

EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AWARD 2011-12

The *Early Career Research and Knowledge Transfer Award* (ECRKT Award) provides funding to excellent researchers from any discipline at the University of Nottingham in preparation for an externally-funded research award.

The Award is targeted at researchers at the beginning of their research careers who have not previously been Principal Investigators on a substantial* funded research grant. The Award provides up to 12 months of funding (1 August 2012-31 July 2013) for high quality research that leads to an external grant application and generates high impact publications or other significant outcomes. The Award is peer-reviewed by senior academics from across the University and final funding decisions made by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research.

The Award, launched in 2009-2010, is supported and funded by the University of Nottingham's Research and Knowledge Transfer Board and match funded by contributions from Schools.

1. Eligibility

Please read all of this section carefully.

To be eligible for this Award, **applicants must be:**

- Within eight years of completing their PhD and have **not** been a Principal Investigator on a significant* Research Council, Charity or Government (or equivalent) funded grant in the UK or abroad; **and**
- Be newly appointed to the University of Nottingham since 1 August 2008

(*this will vary across the University, please speak to your School for guidance)

And, fall into **one** of the following eligibility areas:

1. Be on a Research and Teaching level 5 contract, with the exception of medical clinicians
2. Be a Clinical Associate Professor,
3. Or, an individual moving from the professions/industry to the University sector.

In addition, fixed term appointees who fall into the above categories are eligible to apply providing that the appointment extends beyond the duration of the ECRKT award.

Staff who have had a break in service but who would otherwise meet the application above are encouraged to apply. If you are in this category, please indicate this on the application form. All breaks in service will be treated on a case by case basis. RIS will be responsible for ensuring that these criteria are adhered to by applicants.

Applicants ineligible for this award:

1. Post-doctoral researchers employed on a existing grants held elsewhere in the School/Division/Faculty or Institute;

2. Staff who have previously been successful under the former New Researchers Fund scheme, or other Research Committee or Research and Knowledge Transfer Board Scheme such as the Nottingham Advanced Research Fellows or Anne McLaren Fellowships;

For any queries with regard to the eligibility criteria, please contact Claire O'Callaghan in Research Innovation Services. Email: Claire.Ocallaghan@nottingham.ac.uk or telephone 0115 84 66197.

2. What does this award fund?

This award provides funding for research costs **directly associated** with the proposal that will prepare applicants in advance of applying for RCUK, Charity or Government research funding, or equivalent.

Research proposals can include costs for the following: staff costs (for staff other than the applicant), equipment, consumables, travel and subsistence costs that are specific to the proposal. Replacement teaching costs are funded in this scheme. Applicants should not include research time for the PI as part of this proposal.

Excluding match funding from Schools, applications must request a minimum of £2000. The Research and Knowledge Transfer Board will meet up to 50% of the total proposed costs, up to a maximum of £25,000.

3. How to apply

Applications to this scheme will undergo a two-stage review; an expression of interest (EOI) stage and invitation to full application stage. All applicants must submit an expression of interest using the *Early Career Research and Knowledge Transfer EOI Form*. All EOI's will be assessed against the following criteria: the quality of the proposed research, clarity of future plans and the strength of the candidate's CV. Only those that meet the EOI criteria will be invited to proceed to full application at which point the home School/Faculty will be asked to identify a mentor. A final panel will consider the full applications against the scheme's award criteria to allocate funding.

4. Additional Information for applicants

All applicants must specify the funder and scheme that their proposed research will be targeted towards at the end of the project.

Joint proposals are eligible provided that the role of each applicant is clearly defined and that the applicants will apply as a collaborative team for external funding from this project, this must be clearly specified in the application. For joint proposals, please duplicate the eligibility and CV boxes on the EOI form.

Feedback to unsuccessful applications to the Expression of Interest stage will be given.

5. Match-funding and Head of School support

Heads of School must approve the match-funding for all applications *prior* to submission of the Expression of Interest. It is the responsibility of the applicant to acquire this approval.

Schools must provide cash match-funding of 50% of the total proposed costs of the award.

A full statement of support from the Head of School or equivalent will be required at full application stage.

6. Scheme Deadlines

- Scheme formally opens: December 2011
- Deadline for the submission of expressions of interest: 31 January 2012
- Selection process for each Faculty to be completed: 14 February 2012
- Invitation for full applications communicated by 21 February 2012
- Deadline for full applications: 18 April 2012
- Decisions communicated: 16 May 2012

Please direct any queries relating to this scheme to Claire O'Callaghan in Research Innovation Services either by email (Claire.OCallaghan@nottingham.ac.uk) or telephone 0115 84 66197.