



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) for the two Calls running from 2 February to 2 March 2021

RSE COP 26 International Climate Change Network Grant

and

RSE Research Re-Boot (Covid-19 Impact) Research Grants

This FAQs document will be updated on a regular basis with new information based on the questions asked by potential applicants. If you do not find the answer to your question below, please email as follows:

- **For RSE COP 26 International Climate Change Network Grant:**
InternationalAwards@theRSE.org.uk
- **For RSE Research Re-Boot (Covid-19 Impact) Research Grant:**
GrantsScholarships@theRSE.org.uk

FAQs:

1. Applicant Eligibility:

- a. **Retired academics:** while they cannot be applicants, or PI on successful applications, it would be acceptable to involve retired staff as research assistants or consultants paid at appropriate rates and provided their role is clearly central to the project proposed.
- b. **Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) – definition:** For the purposes of this Call, BAME stands for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic. Within that definition, Minority Ethnic includes white minority ethnic groups such as Irish Travellers, Romani people and any other White ethnic groups outside of British White.

2. How does the RSE define “existing international collaboration” within the framework of the COP26 international Climate Change Network Grant?

We are seeking evidence of applicants and co-applicants already working together with one another on an international basis, which could be either funded or unfunded. The emphasis is on networks that are active and pre-date this call, where progress has already been made in the areas of research being proposed by principal and co-investigators.

3. If my application is successful, can it be used to support my overseas partners?

The funds are to be used by Scottish-based researchers only.

4. Q: Which “events” costs are eligible?

Ineligible event costs are for funding the actual costs of putting on an event, such as venue hire, catering, audiovisual equipment, other related expenses to do with room preparation etc. **Eligible** event costs are for *attending* events, where attendance at an event allows for development of research, networking about the research, and/or dissemination of results arising from the research, including presentation at specialist conferences.

5. for Research Re-boot (Covid-19 impact) Research Grants: is it only the Principal Investigator’s (PI’s) research time that is eligible, or research assistant’s time too?

The intention of the research grant is to fund your time as Principal Investigator (PI). Therefore, the majority of the time allocated and budgeted for in your proposal must be for you as PI since that is the intention of the Call/Award, i.e. to support the research of the PI since this is the research that has been impacted by Covid19. This relates back to: (1) the purpose of the Call, that 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”; (2) the Eligibility Criterion being “My academic productivity has been adversely impacted by Covid-19”, that is, an individual applicant requiring support to carry out their research that has been impacted by Covid19; and (3) requiring the applicant to indicate on the Application Form that their own research has been impacted by Covid19 (Qu4). However, if (as examples) a Research Assistant or lab technician are effectively providing “services” to your project, and you can justify that these services are required for the research to be delivered effectively, then you would need to build in those additional service/time costs using Qu.19 to explain the costs with category “Other” to itemise costs. Just to re-emphasise, however, that the majority of the research support funding should be going to the PI.

6. Pension and NI are excluded as eligible costs

Employer on-costs are the values paid by the employer on top of an individual's gross pay; these include Pension and National Insurance (NI) and are not eligible for funding under this award.

7. For Research Re-boot (Covid-19 impact) Research Grants: Can Research Assistants (RAs) apply for the RSE Reboot Scheme?

The intention of the research grant is to fund the research time of a Principal Investigator (PI). This relates back to: (1) the purpose of the Call, that 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”; (2) the Eligibility Criterion being “My academic productivity has been adversely impacted by Covid-19”, that is, an individual applicant requiring support to carry out their research that has been impacted by Covid19; and (3) requiring the applicant to indicate on the Application Form that their own research has been impacted by Covid19 (Qu4). **If** the RA falls into the category of being a Principal Investigator whose academic productivity has been adversely impacted by Covid-19, **then** they will be eligible to apply for this Grant. **In addition**, such an RA as PI would **also** need to satisfy the **Applicant Eligibility2 criterion**, that is:

- **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.

8. Can the RSE Research Re-Boot (Covid-19 Impact) Research Grants be used to buy the applicant out of teaching time?

With respect to your institution buying out your teaching time to allow you to carry out research, this would need to be a separate commitment by your institution and would need to be indicated in the Institutional Letter of Support (Section 20 of the Application Form), were your research application to be successful. Therefore, *your* application must focus on the research that you wish to carry out and must seek funding only for that research. Part of your application would also then be Section 20 where your institution would have to agree that, *if* you were to win the research funding, they would then make the necessary arrangements to allow you to carry out that research, which might include buying out your teaching time.