

Seed corn and Bridging awards - Guidance

Please return a form for each recipient to the directorate spcr@keele.ac.uk by 31/03/2025

You can choose to submit plans for the full year at this stage, however if you do not commit all funding by then, remaining plans must be completed by 31st August 2025. Uncommitted funds cannot be rolled over into the next year.

It will take approximately three weeks between receiving the form and having it approved/issuing an award letter, therefore if you have people who plan to use the funds from the 1st April, you should submit the form in advance of this date. Only forms completed in full will be approved by the ACDL.

Seed corn awards can be used to support researchers from any professional background for short periods of time, usually up to a maximum 1-year duration, while they develop applications for national training awards or external grant funding.

Recipients should use the funded time to focus on their **career development**, building networks, and working with local supervisory teams/mentors. **There must be a defined output** – for example, a targeted funding call.

Relevant training courses and, where appropriate, conference fees can be included where there is a clear benefit to the applicant's career development.

- Individuals can be funded at 100% FTE for short periods of time or at a lower FTE over longer periods.
- Overheads are not payable on seed corn awards.
- Exact costs must be provided for staff time.
- Conference costs including registration fees and any travel, are capped at £1000 per applicant. Details will need to be provided at the time of application.
- Training course fees are capped at £750 per course and an overall maximum of £1000 per award. Details will need to be provided at the time of application.
- Seed corn funds may not be used to match DSE funding.
- Awards for training costs only will be considered, however, there must still be a defined output.

Bridging awards are to support individuals in the “funding gaps” between national awards. The key criteria for an award are i) that an individual has been in receipt of a training award made in national competition; ii) that they have performed creditably and are considered likely to be successful in gaining either a further national training award or a substantive academic post within 2 years.

Plans will be considered by the SPCR Academic Capacity Development Lead (ACDL) and deputy ACDL before the awards are confirmed. Unspent funds cannot be rolled over and must be returned.

Seed corn Application 2025/26

It is anticipated that the form will be filled out by the member training lead or equivalent with input from the applicant. * denotes a mandatory question.

Please copy the form to another page if more than one recipient

Member process – <i>please briefly detail how the candidate was selected, how the funding was advertised, the number of applications received, and how the funding decision was made.</i> *	
Recipient's name and email *	
Recipient's job title and current salary, inc spine point *	
Award proposal – <i>please provide a summary of the proposed plan including details of defined outputs. 150-500 words</i> *	
Proposed funding start date *	
Proposed funding end date *	
Funding FTE *	
Salary costs requested for award *	
Training/conference costs requested	
Training /conference costs details	

Bridging Application 2025/26

It is anticipated that the form will be filled out by the member training lead or equivalent with input from the applicant. * denotes a mandatory question.

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Member process – <i>please briefly detail how the candidate was selected, how the funding was advertised, the number of applications received, and how the funding decision was made.</i> *	
Recipient's name and email *	
Recipient's job title and current salary, inc spine point *	
Award proposal – <i>please provide a summary of the proposed plan including details of defined outputs, details of the current funding for the applicant and the funding plan once the bridging award has ended. 150-500 words</i> *	
Proposed funding start date *	
Proposed funding end date *	
Funding FTE *	
Salary costs requested for award *	
Training/conference costs requested	
Training /conference costs details	