

Royal Society Childcare Travel Policy (revised)

The Society can provide financial support to research fellows for any additional care costs that arise when attending conferences, collaborative research visits or invited talks directly related to their fellowship or award.

1.1 Eligibility

- University Research Fellows, Dorothy Hodgkin Fellows, Royal Society Newton International Fellows and privately-funded International Fellows who are travelling to collaborative visits, conferences/scientific meetings or are an invited speaker at a conference or meeting, which are directly associated with their Fellowship.
- UK based partners of a RS-DFID Africa Capacity Building Initiative award, who are travelling on collaborative visits which are directly associated with their award.
- Requests must be for costs associated with additional care outside of the fellow's normal routine and where alternative care arrangements cannot be made for the travel period.

1.2 Support provided can include:

- Contribution towards travel expenses and accommodation (including flights) for the child/children under the age of 16, and if necessary, for one carer.
- Up to £500 towards additional child care costs incurred for the duration of travel including nursery, child minder and babysitting fees.
- Up to £500 for additional wrap around care fees incurred due to travel for school-age children (e.g. additional child care before and/or after normal school hours).

Each request is limited to a maximum cost of £2,000. Requests in excess of £2,000 may be considered if the research fellow/award holder is a nursing mother.

1.3 Process and case for support

- Requests are limited to:
 - i) 3 requests within the first five years of a URF or DHF tenure;
 - ii) 1 request within the renewal period of a URF;
 - iii) 2 requests within a Newton International Fellowship or privately-funded International Fellowship tenure; and
 - iv) 2 requests within the five-year tenure of a RS-DFID Africa Capacity Building Initiative award.
- Requests should be made in advance of incurring any additional caring costs and the case for support must include:
 - Purpose of travel and relevance to fellowship/award;
 - Justification for additional support for care and why it cannot be covered by alternative arrangements, in particular if requesting costs for a spouse/partner to accompany them.
- If the research fellow/award holder is a nursing mother, an exception will be made and they will not be required to provide any additional justification for their request and they can request for example the flight costs for the baby and their partner/carers to accompany them.

Each request will be reviewed and a decision will be made regarding whether a contribution to the requested costs or the full requested amount will be made.