

SAGES Plan for PEER and Early Career Researcher Exchanges funds 2016 – 3rd and 4th calls

SAGES currently has £30,000 to support proposals to secure European funding (PEER) and £18,000 to support post-doc and early career researcher exchanges with Europe, North America, China and India (PECRE). These funds have to be committed by 31st July 2017. We have permission to vire between the two schemes. We have decided to release this funding over two calls, SAGES' 3rd and 4th calls for PEER and PECRE.

The deadline for 3rd call applications is 17:00 on 18th November 2016. We aim to inform applicants of the outcomes before Christmas.

The 4th round is expected to be announced with a late April early May 2017 closing date. Depending on the quality of applications for the 3rd call we may allocate more than half of the available funding to that call.

Details of the SFC award are in Appendix 1. All eligible SAGES members, including post-graduates, are invited to submit applications for these funds following the procedure outlined below. To maximise the impact of the schemes applicants are encouraged to apply for partial funding from other sources, although this is not a requirement.

Previous funds provided under PEER, PECRE and the exchanges with industry scheme have proved successful in attracting new members to SAGES and have engaged a range of people with the Alliance. We envisage these new funds continuing to support the growth of SAGES membership.

European engagement (PEER)

We wish to encourage SAGES members to develop proposals, both as individual researchers and as larger groupings of SAGES members. There are opportunities for groups of researchers from different UK universities to be involved in applications, and SAGES provides a mechanism for this. We anticipate funding applicants to:

- Attend or host meetings of academic and external partners at any stage during the preparation of applications
- Run workshops to share experience and best practice with regard to European funding
- Co-ordinate meetings to engage with SMEs and to share best practice with regard to this engagement.

There is support for European funding engagement available through our partner HEIs. Where possible events held at each institution will be made open to members of the pool from other HEIs. This is especially relevant where funding in particular areas is being discussed and promoted. Sharing of activities with other pools is also encouraged.

Early-Career Researcher Exchange

- The SFC definition of 'early career' includes post-graduate students and anyone with a PhD employed as a Researcher, Research Fellow or Lecturer. Promoted staff (Level 9: Senior Lecturer, Senior Research Fellow, or equivalent) are not eligible for PECRE funding.

- Eligibility: we wish to encourage applications from all eligible SAGES members. This includes: members of the SAGES Graduate School; post-docs who are themselves SAGES members or are working on projects with SAGES members; lecturers who are SAGES members. Note: if you are not a SAGES member but could be (i.e. your area of research falls within the SAGES remit), you may apply for SAGES membership now and so become eligible for this scheme. See www.sages.ac.uk for how to apply for membership. Please allow at least 2 weeks for approval of membership applications.
- Individuals who have previously received an award under this scheme are eligible to apply for a new award so long as this does not involve any institution visited funded by the first award.

Timetable and Process (PEER and PECRE)

- Application process: application form to be completed. Requires endorsement by host institution (Head of School or nominee) and by relevant [SAGES Theme leader](#).
- 17:00 on 18th November 2016: main deadline for bids for support. Applications reviewed by SAGES Research Committee, who may seek external references. Decisions to applicants by first week July 2016.
- Spring 2017: further deadline for bids for support (if some funds remain after third round). Format and process as above. Decisions to applicants within 3 weeks of closing date.

Appendix (from SFC announcement of funding)

POOLS ENGAGEMENT IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH (PEER)

Introduction

SFC is pleased to announce that the Scottish Government has provided additional funds in AY2015-16 for the research pools to continue to extend their participation in the European Framework Programme process.

Purpose

The main purpose of PEER is to support pools in engaging with the EU Framework process for example through establishing network connections, showcasing their skills and capabilities and participating in specific networking activities both for policy influencing and project preparation in addition to developing proposals and applying for European funding under the Framework Programme. As part of that process pools should give consideration to representing and building partnerships with Scottish SMEs.

Scotland Europa can be a point of contact to help research pools engage with the EU Framework process.
<http://www.scotlandeuropa.com/>

Action Plans

Each pool must have an up to date action plan for using PEER funding. This plan should be made available to all partner institutions within the pool and should:

- define the pool's strategy for European engagement;
- outline what support is available to partners to engage in the EU Framework process and how this can be accessed.

Eligible and Ineligible Costs

Eligible costs will include:

- all additional costs incurred as a result of engagement in the EU Framework process including staff time /services employed specifically for that purpose;
- travel and subsistence costs may be included for the staff of partner institutions and should be calculated at the rates normally applied by the institution.

Ineligible Costs

The funding must not be used for:

- travel and subsistence costs for partner organisations or businesses; or
- general overhead expenses.

POSTDOCTORAL AND EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER EXCHANGES

Introduction

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) is pleased to announce that the Scottish Government has provided additional funds in 2015-16 for the Research Pools in the STEMM disciplines to continue to facilitate Postdoctoral and Early Career Researcher exchanges with Europe, North America, China and India.

Purpose

The main purpose of the funding is to provide research training and development opportunities for the most able postgraduates and early career researchers working within the Scottish research pools, while at the same time building experience of international collaboration with academia and/or industry.

Conditions of Award

The funding must be used to support Postdoctoral or Early Career Researcher exchanges in Europe, North America, China, and India only. Pools may build on existing, or establish new collaborations. Each exchange must be for a minimum period of at least one month. Each Pool will be responsible for selecting the best candidates in an open competition from within the Pool.

Criteria for selection should include:

- evidence of the ability of the candidate (output, leadership);
- likely benefits to the research of the candidate (new skills, techniques likely to be acquired) as result of the exchange;
- likely benefits to the longer-term career of the Postgraduate or Early Career Researcher as result of the exchange;
- evidence of wider benefits to the pool as a result of the exchange; and
- prospects of sustained collaboration as a result of the exchange.

Each successful Postdoctoral or Early Career Researcher candidate may be the recipient of a single award only, up to a maximum value of £7,500. Each pool/institution may choose to add additional funds to extend the duration of a visit or support more than one visit.

The funding must not be used for attendance at conferences, training seminars and the like.

Eligible costs are restricted to economy travel and subsistence at the agreed institutional rate. The costs of the research are not eligible.

The pool must provide an annual report providing the following details:

- the number of applicants for funding;
- the number of postgraduate and early career researcher exchanges supported and their duration;
- the institutions/companies involved and their locations;
- the aims, objectives or themes that the exchange relates to;
- the costs involved
- evidence that the Pool has received a brief scientific report (2 pages A4) for each exchange including a list of outputs (publications/other from each exchange); and
- evidence that the Pool has a fair recruitment and selection process that promotes equality.