Research Application Support Programme (RasP)

The RHUL Research Application Support Programme (RasP) is designed to support colleagues with excellent ideas for research projects to develop them into high quality research funding bids, whilst providing the opportunity to build up external networks and to develop essential research funding skills.

Who can apply?
This programme is intended for RHUL academic staff across the College who have yet to establish a strong track record for externally funded projects but show some evidence of securing research funding, leading a team and working with external partners. Postdoctoral researchers and academic staff who have a strong track record of research funding are not eligible. Also, applicants whose proposal is well advanced or has been already submitted to a funder (but unsuccessful) are not eligible.

RasP support is for PIs only and proposals are expected to be multidisciplinary and collaborative.

What do we offer?
We will support the development of up to 10 promising research funding bids with up to £5k each. Successful applicants can use their grant flexibly to both develop their bid proposal and build / extend their research networks. Successful PIs will also participate in a research funding skills development programme (see below for further details).

Applicants with credible project ideas not yet ready to be developed as a research funding application in this round will be invited to join a later cohort if funds are still available.

Conditions and commitments
Successful applicants will commit to the aims and activities that constitute the programme such as attending a grant writing workshop, one-to-one coaching sessions (expert support will be available) and any other activities as stated in this guidance and as required by the applicant. Similarly, successful applicants will agree to deliver the expected outcomes of the programme.

Supported applications should demonstrate that they can be developed into high quality funding bids.

Timetable October 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RHUL call opens</td>
<td>01 Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application deadline</td>
<td>10 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection meeting</td>
<td>w/c 24 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant writing workshop</td>
<td>23 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal development</td>
<td>Nov 2022- July 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal submitted / other Output</td>
<td>July 2023*</td>
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* or as agreed with the applicant.
*the award has to be spent by this date.

Applicants should adhere to the deadlines and guidelines set out in this document. Proposals that are received out of these dates or that exceed the number of words/pages allowed will not be considered.
If you have any further questions, please contact marcela.acunarivera@rhul.ac.uk

We strongly recommend that you discuss your application with your Head of Department.
Application – deadline is Monday 10 October 2022
(Your overall application should not exceed 2 sides of A4 maximum)

- Title and lead applicant (PI)
- Please state whether your proposal aligns to one or more Catalyst and/or strategic research priorities (up to 50 words). Go to the catalysts website.
- Explain why you think you are eligible and how the grant will help you develop both a research funding proposal and your skills (up to 150 words).
- Explain how you will use the £5k award if successful. Please provide indicative costs and justification of resources (150 words).
- Please submit a one side A-4 page outlining your research idea and background information (use font size 11 point, Arial font, with margins of at least 2cms):
  - Outline project suitable for a UKRI Standard Grant or Identified Call to relevant Research Council, or to an alternative external funding source.
  - Please indicate potential funder(s) and call if available. You could apply to responsive mode / standard grant if no suitable call is open. Indicative size of award: AHSS = over £500k and Sciences = over £750k.
  - List of other RHUL academics in bid-team (as appropriate).
  - Suggestions for external non HEI partners (industry, policy, cultural organisation etc.) and any HEI collaborators.

The £5k award can be used flexibly but a clear justification is required. Examples of allowed costs are:
- Pilot studies, Partnership development and events e.g. networking, workshops, catering, sandpits.
- Additional one to one bid writing support from a successful external.
- RA support¹ and participants’ payment (e.g. vouchers).
- Materials e.g. software, access to a database, small equipment² and components
- Travel and subsistence for potential project partners (or workshop with partners).

There are some costs that are not allowed:
- Co-Is/partners (RHUL or external) cannot receive any funding from this grant.
- Conference attendance, books, publication and/or open access costs.

¹ To give you an indication, the salary costs (incl. NI, SA, etc.) for a mid-range PDRA Grade 7-35 for 12 months would be £59K. We would not expect all the funding to be used for RA support unless there is a clear justification given.
² Equipment and/or components can be included but the cost should not exceed 40% of the grant.

Selection and review Process
All applications will be assessed by a review panel and up to 10 applications will be selected. Proposals will be assessed in relation to the criteria below:

PI track record based on their career stage including track record for externally funded projects; some evidence of leading a team and working with external partners; other relevant information.

Quality and feasibility of the planned proposal
- The applicant has a clear research idea and provided evidence /background information to support the relevance and importance of a bid on this topic.
- Has a potential funder(s) and funding call been identified?
• Are the plans to develop the funding proposal feasible within the timeframe provided, including partnership / network development; own development plan; planned outcome.
• Are the requested resources for the £5k award well justified?

Results will be announced shortly after the selection meeting and all applicants will receive written feedback from the panel.

Skills development and support available

As part of the RASP support, selected applicants will receive a £5k award as well as full access to training events and one-to-one support. Academics are expected to fully commit to the activities of the programme.

Grant writing workshop (open to all applicants to this round)
A half-day event aimed at developing research funding and grant writing skills will be organised. This session will be delivered by an external expert (date tbc; also refer to page 1).

Developing Partnerships- Policy and Industry Stakeholders (open to all applicants to this round)
This half-day session will be aimed at learning how to engage with your key stakeholders. The day will include expert talks from key RHUL partners and successful case studies (date tbc). Both events will be on campus.

Other support includes: Mentoring (optional); One-to-one coaching; Research & Innovation support

Submission / Output
A collaborative Research Grant proposal to UKRI or equivalent funder should be submitted by the deadline stated in this document (page 1) or an agreed later date if appropriate.

Expected Outcomes
• High quality bid – ranked at least in top quartile of funder panel.
• Improved bid writing skills.
• Improved knowledge of the funding environment.
• Improved understanding of the College research funding process.
• Increased and / or strengthened external partnerships.
• Enhanced understanding of the research support process.
• Networking with RHUL and external colleagues involved with the training/support package.

If you have any further questions please contact marcela.acunarivera@rhul.ac.uk