

# STRATHWIDE 2021

## 5th Annual Strathclyde Researcher Conference

### StrathWide 2021 Funding Criteria

This conference and funding scheme will provide developmental opportunities to our research community, allowing them to improve their grant writing and communication skills as well as fostering a peer-review culture. Additionally, we believe that this could also serve as a first opportunity for many early career researchers to develop independent research and to take their first PI role.

#### Eligibility

This funding is to promote a new collaboration between associates/assistants/fellows from all the job families across the different Strathclyde Faculties.

To be awarded StrathWide2021 funding **you must comply with all** the following:

1. Have an assistant, associate or fellow position at Strathclyde from the Research, Teaching or Knowledge Exchange families;
2. At least one other registered conference participant must be included in the proposal (you can invite other assistants/associates/fellows that may have missed the conference);
3. The project must have a mentor assigned (academic members: lecturers, chancellor fellows and other more senior positions/staff under permanent contracts). Your mentor will not be eligible for funding but will ensure sustainability of the proposed project;
4. The proposed research must be new and not currently being carried out in the University\*;
5. The proposed research project must be shorter in length than the applicants' current contract;
6. The applicants' line manager/principal investigator must agree of your involvement in the project fully understanding that your participation will mean that you will to take time outside your current contract to undertake the proposed project (and should be clearly stated in the application with the line manager's name and signature).

\* New cross-faculty collaborations will be viewed positively

#### Project Guidelines

**Research project scope:** Applicants are given the freedom to pursue any research idea they may have, encouraging collaboration across Faculties in the University. To have access to the funding available, participants need to propose innovative work not currently carried out in the University thereby supporting their independent thinking.

**Duration of projects:** The projects are expected to last up to one year or before the end date of their current contract. See Figure 1 for the expected timeline diagram.

**Maximum funding per project:** the expected funding per project is £1 - 5k (see gated process for funding allocation below).

**Potential use of funding:** A detailed justification of resources must be added to your application. The funding could be used for obtaining software licences, databases, materials, equipment (bought or rented), travel associated costs, etc. Staff costs cannot be supported through this funding mechanism.

**Trackability:** Each project will be provided with a distinct identifier which will be used and each participant will have to upload this entry in PURE (using the ID). This will then be reflected in your university website profile.

### Gated Process for Funding Allocation

In this new edition of the StrathWide conference and funding call, we expect to increase the funding available from the faculties in order to enhance the impact, size, and scope of the *StrathWide* seed projects. This will translate to a potential higher funding allocation per project, of up to £5k.

To ensure the responsible use of the funding and minimise potential risks to funders, we are proposing a gated process where at the beginning of the project an adequate part of the funding is allocated, allowing the researchers to start their project and reach predefined milestones. Then, after a successful review of the agreed intermediate milestones, the remainder of the project fund will be allocated.

We expect that this gated process will have a certain degree of flexibility to accommodate to the needs of the projects. That is, the funding allocation does not necessarily need to be 50/50 before and after the gated process and the key milestones does not need to be reached exactly at the middle of the project.

Researchers will need to adjust their funding applications to set up in their work plan:

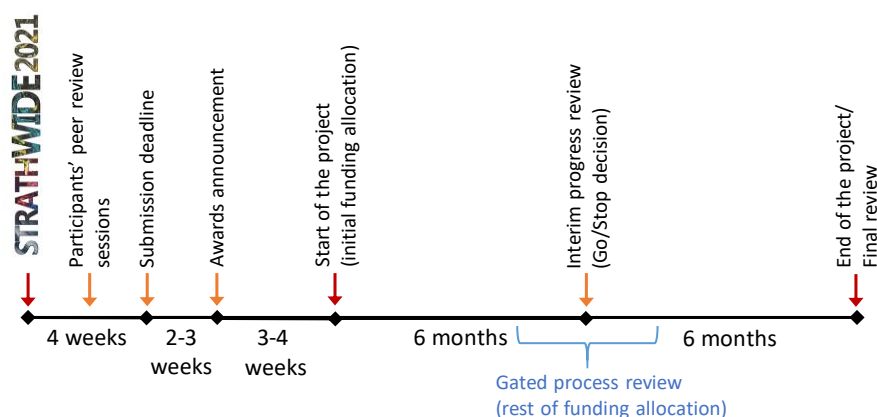
- Definition of milestones. The project will need to have at least one key intermediate milestone, to allow for the gated process.
- Justification of resources, linked to the milestones set up, trying to balance the funding allocation across the project timeline. At most 50% of the funding should be allocated prior to reaching the first agreed milestone.
- Timeline of the project, clearly setting up milestones and funding needs.

The gated process will be linked to a milestone evaluation. The researchers will be responsible of communicating to the Researcher's Group when the milestone is reached, via email, also providing evidence of said milestones. After positive review, the remainder of the funding will be allocated.

In cases where the majority of the funding is required upfront, the researchers will need to add a clear explanation for the funding review panel, for consideration. Approval of the allocation of upfront funding will be consulted with the funding bodies and review panel.

### Timeframes

Applications will be received until 10<sup>th</sup> of July. The results will be announced on the last week of July.



## Reporting

Two reports need to be submitted showing evidence of work done. The first one at 6 months from project commencement which will be a short report describing the progress achieved (we will send you the report template). The second report will correspond to the end of the project. This last report will consist of approximately 1000 words and a video describing experiences and achievements obtained with the funding awarded. Any Conference or journal publications (or drafts) should be attached to this final report and they will also be considered as valid evidence.

Please note that the video will be used to advertise the event internally, and if the ECRs are no longer at the institution, this video will be shown during the next StrathWide.

**If the 6-month progress report is not delivered, the RG has the right to retrieve the funding allocation.**

## Application assessment process

A peer-review panel will assess all applications. The panel will consist of experienced members of staff (i.e. established academic members) as well as early career researchers (ECRs), in this case conference participants, who wish to learn from the opportunity. The panel will be integrated by: RKES rep., HASS rep., SBS rep., Science rep., Engineering rep., OSDU rep. and up to four ECRs. We aim to represent all the job families to assess each project fairly. Depending on the amount of applications, we are estimating that at least 2 reviewers will assess each application independently. Additionally, we will work alongside the VDRs to make sure their vision for the Faculty is represented in those proposals elected by the panel.

## How to apply

Please prepare your application, following the application form (see below). All applications must be submitted via the Researchers' Group email address ([researchers-group@strath.ac.uk](mailto:researchers-group@strath.ac.uk)) by **the 10<sup>th</sup> of July by 5pm**. Use the following identifier in the subject area: "Application StrathWide funding call" and surnames of each applicant.

The applicants will need to provide the signature of their line managers to denote that they agree the involvement of the ECRs in the project.

## Application form

Title	
ECRs track record (short bio, 1page CV). Faculty and department affiliation, and strategic themes involved in the project. Mention if this is a new collaboration or if initial links have been established previously.	
Vision of independent research (100 words)	
Benefits to ECRs (100 words)	
Benefit to Strathclyde University (Strategic themes, multidisciplinary research) (100 words)	
Detailed workplan, including duration of the project (300 words)	

Expected Outcomes. Mention immediate (< 6 months), mid and long-term outcomes (1-5 years). Mention if the outcomes will be publicly available/ shared in some platform. (100 words)	
Justification of costs. This may include software licences, databases, materials, equipment (bought or rented), travel associated costs, etc. Staff costs cannot be supported through this funding mechanism. (200 words)	
Mentor details of each of the ECRs involved and his/her agreement of collaboration	
Signature of the line manager supporting this application for each participant.	

#### Application support sessions

The Organisational Staff Development Unit will run a session on Thursday 18th June between 13.00 and 15.30, where prospective applicants will be able to peer-review applications from each other. To participate, you must express your interest by sending an email to: [researchers-group@strath.ac.uk](mailto:researchers-group@strath.ac.uk).

#### Key dates

Conference and announcement of funding: 27<sup>th</sup> of May and 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2021.  
OSDU peer-review workshop: week of the 18<sup>th</sup> of June (EoI to be sent to RGs' email)  
Call submission deadline: 10<sup>th</sup> of July by 5pm  
Award announcement: last week of July/beginning of August.

#### Contact

Researchers' Group ([researchers-group@strath.ac.uk](mailto:researchers-group@strath.ac.uk))