

LJMU EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER FELLOWSHIP & TRAVEL FUND SCHEME 2011-12

Background

The Research Support Office is pleased to welcome bids from staff to develop or enhance collaborative research. A limited number of awards are available to Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to enable them to engage in **collaborative research** with a **leading research centre** or department in the UK (i.e., with a significant RAE2008 profile of World-leading research) or with an **internationally renowned research centre overseas**. The collaborative links sought should be of the **highest international standing** and the work done should have clear benefits for both your career and for LJMU and the REF submission (Research Excellence Framework) in 2013.

The funding

Financial support is available to support ECRs to engage with **leading** research centres in the UK or overseas. The primary purpose of the grant is to help develop a research track record through the creation of substantive, long-standing, collaborative links with the very best researchers in your subject. Applications that show ambition to work with the very best researchers worldwide will be prioritised for funding. Applications that seek to work with local and regional research centres and HEIs will not normally be funded.

There are 2 schemes available:

1. **Academic ECR** - Funding for academic staff who meet the eligibility criteria as an ECR (see below). These are fixed awards of £5,000 designed to provide a 'mini-sabbatical' by paying for teaching / admin cover in your school as well as travel and subsistence costs.
2. **RA-ECR** - Travel and subsistence funding for contract research staff (RA's, PDRA's and Research Fellows) to a maximum award of £1,500. Academic staff should not apply under this scheme.

For the purposes of this scheme, ECRs are defined as:

Either, Academic or research staff who were first employed as a lecturer* (or above) after 1st January 2007 at LJMU or any other university or are lecturers who have been awarded their PhD since that date.

Or, who are currently a research assistant / research Fellow at LJMU and whose contract at LJMU extends beyond the period that the award is being sought.

There is no age limit for either category.

Applications should be submitted to Lois Thomas (l.a.thomas@ljmu.ac.uk), Research Support Office, Rodney House by 4pm on Friday 27th May 2011.

Unfortunately neither ECR scheme is open to postgraduate research students.

* Please note that employment as a research assistant (pre- or post-doctoral) prior to 2007 does not negate ECR eligibility.

Research areas

Applications for these fellowships are welcome from across LJMU - there are no restrictions regarding RAE2008 profile but the research proposed **must be directly associated** with an established area of research within the University (i.e., one that was submitted to RAE2008 or is being actively considered for the REF).

What can the funds be used for?

Please note that these funds cannot be used for conference attendance or the employment of researchers / research students.

If you applying as a member of Academic Staff (Academic ECR)

If successful, funding is provided to your School primarily for the provision of cover for some of your teaching & administrative duties in Academic Year 2011-12. In addition, some of the award may be used to support the direct costs of collaboration in the form of travel and subsistence. Where it can be justified as necessary to the collaboration a small amount of the award (up to £500) may be used for consumables / running costs. All requested costs must be fully justified in your application (see below). **All funds must be used by 31st July 2012 and cannot be transferred to the following academic year.**

If you applying as a member of Contract Research Staff (RA ECR)

If successful, funding is provided to support the direct costs of research collaboration in the form of travel and subsistence. Funds cannot be used for teaching/admin relief. All requested costs must be fully detailed and justified in your application (see below). **All funds must be used by 31st July 2012 and cannot be transferred to the following academic year.**

How do I apply?

1. Any member of LJMU staff may apply for funding using the form provided that you fulfil the criteria given above defining an ECR. Please note the following:

- Previous recipients of Promising Researcher funding who are still able to meet the criteria are permitted to apply for funding in the current round but other applications deemed to be of equal quality will be given a higher priority.
- You can demonstrate that the proposed collaboration will result in research of the highest international quality and will be of direct benefit to LJMU.

Applications should be submitted to Lois Thomas (l.a.thomas@ljmu.ac.uk), Research Support Office, Rodney House by 4pm on Friday 27th May 2011.

- You can demonstrate that your research career will be significantly enhanced as a result of the proposed collaboration.
- Your application has the full approval of your Director of School.
- You provide a letter of invitation from a senior member of staff in the proposed collaborating Institution.

2. You will need to provide written confirmation that your School Director approves your application, together with a letter of invitation from your proposed Collaborating Institution(s).

Please note that, if successful, you may be expected to continue to perform certain duties within the School at the discretion of your School Director. In addition, certain other roles including acting as Director of Studies or supervisor to PGRs or acting as PI or CoI on a research grant must continue to be fulfilled throughout the award period.

3. Applications (made on the application form) should be submitted to Lois Thomas (a.l.thomas@ljmu.ac.uk), Research Support Office, Rodney House by 4pm on **Friday 27th May 2011**.

4. Awards will be announced by the end of June 2011.

Timetable

- Wb 24th April 2011 – scheme announced
- 4pm Friday 27th May 2011 – deadline for receipt of applications in research office
- June 2011 – allocation of awards
- 31st July 2012 – completion of scheme (all funds must be spent by financial year-end and cannot be rolled-forward)

Applications should be submitted to Lois Thomas (l.a.thomas@ljmu.ac.uk), Research Support Office, Rodney House by 4pm on Friday 27th May 2011.