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**NIHR Birmingham Biomedical Research Centre: Pre-Application Support Fund**

**Networking Exchange for Translational Understanding and Synergy (NEXUS)**

**Aims and Purpose of the call**

The NIHR has provided funding to the Birmingham BRC to directly support applicants to prepare future applications for [NIHR career development funding](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/academy.htm) and other career development funding opportunities. NIHR outlines the funding awarded should be used to provide extra support to those who need it to enhance their chances of making a successful application. The funds should therefore be used by individuals for specific and future-focussed activities rather than to supplement existing funded investigations.

**Scope**

There are 4 schemes available to support researchers to prepare applications for funding in order to advance their research career. This information and application form is for the **Networking Exchange for Translational Understanding and Synergy (NEXUS)** funding stream. The **NEXUS** scheme funding can be used for associated networking costs such as enabling attendance at a conference (including to cover costs to remove any barriers for attendance), or short placements at a collaborating lab/institution to develop a network/gather preliminary data to support an application for further funding. Costs can be used to cover conference registration, travel or back-fill your role for a short-time to facilitate attendance at training or networking events. This funding is aimed at individuals needing extra support to develop a network or collaboration to strengthen an application for further funding. Note all placements/conferences must have taken place/completed by March 2026.There is limited funding available with the first round of funding being available up until 31st March 2025. Further funding may be available after this date, but this is to be confirmed. It is expected that individual applications would not exceed £2K, although higher costs will be considered if well justified and where impact is clear.

**Timeline** Open Call but would encourage applications by 28th February 2025 to secure funds in the first round of funding.

**How to Apply?**

Applications are welcome from BRC-affiliated academics/researchers. If requesting funds to backfill salary costs, applicants should liaise with relevant teams within their organisations to provide accurate costs. If requesting costs to attend a conference/networking event, the applicant should outline what the funding will be used to cover and purpose of attending. If successful in securing NEXUS support for a conference, funding will only be released upon abstract acceptance. If costs are requested to cover a placement, evidence of support from the collaborating team is required.

Applications will be reviewed by a diverse team including senior leadership of the Birmingham BRC.

Applications should be submitted by email to the Academic Capacity Development lead Trish Lalor (p.f.lalor@bham.ac.uk) with BirminghamBRC@uhb.nhs.uk copied.

**NIHR Birmingham Biomedical Research Centre: NEXUS**

**Application Form**

**Details of applicant and proposed application for further funding**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant name and contact details (email address)**  |  |
| **Affiliated BRC theme** |  |
| **Briefly outline current role, professional background and previous research experience/qualifications** |  |
| **Current employing organisation** |  |
| **Target funder, including deadline. Please include funder timelines for interviews/outcomes if available** |  |
| **Please list supervisors/leadership/mentors as appropriate** |  |
| **Project title (approximate)** |  |
| **Plain English project description (up to 300 words)** |  |
| **Have you submitted this for funding previously? If yes please provide details including any feedback as to why not funded** |  |

**Details of support requested from NEXUS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What funding are you requesting from NEXUS and why is this required to support your funding application development (why do you need additional support? (please detail then complete the table below)** |  |

**Funds requested.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Cost (full)** Note FEC costing not required. | **Description/Purpose,** please include intended start and duration for all costs | **Organisation,** please indicate type and name of organisation the funding should be made available to. E.g. HEI, UoB |
| Pay  |  |  |  |
| Other-non-pay (please add additional columns and itemise as appropriate) |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** |  |  |  |

**About you**

We invite you to answer some questions about yourself. Note that this information will be stored securely, separately to your application and will not be supplied to the panel or used to inform any decision regarding this funding opportunity. However, we are required to collect this information by NIHR to help us to ensure we are providing opportunities and capacity development support to a range of individuals with various life experiences and career pathways. The data will also help us to build a picture of our research community to ensure we are considerate of needs when creating opportunities or events.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What is your ethnic group?**  |     |
| Prefer to self-describe (Please add your answer in the box to the right) or choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background from the list below   |    |
| Arab   |     |
| Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi    |     |
| Asian/Asian British - Chinese    |     |
| Asian/Asian British - Indian    |     |
| Asian/Asian British - Pakistani   |     |
| Asian/Asian British – Any other Asian background   |     |
| Black/black British/Caribbean or African - African   |     |
| Black/black British/Caribbean or African - Caribbean    |     |
| Black/black British/Caribbean or African – Any other black, African or Caribbean background   |     |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean   |     |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian    |     |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and black African    |     |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups – Any other mixed or multiple ethnic background   |     |
| White – English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British    |     |
| White – Irish   |     |
| White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller   |     |
| White – Roma   |     |
| White – Any other white background   |     |
| Prefer not to say   |     |
| **Which of the following best describes your gender?**  |    |
| Prefer to self-describe  |    |
| Man  |    |
| Non-binary  |    |
| Woman  |   |
| Prefer not to say  |   |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person (this could be a physical or hidden disability)?**  |   |
| Yes |   |
| No |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |
| If you have answered yes to the above question and are comfortable to disclose your disability and what support you may require, this will help us to accommodate your needs during any in-person meetings or events. |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you have any caring responsibilities?  |   |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |

**Declarations**

Please tick to confirm that you agree to the following actions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I understand I will be required to complete reports and/or provide information/ contribute to development of case studies/evaluation as required by NIHR Birmingham BRC.  |   |

**GDPR Privacy Statement**

*Only a few authorised staff members will have direct access to your personal data and only when necessary. We respect your trust and protect your privacy and therefore will never sell or share this data with any third parties outside of University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust or University of Birmingham unless you give us permission to do this. By filling out this form you are giving permission for us to store and process your data for up to 5 years.*

*We may sometimes report anonymised and aggregated data internally or externally. For example, if a research funder asks us to report on how many women and men have received funding as part of this scheme, or how many people identify as a particular ethnicity.   You will not be able to be identified within the summary.*

*The personal information provided will be processed safely and securely by University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) and/or the University of Birmingham (UoB) for equality and diversity monitoring purposes. Please see* [*UHB’s full privacy notice*](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/c9ILCm7zkuLRXPRsGfWSRH--O?domain=uhb.nhs.uk/) *and the* [*UoB’s full privacy notice*](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/R_RTCnGAlhp6w36hJhVSJNbHq?domain=birmingham.ac.uk) *for further details about how the UHB and UoB will process your personal information.*

*By ticking the box below, you are agreeing to the processing of your personal information as outlined in the privacy statement above.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I understand and agree to the processing of my personal data  |   |