

Supergen



Offshore
Renewable
Energy

Early Career Researcher Research Fund

What is this?

- A **flexible research fund** for Early Career Researchers to support small activities that either supports and develops your existing research activities, or develops your skills further.
- **Max £5k per award** (direct costs only), total funds available £150k.

What are the scheme objectives?

- Primary objective is about **Developing you as Early Career Researchers.**
- Secondary objective is about **Developing the science, engineering and technology to deliver Offshore Renewable Energy.**

Assessment Criteria

- **Personal Development** – How will the requested funds support you in developing as a researcher or early career academic?
- **Additionality** – How does the proposed activity go beyond your current activities, how will it transform them, and why can't it be supported by existing or more general funds?
- **Excellence** – Demonstrate that your proposed activity will be of excellent scientific and academic quality.
- **Impact** – How will your proposed activity deliver impact, both in a scientific or engineering context and promote you as an Early Career Researcher?
- **Alignment** – Proposed activities should be aligned with research strategy of the Supergen ORE hub.

What might this support?

- A discrete research activity, possibly seed funding leading to a new more substantial proposal,
- Travel for a national or international collaboration,
- Small equipment/consumables,
- An industrial internship or public service secondment,
- To support a Fellowship application,
- Awards can support staff returning from a career break,
- Public awareness engagement activities and support for outreach events are particularly welcome.

Eligibility

- **Early Career Researchers –**
 - Early Career Academic Staff (less than 3 years from first academic appointment),
 - Post-Doctoral Research Assistants.
- Proposed activity must not extend beyond the ECRs current employment (unless the requested funding does itself extend that employment).
- Only in exceptional circumstances could an ECR receive more than one award.

How to Apply?

Light touch process but with the rigour of **peer review** provided by the hub co-directors and established academics and industry personnel.

- **Calls for proposals** – First call in October 2019. Two or three further calls in Spring and Autumns of 2020 and 2021. Dates TBC.
- **Application Process** – 3 pages max, including 1 page CV.
- **Supporting Letters** – maximum 2 can be submitted, including an institutional letter of support.
- **Joint Applications** – maximum 2 applicants permitted (£10k max for joint applications).

Time line

- Completed proformas to be returned to the Supergen ORE hub by the proposal deadline.
- ECR leads will coordinate a peer review and ranking process leading to funding decisions. Funding decisions will be made within 3 weeks of proposal deadline.
- Proposed activities to start within 3 months of proposal deadline.
- And be completed within a maximum further 9 months.
- Following completion of the proposed activity ECRs will be asked to report back on their activity to the hub community – report, blog, presentation as appropriate.

First Call – October 2019

- 16 High quality proposals received: 12 single applicants, 4 joint applicants.
- Total requested funds of £96k.
- 8 awards made to a total value of £46.6k.
- 50% Success Rate!

First Call – October 2019

Successful proposals had:

Visits, Internships & Industrial Placements had a clearly defined purpose and an objective in personal development – new skills / new collaboration

Laboratory Consumables that were enabling – not the entire costs of doing a large research project but smaller bits of kit, which when combined with existing resources are enabling.

Short seed / proof of concept research projects – focused and time limited. Enabling a future, larger grant proposal.

Clearly some of you have already made good **connections into industry** and were able to get support in various forms, and develop a route to impact.