



*The Royal Society  
of Edinburgh*

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## **RSE RESEARCH RE-BOOT (COVID-19 IMPACT) RESEARCH GRANTS**

### **Terms and Conditions**

**These are the terms and conditions for the RSE Research Re-Boot (Covid-19 Impact) Research Grants. Applicants should read these carefully before completing and submitting their application.**

**Introduction:** The Royal Society of Edinburgh, with the support of the Scottish Funding Council, is pleased to invite applications for the RSE Research Re-Boot (Covid-19 Impact) Research Grants.

**The Purpose of this Call is:** to support academics whose research has been adversely impacted by Covid-19, and who are experiencing reduced capacity to carry out research and/or publish the results.

**The Objectives of the Call are:**

1. To provide financial support for core research time, consumables and other related costs as needed for academics facing disadvantage due to Covid-19.
2. To enable Covid—19 impacted academics to re-boot existing research or kick-start new work.
3. To embed successful applicants within a unique RSE-enabled peer-support network which will meet online c3 times during the duration of the Award period.

**Applicant eligibility 1:** while the Research Re-Boot (Covid-19) Research Grants are open to anyone whose academic productivity has been adversely impacted by Covid-19, we particularly encourage applicants from one or more of the following groups, whom evidence shows have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19: those who have taken on caring responsibilities due to Covid-19; disabled; LGBTQIA+; Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME); and/or Early Career Researchers (ECR). Awards will be open to all disciplines, all career stages and all HEIs in Scotland.

Definitions are as follows:

RSE Award category	Definition
Taken on new or extended caring responsibilities	New or extended caring responsibilities are those taken on due to statutory and third sector care services and support being temporarily unavailable under Covid-19. This extended care can take many forms, for children, teens and adults, and may include pre-school care, home-schooling, and other support, care and learning services that have had to be additionally provided in the home and/or other informal settings, leading to a downturn in academic productivity.
Disabled	The Equality Act defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term (e.g. over 12 months) adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. The Covid-19 pandemic has further shown how disability can include a diversity of long-term conditions, with the pandemic impacting people in multiple ways, including (as examples): interactions between medications and (skin) conditions; the impacts of shielding on either people themselves and/or others in their households; and the emotional toll of (avoiding) Covid-19 and its associated impact on mental wellbeing and productivity.
LGBTQIA+	The RSE adheres to the <a href="#">UK Government Equalities Office Guidelines of July 2018</a> definition: “Anyone who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, or who has another minority sexual orientation or gender identity, or who are intersex.”
Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)	For the purposes of this Call, BAME stands for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic. Within that definition, Minority Ethnic includes white minority ethnic groups.
Early Career Researcher	The RSE adheres to <a href="#">AHRC guidance</a> definition: “An individual who is within eight years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training, or an individual who is within six years of their first academic appointment”.

**Applicant eligibility 2:** The Grant is open to all disciplines and all career stages. It is open to applicants who are a full or part-time academic in any discipline and are tenured and/or salaried staff of a Higher Education Institution (HEI), Research Institute (RI) or Cultural Institution in Scotland. Applicants must be on open-ended, continuing or fixed term contracts *which extend beyond the end-date of the envisaged grant period*. The RSE grant cannot be used to extend an applicant’s contract.

**Project eligibility:**

1. The project applied for may be to 're-boot' existing research which has been in abeyance since March 2020, or a new research project.
2. The research may be in any academic discipline.
3. This grant funds research time, necessary expenses including childcare, and consumables; the awardee must justify the costs in their proposal.

**Funding eligibility:**

- The maximum sum available for any one grant is £25,000.
- Eligible costs comprise:
  - **Research time:** appropriate and recognised salary costs at an hourly rate, excluding on-costs.
  - **Research consumables:** examples include licenses for archival material or for software that are required for research to be carried out; printed brochures for dissemination events; tea, coffee, lunch for meetings etc.; postage, stationery and photocopying. **Throughout the duration of the funded project, Scottish and UK Government legislation and guidelines for Covid-19-safe contact must be observed.**
  - **Research-related travel:** reasonable expenses, using standard class fares excluding first and business class travel; where using private car, the rate of 40p per mile is allowed. **Throughout the duration of the funded project, Scottish and UK Government legislation and guidelines for Covid-19-safe travel and contact must be observed.**
  - **RSE Research Re-Boot (Covid-19 Impact) Research Grant Childcare Support** (as detailed below).
- Ineligible costs comprise:
  - **Equipment.**
  - **Salary on-costs**, that is, National Insurance, Pension contributions.

1. **The RSE Research Re-Boot (Covid-19 Impact) Research Grant Childcare Support Policy:** The RSE has agreed that applicants to this award can apply for eligible childcare costs for your dependents if it is provided by a:
  - a. registered childminder, nanny, playscheme, nursery or club;
  - b. childminder or nanny with a registered childminder agency or childcare agency;
  - c. registered school; this includes help paying for care that is outside school hours, for example after school clubs or breakfast clubs;
  - d. home care worker working for a registered home care agency.
2. **Childcare at school:** If your child has not started primary school, you can get help paying for childcare provided by a registered school. This includes nursery school fees.
3. **Childcare provided by relatives:** You can only get help pay for childcare provided by a relative (for example, a grandparent) if they are a registered childminder and care for your child outside your home.
4. Unlike some other schemes the RSE Research Re-Boot (Covid-19 Impact) Research Grant Childcare Support is **not means tested**.

5. **Ineligible costs:** your child’s compulsory education; private lessons during school time (for example, private music lessons during school hours); or the cost of any accreditation, insurance or Health & Safety obligations associated with gaining/maintaining registered childcare status.

**Application Deadlines:** The Call for applications opens on 3 February 2021 at 12 noon. The deadline for applications is 3 March 2021 at 12 noon. Successful applicants should expect to be informed on or before 31 March 2021. Grants are for a period of between 3-6 months. The start date of the project must be between 1 April 2021 and 1 June 2021.

**Selection Criteria:** Applications will be assessed by a review panel within the RSE with reference to: the quality of the proposal; its feasibility; value for money; the outputs proposed and the likely impact of the research; and the fit to the Call’s objectives.

### **Other Terms and Conditions**

**Reporting:** Awardees are required to submit a final report within three months of the end of the period of the grant, using the template provided by the RSE when the offer of an award is made. The report should:

- a. outline the progress relative to the research programme and outcomes indicated in the original application;
- b. set out the main research objectives of the Grant;
- c. provide a list of all outputs, e.g. publications produced (or in progress), conference presentations, collaborations etc.;
- d. include a non-confidential executive summary.

Should the report not be submitted by the due date, or if it is deemed incomplete or unsatisfactory, the recipient of the award will be invited either to submit it within two weeks or to revise the report in line with the assessors’ comments.

**Payment of grant:**

- a. It is your responsibility to fully discuss finance arrangements with your host institution to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities;
- b. The award is paid by the RSE to the host institution which will pay the awardee the research costs;
- c. Payment to the institution will be made in arrears on receipt of an invoice. The invoice should be submitted for payment at the end date of the award;
- d. Payment will be subject to satisfactory performance and adherence to the Terms & Conditions governing the award. A percentage of payment may be withheld from the institution if the award holder fails to meet the requirements of the award described in the Terms & Conditions, including the meeting and reporting requirements below. In accepting this award, the Host Institution is expected to have in place policies covering misconduct together with procedures that would be applied should the award holder fail to abide

by them. This award may be withdrawn should the awardee be found guilty of misconduct or unacceptable behaviour (both personal and work-related).

- e. The RSE can withdraw funding at any time if the terms and conditions or guidelines are not being completely adhered to and followed.

**Changes to the project:**

- a. The RSE must be consulted on, and informed of any significant changes to, the proposed project following approval of the application (e.g. change of institution). Failure to consult the RSE about proposed changes could result in funding being withdrawn.
- b. If the project has to be cancelled for any reason, the RSE will seek reimbursement of any funds held by the host institution.
- c. It will not be possible to carry forward unspent funds beyond the project end-date.

**Final financial reporting:**

- a. Within three months of the completion of the award, the host institution must submit a final statement of expenditure to the RSE, detailing the total amount received, actual spend and any outstanding balance to be returned to the RSE. The statement must be on headed paper and signed off by a senior member of the award finance team at the host institution.

**Publications and Other Outputs:** any publications or other outputs arising from the research funded by the award would be expected to acknowledge the RSE's support.

**Other conditions:**

- a. If the awardee is found to be guilty of research misconduct or personal misconduct the RSE may withdraw the award. Please see the RSE [website](#) for the definitions of good conduct and misconduct.
- b. If a material change in the applicant's circumstances should occur after submitting the application, details should be notified by email to the Research Awards Officer.
- c. By signing the application form and accepting the grant offer letter both the host institution and the applicant agree to be bound by the guidelines and terms and conditions upon acceptance of the award by the host Institution. Both the funder and the Royal Society of Edinburgh shall be entitled to enforce these terms and conditions.