**Researcher Development Fund 2022/23**

**Guidance Notes**

**PLEASE NOTE:** This initiative is intended to develop your skills for career development, and to develop the wider research culture at the University. This funding is **NOT** designed for funding research projects directly.

1. **About the Researcher Development Fund Competition**

The Researcher Development Fund Competition offers awards of **up to** **£1,500** to support researchers who are pro-actively identifying their own development needs and that of the research community and culture.

Funding is available for initiatives which support personal, professional and career development for researchers. Awards are intended to enable doctoral students and early career research staff to initiate, design, manage and deliver new professional development activities for their peers which will in turn develop the skills and experience needed to progress their own careers.

Examples include:

* Creating a Research Seminar Series
* Developing a writing group or other development group
* Holding a short symposium on a particular research method or research area
* Creating resources (for example videos, study guides, webpages) that support research skill development

The awards will support short-term, well-defined initiatives that develop and deliver transferable skills, training experiences and/or resources to the applicants’ peers across departments. Collaborative applications are encouraged. Examples of previous funded projects are on the [RIE Blog](https://blogs.napier.ac.uk/rie/researcher-development-fund-launch-showcase/).

To understand the kinds of skills and attributes that this funding is aimed at supporting and developing, please refer to the [Vitae Researcher Development Statement](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/CMS/files/upload/Researcher%20development%20statement.pdf) which is a national document derived from the Researcher Development Framework. It is endorsed by all UK Research Councils and other major funding bodies.

1. **Benefits of application**

Applying for the Researcher Development Fund brings with it several benefits in personal, professional and career development, in line with Vitae’s Researcher development framework.

**Personal development (B1):** Having a side project can help maintain and reignite motivation for your own research, can improve your self-confidence, helps with self-reflection including seeking feedback and learning from mistakes as well as taking responsibility for your own projects.

**Professional development (C3):** Applying for this funding helps you to understand the process for funding and evaluation of research. This Researcher Development Fund qualifies as applying for small grants. Writing this application will enrich your writing skills.

**Career development (B3):** Successful grant funding is beneficial in many careers, especially for academic careers. The experience of applying for this Researcher Development Fund will be beneficial for future grant applications. Applications which are collaborative in nature in working with others are considered in a positive light. Collaborative projects enable the development and maintenance of co-operative networks and working relationships with members of the research community.

1. **Eligibility**

**Applicants must be:**

* **Registered on a Doctoral Degree at Edinburgh Napier University**

**OR**

* **Post-doctoral researchers who hold a current contract of employment at Edinburgh Napier University.**

**OR**

* **Hold a current contract of employment as a member of academic staff at Edinburgh Napier University at Lecturer level.**
1. **Application Criteria**
* You must be able to manage your normal study/research/workload when undertaking the additional activity for which you have applied.
* If successful, you will be required to write a report and contribute to the RIE blog at the end of the project. The report should detail where possible the impact of the event together with your experiences of managing the project, and successful applicants will receive a template for this.
* **All events and spending** **must be completed by 31st July 2023**. No funds will be available for events held or spending submitted after that date. This is due to the University’s financial year structure and is not flexible or negotiable.
* The application must be signed off by the immediate Supervisor/PI/Line Manager.
* An individual may lead on only one application; however, they may also take part in a consortium/joint application (but should not be the named lead).
1. **Application Process**

We welcome applications from doctoral and early career academics of all backgrounds. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch if you require any special provisions in order to make an application.

Completed application forms should be emailed to the Researcher Development team at RIEevents@napier.ac.uk, **by 10am on Monday, 21st November 2022.**

1. **Selection Process**

Applications will be assessed by a panel chaired by the University’s Head of Researcher Development and will include the Convenor of the Research Degree Committee and relevant academics.

The Panel reserves the right to consider the distribution of the Researcher Development Fund across the University. The Panel also reserves the right to offer partial funding for applications. Applicants may be asked for further information, or to amend their application. The decision of the panel is final. However, you are encouraged to seek feedback on your application.

The panel’s decision will be based on the following criteria:

1. Value for money
* Is the requested resource justified?
* Will the money directly develop the research culture of the University?
1. Realistic and Manageable
* Are the aims of the project achievable in the time frames outlined?
* Is the activity appropriate?
1. Aligns with Strategy
* How well is the case made for developing the research culture of the University?
* Will the project help achieve University/School Objectives?
1. **Further Information**

**An online information session will be held on Monday, 31st October from 1-2pm**. This will cover the types of projects funded in the past, selection criteria for the funding, and timelines for projects. There will also be a chance to ask questions about the funding.

Join Researcher Development Fund Information Session Monday 31st October 13:00-14:00 here.

As a guide for [costing your catering](https://applications2.napier.ac.uk/onlinecatering/onlinecateringform.aspx), please note the following costs available at Edinburgh Napier University. Catering costs which appear differently in your application will need to be explained.

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| Sandwich lunch | £4.15 per person |
| Tea, coffee & biscuits | £1.65 per person |
| Still water | £0.50 per person |

For further information and questions, please contact the Researcher Development team at RIEevents@napier.ac.uk.

1. **Examples of successful applications**

Three previous successful applications—Sibylle Ratz, Lucy Johnston, and David Hamilton—have all kindly consented to having their applications shared. We hope these will be helpful in preparing your own application.