can be spent on paying for overseas speakers to attend your event etc., but it cannot be spent for you or your project to travel aboard or for conference fees.