

Royal Society Research Grants 2024 Round 2

The following scheme notes set out the eligibility and application process of the Research Grants scheme. Please read through the entire document before proceeding with an application.

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1 Overview

Changes to the round

This scheme provides 'seed corn' funding for up to 12 months for independent researchers. The maximum amount offered through the rounds opening in January and August 2024 is the standard £20,000 to enable researchers to purchase consumables and essential pieces of equipment. Any changes to future rounds will be based on the availability of funding.

1.1 Background

This scheme provides 'seed corn' funding of up to £20,000 to support independent researchers who are at an early stage in their career enabling them to build the foundations of their research activities. The Research Grants scheme is for scientists in the UK who are within the first five years of their permanent academic position (including independent fellowships) or returning from a career break and want to purchase specialised equipment and consumables to enable researchers to build their research programme.

1.2 Aims of the Scheme

The objectives of the scheme are to:

- Enable newly independent researchers to gather preliminary data, develop their research ideas and strengthen applications for further funding
- Support researchers returning after a career break to enable them to develop new ideas and research questions
- Increase the availability of equipment and consumables for researchers at the beginning of their career and those returning from career breaks

1.3 Subjects Covered

Research must be within the Royal Society's remit of natural sciences, which includes but is not limited to biological research, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and physics. For a full list, please see [our guidance page](#).

Submissions from clinically qualified scientists may be considered. The Society does not support clinical or interventional research on humans at the individual or group level, social sciences or humanities, unless otherwise stated.

If there is any doubt about the eligibility of a project, contact the Grants team via researchgrants@royalsociety.org.

1.4 Duration and Start of Award

Awards are expected to commence by October 2024.

Awards are for a period of up to 12 months. Award holders will be able to formally request a no cost extension of up to 12 months at any point within the duration of the grant and at least **one month prior** to the award end date.

2 Timetable

Opening date	Wednesday 31 January 2024
Closing Date	Wednesday 27 March 2024, 15:00 (UK Time)
Expected results	September 2024

3 Finance

3.1 Total Funding Available

Up to £20,000 (including VAT) is available for the purchase of specialised equipment directly related to the proposal, essential consumable materials, and travel and subsistence for conferences and essential field research.

3.2 Eligible Costs

Justification must be provided for:

- Specialised equipment, which is not available to the applicant from their host institution, or other sources. This can include cost of delivery, installation, spares and software procurement and the cost of maintenance and relocation charges where specific to the equipment (within the duration of the award period), the equipment must be used primarily by the named award holder.

In cases where equipment is expected to be used more widely in the institution, the application should be requesting for only part of the total cost. Even if the overall cost is covered partially by the award, the grant holder should have first priority to use the equipment during the award period for the discrete project. If this is the case, then the applicant must provide a reassurance letter confirming priority usage from his/her Head of Department and attach it as a PDF in the 'supporting documents' under the 'Financial Details' tab. Applicants should clarify the position on VAT on purchases before seeking a grant.

- Consumables: Essential consumable materials, purchase cost of specialist publications not otherwise available (these must be named), fieldwork fees/subjects/informants, animal and plant licence fees for the applicant only, software licences and dedicated computing recurrent cost, and the purchase cost of animals (although not housing and maintenance). Please note all applications involving the use of primates, cats, dogs and Equidae animals will be sent to the NC3Rs for further review. By submitting an application to the Society, an applicant accepts that the Society has the right to share your application with the NC3RS, without the need to obtain any further consent.
- Travel and subsistence costs including field work, conference attendance and applicable subsistence costs, meeting workshops and training costs for the applicant. Travel to conference and essential field work costs for other individuals are limited to one individual, besides the applicant.
- Summer students: contribution to support a summer student may be requested.

Costs **NOT** allowed:

- Grant holders are not permitted to charge access costs for equipment purchased under this scheme.
- Animal husbandry costs including maintenance and breeding costs.
- Facility access charges to use equipment or instruments both within and outside the applicant's institution.
- Both internal and external service costs and fees; for example, gene sequencing, carbon dating, MRI scanning, mass spectrometry analysis.
- Any staff costs, whether personal payments (including salary or subsistence allowance [except for conference attendance and essential field work as outlined in the above section] to the applicant

- or to other individuals including overseas collaborators, postgraduate, doctoral students and for other members of staff.
- Sample transport costs.
- Computer costs, unless it is a dedicated cost that is essential to the proposal and the importance has been clearly justified within the application.
- Renovation and refurbishment costs.
- Membership costs to any association(s)/organisation(s).
- Publishing costs
- General journal subscription costs.
- The use of financial, personnel and other central or departmental services, library services, administrative, general running or overhead and other unspecified costs, including, office expenses, photocopying, stationery, postage & courier services, telephone, faxes, recruitment, legal, communication etc.
- General premises costs, access costs or accommodation costs (except for necessary field work).
- Patents or other related costs.

Any item(s) of expenditure without a description and full justification would be considered inadmissible and would be automatically deducted from the final award amount, if your application is successful.

4 Eligibility

4.1 Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Hold a PhD or equivalent qualification.
- Be based at an eligible UK organisation and a UK resident at the time of application.
- Be early career researchers with no more than 5 years of an independent research career holding:
 - Either a permanent or fixed-term academic research post, an independent research fellowship (please note the duration of the fellowship must be of at least 5 years) or tenure track position. Note that fixed term positions must cover the duration of the award.
- Be fully independent researchers (i.e. principal investigator) with access to their own lab space and/or the ability to recruit and to be registered as the primary supervisor of PhD students and research assistants.
- Independent researcher (i.e., principal investigator) with access to their own lab space and/or the ability to recruit and to be registered as the primary supervisor of PhD students and research assistants, who has recently returned to academia (within the last 12 months at time of application), following an interruption of their academic research.

The scheme is **not for**

- post-doctoral researchers or researchers whose salaries are paid by a grant for which someone else is the principal investigator. These individuals are NOT eligible to apply.**
- supplementing ongoing research covered by a Research Council grant or other large awards,
- well-established scientists moving into a new field of research or continuing an existing line of research.
- meeting a perceived shortfall in funding where another body has defined the cost of a project as being, for example, 90% of that requested by the applicant.
- making up perceived shortfalls in support for postgraduate students, research assistants or others working with/for the applicant.

Additional Guidance

- Applicants must take a leading role in the project.
- Applications can be considered from scientists on sabbatical leave if they remain in a UK university or other research institute in the UK. This would not have to be the applicant's own

university/institute. Applications cannot be considered from scientists on sabbatical leave working in industry or overseas.

- All applicants who have previously held a Royal Society Research Grant award are eligible to apply again 24 months after the submission of the final scientific report and final financial statement. Applicants must also meet the eligibility criteria of the current round.
- All applicants are only permitted to submit one application for each round.

The Society appreciates that there are diverse research career paths and understands the challenges of managing a research career alongside other personal commitments. When reviewing applicants' eligibility and research experience, the Society will consider time spent outside the research environment (e.g. time away due to personal reasons such as maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoptive leave or other caring responsibilities; ill-health or working in a non-research environment/role, such as industry).

Furthermore, where applicants have taken formal periods of maternity, paternity, shared parental, and adoptive leave as the primary carer (either the mother, father, partner or adopter), or extended sick leave, the Society will allow an additional amount of time on top of each period of leave when assessing eligibility. Each case will be considered individually as per guidelines below:

- **Maternity, paternity, shared parental leave and adoptive leave:** In addition to the actual time taken off work, an additional amount of time equivalent to 100% of the duration of leave taken will be added on top, up to a maximum of 6 months.

Example 1: If an applicant took 4 months leave, an additional 4 months would be added, and a total of 8 months would be deducted.

Example 2: If an applicant took 18 months leave, an additional 6 months would be added (maximum additional time allowed) and a total of 24 months would be deducted.

- **Extended sick leave (defined as more than four weeks off work, as per the UK Government's definition):** In addition to the actual time taken off work, an additional amount of time equivalent to 100% of the duration of leave taken will be added on top, up to a maximum of 6 months. As with the parental leave, cases will be considered individually, and the host institution may need to confirm that the applicant qualifies for this provision. Supporting documents may be requested at the Society's discretion. The Society reserves the right to consider individual requests outside of the outlined policy in exceptional circumstances.

The Royal Society recognises that diversity is essential for delivering excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The Society wants to encourage applications from the widest range of backgrounds, perspectives and experiences to maximise innovation and creativity in science for the benefit of humanity. We regularly review and revise policies and processes to embed EDI principles in all aspects of the grant making process and ensure all talented applicants have an equitable chance to succeed as per assessment criteria.

See below for details of adjustments we can provide for disabled applicants.

Support to disabled applicants: The Royal Society welcomes applications from disabled scientists and provides adjustments to ensure that they can participate fully in the selection process. If you need an adjustment when accessing the application form, attending interviews if applicable, or for any other part of the application process, please contact the Grants team on researchgrants@royalsociety.org or call +44 20 7451 2666. Adjustments can include but not limited to:

- Extension of the deadline;
- Additional support to complete the application form;

The Grants team will be pleased to answer questions about eligibility and/or points covered in this section.

4.2 Host Organisation Eligibility

Awards must be held in a UK University or not-for-profit research organisation (including Research Council Institutes).

5 Assessment Criteria and Review Process

5.1 Assessment Criteria

The assessment criteria are:

- the quality/capability of the applicant
- the degree of independence and involvement of the applicant in the pursuit of the new research
- the quality and novelty of the new research (e.g. initiating or developing specific investigations, entering a promising new or modified field of research, or taking advantage of developments in apparatus offering improved techniques in a new line of research)
- the feasibility of the proposed research plan
- the potential application(s) of the proposed research work
- the possibility of obtaining further funding resulting from the proposed research
- the potential benefits to the applicant(s) and to UK science in general

5.2 Review Process

Applications will be assessed by the Royal Society Research Grants Committees. The Panel Chairs agree on a list of applications that should be funded and also a reserve list.

The subject tags you select on your application play a vital role in matching your application with appropriate reviewers, so it is extremely important to select only the most relevant subject tags on your application.

Please be assured that the Royal Society specifically requests anyone involved in reviewing applications to consider them in confidence. More information on the Review Process can be found in Appendix 1.

All applicants will be notified of outcomes via email.

6 Participants

Please note that a Head of Department statement and a referee statement are **not** required for an application to this scheme.

6.1 How to invite participants to contribute to an application

To invite research office support participants to the application please follow the steps below.

Step 1 | Ensure all participants have a Flexi-Grant account

- All participants must set up a Flexi-Grant account in order to contribute to an application.
- If a participant already has a Flexi-Grant account they should use that, if not then a new account should be set up.

Step 2 | Invite participants to contribute to an application

- Applicants should invite research office support participants to review the application through the 'participants' tab.
- The participants tab can be found on the application form summary page and contains details of each participant required to contribute to the application
- Applicants should select 'invite' and enter the e-mail address of the person they wish to invite.

Step 3 | Monitor participants responses

- The recipient will need to accept your invitation before they can participate in the application.
- You can monitor the progress of your participants' activity through this section of the application form and issue reminders as required.
- Once the participant has accepted your invitation, their status will be displayed as 'active'.
- Once participants have completed all their sections of the application form they should select '**Save & Submit**' on the application form page or select '**Submit your contribution**' on the summary page.
- Upon completion of their section of the application form their status will be displayed as 'complete'.

Please note that you will not be able to submit your application form until the status of all participants' shows 'complete'.

Please note that once an applicant submits an application on Flexi-Grant®, it is then directed to the designated Approver for the employing organisation at which the applicant has applied to host an award (see Application Approvals in the 'Application Guidance Notes' Section). It is recommended that applicants fulfil their requirements **at least 5 working days** before the submission deadline (Wednesday 27th March 2024) to ensure there is sufficient time for organisational approval. The Host Organisation approver must approve the completed application by the submission deadline.

It is the applicant's responsibility to liaise with the Host Organisation's Approver to ensure that the required tasks are completed by the deadline. Please contact the Grants team before the deadline if there is any issue. Alternatively, the Host Organisation's Approver can contact us directly. The Royal Society will not be held responsible for emails that are not received due to address errors or spam filters and no provision is made for non-receipt of emails sent by the Royal Society.

Re-opening the Application form to Participants

On the occasion that an invited participant accidentally submits their section of the application form prematurely, the Lead Applicant has the ability to re-open the application form for the participant. To do this, the Lead Applicant should return to the Participant tab on the application form summary page. You will find a 're-open' button alongside the name of any participant who has completed their section of the form. Once you click this button, the form is reactivated and available for participants to amend.

Research Support Role

The Research Support role displayed under the participants tab is an optional role, which allows you to invite an individual from the relevant Host Organisation research support team to review and amend the application prior to submission. The primary purpose is to ensure that the requested finances have been recorded correctly for this specific grant programme. Applications cannot be submitted until all participant sections are marked as complete so it is important that applicants ensure that their organisation's research support team complete this section.

As the Research Support Role is optional, applicants can revoke this participant request in order to submit their application if the section has not been completed. Please navigate to the participants tab and revoke the request for Research Support Role.

Additional system guidance can be found in the 'Systems Guidance Notes' Section.

7 Contact information

Enquires about this scheme can be made using the contact details below. Before contacting us, please check whether your question is answered by these scheme notes. If not, please email the Grants team via [Insert email address](#) or call +44 20 7451 2666 (lines open Monday to Thursday, 10am to 4pm).

Please quote your application reference number in all correspondence with the Grants team.

8 Use of Data

All applicant data, including personal data, is governed by the [Royal Society's Privacy Policy](#). This Policy sets out how and why the Royal Society uses your personal data, and how we protect your privacy when doing so. Please refer to the section entitled "Grant Applicants and Holders" for details of how the Privacy Policy determines the use of applicant data.

In addition to the usage set out in the Royal Society's privacy policy, please note that information regarding your application for the Research Grants scheme may be shared with the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) for data monitoring and scheme evaluation purposes. You may also be contacted by selected third parties such as independent evaluators, consultancy groups, and career development organisations. If successful, the Royal Society will contact you regarding the administration of your award throughout the course of your funding and after its completion. You may also be contacted by the Royal Society, DSIT, or an agent acting on their behalf, for reporting and evaluation purposes throughout the course of your funding and after its completion.

9 Use of generative AI

Generative AI tools offer potential benefits for research but also challenges and risks. The Royal Society has joined with other funders to set our expectations around the use of generative AI tools in funding applications. [Funders joint statement: use of generative AI tools in funding applications and assessment](#).

When developing funding proposals, researchers must ensure generative AI tools are used responsibly and in accordance with relevant legal and ethical standards where these exist or as they develop. Funding proposals for Royal Society grants should adhere to our existing commitments to policies on [Research Integrity and Trusted Research](#). Applicants are responsible for ensuring the originality, validity, reliability and integrity of any outputs created or modified by generative AI tools. Where generative AI tools are used in funding proposals their use should be acknowledged in the application by naming the AI source and specifying how the content was generated (for example by listing the prompt used).

10 System Guidance Notes

Please read these guidance notes carefully as you complete the application form.

10.1 [Using Flexi-Grant®](#)

Applications can only be submitted online using the Royal Society's Grants management system (Flexi-Grant®) via <https://grants.royalsociety.org>. Further information about the Grants management system can be

found via <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/flexi-grant/>. If you have not previously used Flexi-Grant®, please follow the registration process from the Flexi-Grant®, homepage. ***Paper-based applications will not be accepted.***

Before completing the online form, all applicants should check that they comply with the eligibility requirements and ensure all necessary information is presented in the application. These requirements are strictly adhered to and applications without all the necessary information, or evidence to show the assessment criteria are met, will be rejected.

All applications must be approved by the Host Organisation and the applicant's departmental support must be completed before you can submit via Flexi-Grant®. Late applications will not be accepted.

For instructions on inviting participants to contribute to an application (such as referees or departmental support), please see the 'References and participants' section.

Further guidance and support can be found through the [applicant and approver knowledge base](#).

10.2 ORCID Identifier

All applicants should submit an ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) identifier if they have one before their application is submitted. ORCID maintains a registry of unique researcher identifiers and a transparent method of linking research funding, research publications, research data and any other research outputs to these unique identifiers. This is a mandatory requirement at the application submission stage only. You can register for an ORCID identifier via <https://orcid.org/register>.

10.3 Completing the application form

The application can be completed by using the navigation tabs on the application summary page, with each page categorised as follows:

Summary

Eligibility Criteria

Applicant Personal Details

Applicant Career Summary

Research Proposal

Data Management and Data Sharing

Use of Animal in Research

Use of Human Patients or Tissue

Financial Details

Applicant Declaration

A full list of question fields to be completed as part of the application can be found in the Question Guidance in the 'Application Guidance Notes' Section.

11 Application Guidance Notes

11.1 Application Approvals

It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that approval of the application by the Host Organisation is completed before the closing date.

The person responsible for approving your application will be the delegated authority at the Host Organisation where you are applying to hold your award. This may be someone within the research office, Faculty administration, Vice-Chancellor, or other administrative or management role.

The approver must be someone with the authority to confirm that the potential award can be hosted within their organisation, confirm that there is the capacity to deliver the proposed research and assure the proposed budget is appropriate and eligible for the scheme.

You will only be able to submit your application for approval by the Host Organisation's Approver once all sections of the application form have been marked as complete and all participants have marked their work as complete AND have submitted their section. The Lead applicant must check the status of the Research Office Support under the 'Participants' tab on the summary page of the application form. **Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.**

11.2 Question Guidance

Please read the following guidance notes carefully as you complete the form. In the table below, each box represents a page of the application form; the left-hand column contains the questions within each of these pages as set out in the form; the right-hand column contains useful guidance on its completion.

Note that questions with * are mandatory fields.

Summary	
Summary page	<p>The summary page of the application form provides instructions for submission of your application for approval from the Host Organisation. In addition, you are provided with an overview for each section of your application form, including the approximate length of time it will take to complete each section.</p> <p>The summary page also allows applicants to manage and invite participants (e.g. Research Support) who are required to contribute to the application form. Instructions for inviting participants can be found under the 'participants' tab on the application summary page.</p> <p>Note: you will only be able to submit your application for approval by the Host Organisation once all sections of the form have been completed.</p>

Eligibility Criteria	
Eligibility Criteria *	<p>Please provide confirmation that you meet the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Details of the eligibility criteria can be found in the 'Eligibility' Section of these Scheme Notes.</p>

Contact Details	
Title, Names, address, organisation and country *	<p>Review and complete your personal details accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in processing your application. Errors will not be corrected after submission.</p> <p>Under this section, you should edit the contact type of the participants who will partake in your application form. The system default contact type is set as 'collaborator'. To amend the contact type of your Head of Department, click 'edit', and under the contact type field, select the 'Head of Department'.</p> <p>Organisation: this table will automatically display details of the intended Host Organisation (marked by a tick) which you selected previously and your current organisation, if different from the organisation where the award will be held and administered.</p>
Email address *	<p>This field defaults to the account in which the application has commenced and is where all correspondence pertaining to the application throughout the application process will be sent. The applicant must therefore commence the application using the login email address used to register a user account on Flexi-Grant®.</p>

Applicant Career Summary	
Full name *	Please enter your full name, including title.
Title of Current Position *	Please state the title of your current position.
Current Employer *	Please enter the official organisation name of your current employer (e.g. University of Bath).
Current Department *	Please enter details of your current department (e.g. Department of Astrophysics).
Country/Territory *	Please select the country/territory where your current employer (or last employer if currently unemployed or on leave) is based.
Current Position Start Date *	Please enter the date when your current position started.
Current Position End Date *	Please enter the date when your current position is expected to finish. If you are on an open-ended contract, please enter 31 December 2050.
Field of Specialisation *	Enter details of your field(s) of specialisation. (Maximum 20 words)
Summary of Your Current Research *	Provide an outline summary of your current research. Please also include a brief comment on the strength of your organisation. (Maximum 200 words)
PhD Award Date *	Please enter the date that you were awarded your PhD. If you have not received your PhD, please enter your expected completion date.
PhD Institution *	State the name of the institution where you were awarded or are completing your PhD.

PhD Country/Territory *	State the country/territory in which you were awarded or will be awarded your PhD. (Lead applicant only)
Applicant Career History *	<p>Please provide a full list of your appointments since your PhD in reverse chronological order stating if part-time (and percentage part-time) when necessary. If you have had a previous Research Fellow position, please clearly state if it was independent or not.</p> <p>The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence for your academic merit as possible.</p> <p>Please provide full details of any periods of part-time working, career breaks, extended sick leave or maternity/paternity/adoptive leave as your eligibility may depend on the accuracy of this information.</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your career history information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
Impact of Covid -19	<p>The Society appreciates that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on researchers and their work will be varied. Please provide a summary of how the pandemic has affected your research activities. (Maximum 500 words)</p> <p>This can include but is not limited to: delays in publishing/submitting a key paper(s) (please note preprints can be included in your publications list), pause on experiments/research plans, reduced ability to work due to additional caring responsibilities.</p>
Applicant Qualifications *	<p>Please list all your qualifications in reverse chronological order.</p> <p>The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence of your academic merit as possible and as appropriate for the funding for which you are applying.</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your qualification information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
List your Key and/or Relevant Publications *	<p>Please provide details of authors, titles and references of key preprints and publications in refereed journals, in reverse chronological order. You should include those outputs most relevant to the application to support your case. Please note that publications will be reviewed on the basis of scientific content, rather than publication metrics or the identity of the journal.</p> <p>Your list can be divided into three sections: (i) refereed papers in primary journals, (ii) contributions to symposia and compiled volumes (refereed only); and (iii) preprints.</p> <p>Most significant publications - Please identify with asterisks (*) up to five publications which you consider to be most significant.</p>

	<p>For publications arising from large collaborative programmes clearly specify the exact role and contribution made towards large collaborative research programmes that have resulted in multi-authored publications.</p> <p>If your field of research differs in any way from normal conventions, e.g. lead author, first author, and publications in journals being the main gauge of success, please provide a brief explanation at the top of your publication list.</p> <p>If appropriate, give the publisher or where each publication may be obtained, providing a URL if available. Citations for preprints must state "Preprint", the repository name and the articles persistent identifier (e.g. DOI).</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your publications to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
Applicant Research Funding *	<p>Please list your current and previous research funding in reverse chronological order.</p> <p>The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence for your academic merit as possible and as appropriate for the funding for which you are applying.</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>

Research Proposal	
Project Title*	Give the full title of your proposed project (20 words max.)
Start / End Date*	Please complete the date in dd/mm/yyyy format. These are the dates you intend to start and finish the proposed project. Awards can be held for up to 12 months. In this round, projects have to start from 01 October 2024.
Subject group and Subject Area*	Select the subject group/area(s) that most closely defines the research area of the research proposal from the drop-down menu and tick box options. This will enable us to allocate the application to the most appropriate assessment panel.
Lay Summary*	Please provide a lay summary of the proposed research. This should be understandable by a layperson. Explain why you have chosen to work in this subject area and what it is about your proposed research that you find particularly exciting, interesting or important. Please also explain the potential impact or wider benefits to society of your research. (250 words max.)
Research Proposal*	<p>Please provide the details of the proposed programme of work, commenting specifically on what your scientific question is, why it is important and what your experimental approach will be during the duration of the award.</p> <p>Text box (500 words) or PDF Upload (Do not exceed 1 page of A4, portrait orientation). Please do not use a text size smaller than Arial 10 in the text box and PDF and please also ensure that the PDF document is not more than 3MB. Applicants are requested to make sure uploaded PDF documents are unlocked. Please enter "See attachment" in the field. For further information please refer to the Uploading PDF documents section.)</p>

Relevance to Earlier Work*	Please state the relevance of the proposal to earlier work (200 words max.). Please provide information how the proposal relates to your own earlier work.
How does this proposal differ from your current research?*	Please confirm that this is a new project and that you will be taking a lead role in the project. Please also provide confirmation that this grant will not supplement ongoing research, existing grants or continuing an existing line of research. (500 words max.)
Rationale and Motivation*	Please provide a brief statement explaining the impact this proposal may have on your research, the potential applications of the research, and clearly state how this award will help secure the applicant future funding. It is important to also address how the proposed work will benefit the research and development of the applicant and UK science (250 words max.).
Collaborations*	Please provide details of any collaborative arrangements that support the proposed research, including the names of your collaborators (500 words max).

Data Management and Data Sharing

The Royal Society supports science as an open enterprise and is committed to ensuring that data outputs from research supported by the Society are made publicly available in a managed and responsible manner, with as few restrictions as possible. Data outputs should be deposited in an appropriate, recognised, publicly available repository, so that others can verify and build upon the data, which is of public interest. To fully realise the benefits of publicly available data they should be made intelligently open by fulfilling the requirements of being discoverable, accessible, intelligible, assessable and reusable.

The Royal Society does not dictate a set format for data management and sharing plans. Where they are required, applicants should structure their plan in a manner most appropriate to the proposed research. The information submitted in plans should focus specifically on how the data outputs will be managed and shared, detailing the repositories where data will be deposited. In considering your approach for data management and sharing, applicants should consider the following:

- What data outputs will be generated by the research that are of value to the public?
- Where and when will you make the data available?
- How will others be able to access the data?
- If the data is of high public interest, how will it be made accessible not only for those in the same or linked field, but also to a wider public audience?
- Specify whether any limits will be placed on the data to be shared, for example, for the purposes of safeguarding commercial interests, personal information, safety or security of the data.
- How will datasets be preserved to ensure they are of long-term benefit?

Outline of data management and data sharing plan *	If the proposed research will generate data that is of significant value to the research community, then please provide details of your data management and sharing plan. (Maximum 200 words)
Fieldwork *	Will you be conducting fieldwork as part of your research? Yes/No *
Fieldwork	Please provide all details of any proposed fieldwork to be carried out. Please ensure you provide details of location, duration and justification for the fieldwork.

Fieldwork (Upload only)	<p>Please upload documents related to the following (if applicable):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permission Any mandatory documents that show local support has been assured by way of permission from the government concerned to travel to and work in the country. 2. Collection of specimens Any mandatory documents that show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific permission has been obtained from the host country to collect and to export specimens and material • The director of the museum or other decision makers where these specimens will be deposited has indicated his/her desire or willingness to have such specimens and material.
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Use of Animals in Research *

The Royal Society is committed to supporting the development of alternative methods to reduce and/or replace the use of animals in research. Applicants proposing to use animals in their research must ensure that the use of animals falls within the regulations stipulated in the Animals (Scientific Procedures Act) 1986 and subsequent amendments. Additionally, applicants should continually be aware of developments in best practice, and adopt the principles of the 3Rs when designing and conducting experiments on animals.

As a funder of research, the Society takes its responsibilities towards the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures Act) 1986 seriously and requires applicants to consider the questions below when preparing grant applications that include the use of animals.

Does your proposal involve the use of animals or animal tissue? *	Select 'Yes' or 'No'. If you have selected 'Yes' it is mandatory to complete all of the relevant questions on the Use of Animals in Research page.
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Experimental Design Assistant

The Royal Society recommends that applicants use the Experimental Design Assistant (EDA), which is a free resource from the NC3Rs to support researchers in the planning of animal experiments. This will help to facilitate robust study design and reliable and reproducible findings.

The EDA helps applicants build a machine-readable diagram representing their experimental plan, following capture of their methodology, and allows the applicant to then generate a PDF report which provides a transparent description of the experimental design in a standardised format, which can be uploaded to the application form.

Please note: Applicants who choose to use the EDA, and subsequently uploads the EDA report to the application form, are advised to enter **see report** or **n/a** into any question fields within this section of the application form that have already been captured in the EDA report, to avoid any duplication.

Use of Human Participants and Tissue

Any application for a research proposal involving human participants, patients or tissue and therefore requiring local ethical committee approval will be considered only when accompanied by the necessary permission certificate or proof that ethical permission will be sought, which must be provided in English.

Does your proposal involve the use of	Select 'Yes' or 'No'. If you have selected 'Yes' it is mandatory to provide either a certificate or letter, as proof that ethical permission has been, or will be, obtained. Please upload the file as a PDF in portrait orientation.
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human participants, patients or tissue? *	
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Financial Details	
Proposed Budget*	Please provide a summary of your requested budget in the table provided. This amount should not exceed £20,000.
Justification for Research Expenses*	Please fully justify your request for all research expenses. A clear justification of all consumable and travel costs must be provided.
Justification for Equipment*	Please fully justify your request for equipment.
Other Sources of Funding	Please state all other sources of funding (secure or otherwise), the amounts and the purpose of each. This refers to any funding related to the proposed project.
Supporting documents	Please upload relevant documents (PDF), such as a quotation for equipment or a letter from the Head of Department confirming priority usage of an equipment you intend to purchase. Please note that additional documents such as a supporting letter or CV are not accepted as supporting document and would be removed from your application prior to assessment

Applicant Declaration *
<p>Please declare that:</p> <p>You have read the Terms and Conditions of Award under which Royal Society grants are awarded and, if a grant offer is made, you agree to abide by them. The Terms and Conditions for Royal Society applications can be found at https://royalsociety.org/-/media/grantsSchemesAwards/grants/royal-society-conditions-of-award-July-2023.pdf You have access to the necessary facilities to enable you to deliver the research proposed and will continue to have access to the facilities for the duration of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have agreed with your Head(s) of Department that you will be afforded sufficient time and resources to deliver the research project as described in this application.

Diversity Monitoring	
Diversity Monitoring	<p>The Royal Society is committed to promoting diversity in UK science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by seeking to increase participation from under-represented groups. Please help us to monitor how effectively we are doing this by providing the requested information. All questions are mandatory. The information provided will form a confidential statistical record in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and will not be used for any purpose other than analysis of the Society's activities.</p> <p>This information will be kept separately from the rest of your application and will not be seen by those involved in the selection process, including referees etc.</p>

You must either complete the form or tick the boxes stating that you 'prefer not to say'. If you do not select a box for each question, the system will regard your application as incomplete and will not allow you to submit it.

Please note, that where an application contains applicant and co-applicant(s) details, all applicants will be expected to complete the diversity monitoring form.

The lead applicant and co-applicant(s) are restricted to completing and viewing the diversity monitoring form that is relevant to them as individuals. You are not permitted to view the information provided by the other under this section of the application.

Appendix 1: Application and Review Process

