

MRC Proximity to Discovery: Industry Engagement Fund

University of Cambridge Biomedical Research Exchange Programme 2017

Internal Funding Call

The Cambridge Academy of Therapeutic Sciences (CATS) is offering funding to support research exchanges of up to six months to transfer knowledge and expertise between the University of Cambridge and an industry partner. Exchanges can either be one way - academia to industry or *vice versa* - or both ways between organisations and may be either full-time or part-time.

The fellowships give principal investigators, and other academic researchers, the opportunity to gain greater insight into how businesses operate and therefore instil more commercial knowledge in academia. They also help to provide companies with access to novel ideas which may open up new avenues in the development of therapies and medical devices. The funding is part of the Academy's MRC's Proximity to Discovery: Industry Engagement Fund award, which is particularly aimed towards early stage collaborations or interactions between industry and academic researchers. **For a project to be eligible for this funding there should be a clear aim to build a relationship which can lead to ongoing knowledge exchange and research translation. Collaborations with companies that are not yet strongly engaged with the University are particularly encouraged and significant justification will be required for using this mechanism to work with existing strategic partners.**

Work carried out during the fellowship may be exploratory in nature and is not necessarily expected to lead to publications or to specific objectives being met within its duration. The collaboration does not have to be confined to a specific department/school within the University as long as the area of interest fits with the MRC's remit. Please consult the MRC's web page for an overview: <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/funding/science-areas/>

Who can apply?

Outward Fellowships (from academia to industry): We welcome applications from new and established academic staff, including clinical academics, who are aiming to build a relationship with an industry partner in an area relevant to the MRC's remit. We would prefer to see the lead academic themselves undertaking the exchange so as to maximise the opportunity of fostering a long-term collaborative relationship. Applications requesting funding for a postdoctoral researcher to undertake the exchange should include an outline of how the experience will provide lasting benefit to the broader research group as well as the individual researcher.

Inward Fellowships (from industry to academia): We also strongly encourage applications from academic staff to host researchers from industry who wish to build a new relationship with the University or work in a biomedical area of untapped potential.

These secondments, whether outward or inward, must commence by 1st July 2017. If you have a relevant project idea but have not yet identified a suitable industrial partner, or if you

have any other questions about eligibility for this funding, please contact us for initial advice and support (see contact details at the end of this document).

Eligible Costs

There is a total fund of up to £100,000 available to fund these secondments.

Outward Fellowships (from academia to industry): Staff costs (full- or part-time) for the fellow plus travel and subsistence can be requested. The costs awarded for each fellowship may vary depending on the work proposed for the exchange but are anticipated to be up to a maximum of £40,000.

Inward Fellowships (from industry to academia): Travel and subsistence, consumables, and other direct costs can be supported, anticipated to be up to a maximum of £20,000. Funds cannot usually be used for employment costs of the incoming fellow as they will continue to be employed by their existing employer. An exception to this may be made for small and medium sized companies but must be fully justified.

Funds cannot be used for patent costs, estates costs, indirect costs or capital items of equipment. Industry partners should not be recent spin-out companies of the University of Cambridge, where other avenues to engagement are already established.

Please use X5 to help with fully costing your application but do not submit this to the Research Operations Office unless you are asked to. Please liaise with your departmental finance team where necessary to obtain an X5 costing for your proposal.

Application process

We are operating a single-stage application process. Please complete the proposal form and email to Dr Andrea Walker, Research Facilitator: Andrea.Walker@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Deadline: 5pm on Wednesday 5 April 2017

Proposal Requirements

The proposal should consist of no more than four sides of A4 and should detail plans and expectations for the exchange, including the following:

- The aims of the exchange, description of the project/activities to be undertaken and relevance to the MRC's remit;
- An overview of the chosen company and how this exchange aligns with the company's and University's interests;
- Details of the company resources to be committed;
- Details of the team the fellow will join and a name of a senior champion within the host organisation (company or University);
- Proposed working pattern (a GANTT chart or similar document outlining working location, time allocation, full- or part-time) and type of activity the fellow will be engaged in;
- An outline of the expected benefits to the Fellow, the company and the department/University;
- An indication of how it is anticipated that the relationship will be sustained and further developed beyond the term of the exchange.

In addition to the proposal please provide:

- A completed budget and signature form, using the template provided;
- A letter of support from the company partner, including agreed details of the secondment of staff on a full- or part-time basis as appropriate.

Please collate all documents and submit as one file.

Applicants must make sure they are aware of any internal departmental deadlines for approval by Head of Department before submission.

Depending on the nature of the work to be carried out, it may be necessary to put in place a formal agreement (such as a CDA) between the University and the company. This should be discussed with the company during the application process and appropriate guidance sought from the Research Operations Office.

Assessment process

Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applications will be considered by a cross-disciplinary panel with membership drawn from the University and industry.

Applications will be considered against the following criteria:

- Potential benefits to all partners, covering both scientific knowledge exchange and broader learning relating to workplace processes and culture;
- Anticipated value added by the funding, in terms of novelty of collaboration and/or research area plus potential for translational research impact;
- Likelihood that the exchange will lead to future collaborative work.

Successful applicants will be notified by Friday 21 April 2017.

Progress reviews, summary report and feedback

As a condition of the grant, progress review meetings must be held at the start of the project and then at a mutually agreeable time during the secondment with the CATS Research Facilitator (or equivalent) to monitor progress and identify any additional support needs. We also require a summary report at the end of the exchange and will ask for feedback about each party's experience of the exchange fellowship. We may also invite you to participate in an event to showcase the work supported by these exchange fellowships.

Contact

We are happy to answer questions about any aspects of eligibility, the application process or arrangements for the fellowships. Please contact Dr Andrea Walker, CATS Research Facilitator:

Andrea.Walker@admin.cam.ac.uk

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