**SMERC 2021-2022 New Researcher Grant**

This award is specifically designed to encourage applications from early and mid-career researchers who have little or no previous experience of applying for grant funding or leading on the management of research projects. The proposed idea might be small scale, to test the feasibility of an idea. It may be for a pilot study, to gather data which can be used to underpin a later application for a more substantial grant to SMERC, Wellcome or other funding bodies.

We encourage early career researchers and those who are at the start of their independent careers to apply. You must be based in Scotland in one of the SMERC collaborating institutions (see later).

Projects which propose interdisciplinary research across, for example, medical education and health services research, health economics research, science and population health research, humanities and social science, and product development and applied research funding, are particularly welcome.

**Eligibility**

These awards give researchers working at one of the SMERC institutions the opportunity to use innovative methodologies and carry out a broad range of activities, such as:

* pilot and scoping studies
* preliminary data gathering
* proof-of-concept studies
* planning sessions
* collaborative network meetings
* as well as research costs such as statistical consultancy and transcription

SMERC Seed funding is not for:

* discrete projects with no follow-on plans
* bridge funding

**Criteria**

We will review:

* your track record as a researcher, relative to your career stage, and your potential to lead a research programme in the future
* the novelty and importance of your research idea to your field, and your approach to developing it
* your expected research outcomes, and how they will lead to a larger grant in the future
* the feasibility of your proposal
* the suitability of your research environment
* evidence of collaboration with at least one other SMERC institution

**Key dates**

**The closing date for bids is 0900 on Friday 16 July 2021**. We expect to receive one electronic version of the application with signatures by noon on the closing date. The grant must commence in October 2021.

**Eligibility**

This opportunity is available to emerging researchers or those already active in medical education research in one of the SMERC collaborating institutions: NHS Education for Scotland, and the Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews. Applications must fulfil the SMERC principals of demonstrating a collaboration across two or more of these institutions. Applications which are clearly set out as pilot, feasibility or proof-of-concept studies, and/or are testing novel ideas will be particularly welcomed.

Proposed projects should be completed within 12 months of the start date.

**Assessment of applications**

All applications will be processed by the SMERC Administrator initially. Those which have not fulfilled the guidance will be rejected at this screening stage. The remaining applications will be reviewed by a small Panel of experts selected on the basis of their expertise.

**Funding**

Requests for amounts up to £3,000 will be considered. If there are a number of good quality applications for smaller amounts, then there is the potential for funding more projects. The full amount of funding will be paid at the outset of the project.

**Acknowledgement of support**

Presentations, publications and other forms of media communication, including media appearances, press releases and conferences, must acknowledge the support received from SMERC.

**SMERC 2021-2022 New Researcher Funding**

Please complete this form if you want to apply for the SMERC Seed Funding. Before completing this form, read the guidance information to applicants (see previous page). Please strictly adhere to the stipulated word limits where stated.

Once you have completed this form and have the necessary approvals and signatures, please submit this electronically to Pat MacLennan, SMERC Administrator pmaclennan@abdn.ac.uk by the **closing date of Friday 16 July 2021.**

We expect to receive one electronic version of the application with signatures by **0900 on the closing date**. Our contact details are SMERC Seed Funding, FAO Pat MacLennan, Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (CHERI), Room 0.063, Polwarth Building, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, AB25 2ZY; Tel: (01224) 438436.

## Principal Investigator (PI):

Name:

Institution:

Position held:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

## Co-investigator 1:

Name:

Position held:

Institution:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

## Co-investigator 2: (please add more if more than 2 investigators):

Name:

Position held:

Institution:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

## Project title:

**Please indicate the relevant SMERC theme(s):**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

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| --- |
| Developing the Workforce  |[ ]
| Developing the Clinical Learning Environment  |[ ]

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## Details of proposed project

(Maximum 500 words excluding references)

### Background to the project and critique of existing literature:

### Study aims and research questions:

### Possible methodology and methods:

### Plans for dissemination of the work:

### References (excluded from word count):

## Explain how this project is innovative

(Maximum of 150 words)

**Explain how this project will lead to a larger grant applications to SMERC, Wellcome or other funding bodies**

(Maximum of 150 words)

## Brief outline of the timetable of work and key milestones

Note New Researcher projects should be no more than 12 months duration. (Maximum of 150 words)

## Total financial support requested from SMERC

Please outline and justify costs for the project. Please explain why your proposed project offers good value for money. Note that SMERC will not pay more than 40% overheads on direct costs, and the total amount requested must come in under the £3,000 ceiling. (Maximum of 150 words)

## Outline how you will address the ethical considerations of the project

If the proposed project involves data sharing, we need to know what data sharing is required, if you have consulted your institution guidance on data sharing, and why you are sure you can share data across partners. (Maximum of 150 words)

## Provide details of your track record(s) in the relevant field, and why, if you are an emerging researcher or early career researcher, SMERC should invest in you and your project.

(Maximum 250 words)

## Provide details of the supportive environment(s) that will be provided to the applicant, including training provision

(Maximum of 200 words)

## Approvals and signatures

### The officer responsible for administering any grant awarded must complete and sign below:

Name of officer

Position held

Address

Telephone

Email

Signature

Date

### The head of department (or equivalent) of the PI complete and sign below:

Name of head (or equivalent)

Position held

Address

Telephone

Email

Signature

Date