2017/18 Brigstow Institute seed-corn fund: Application Guidelines

This call for seed-corn projects is to provide support that gives people with brilliant ideas a chance to work with others to experiment with those. We invite applications from academics at any and every stage of their career, and are just as keen to support brand new partnerships, as well as to extend the ambition of existing research teams.

For new partnerships, we are keen to fund those working across disciplines, those working on co-produced research with external partners, and/or those working on ambitious co-produced, interdisciplinary research.

For existing partnerships, we look to fund those who are already working in interdisciplinary teams but wish to experiment with co-produced research with external partners, or those working on co-produced projects who see the value of bringing in new disciplinary perspectives.

A bit about the Brigstow Institute

Brigstow brings researchers from different disciplines together with a range of partners across the city and beyond to experiment in new ways of living and being.

Our initial themes focus on:

- living well with technologies
- living well with difference
- living well with uncertainty
- just plain old living well

Our research is underpinned by a commitment to a distinctive way of working that foregrounds inter-disciplinarity, co-produced research with – and not just for – external partners, and an emphasis on ‘critical making’ as a research methodology. More information on Brigstow can be found at [www.bristol.ac.uk/brigstow/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/brigstow/).

An example of the projects that Brigstow has funded during so far can be found at [www.bristol.ac.uk/brigstow/projects/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/brigstow/projects/). As you will see, all involved research broadly on what it means to be human, but with very different approaches from diverse teams.

About the funding

A total of ~£60k is likely to be available to share between projects under this call. This will be distributed between the highest-ranked projects (assessed by the Brigstow Steering Group). The closing date is Monday 11th December 2017.

**Funding available:** Typically £3,000-5,000 per grant, although larger bids of up to £10k will be considered. Funding can be used to buy in expertise, pay for student interns, hardware costs, consumables or travel needed to work together. The funding cannot be used to buy out academic staff time.
Projects must also meet the following aims – these will be used as assessment criteria for the call:

- All applications must reflect Brigstow’s emphasis on interdisciplinary and co-produced research approach, which brings together researchers from across disciplines and faculties, and involves non-academic partners. Given the focus on human experience/living well, we expect to see arts/humanities researchers and/or social scientists as members of interdisciplinary research teams.

- Applications must be in keeping with the Brigstow Institute’s key values and engage with one or more of Brigstow’s research themes:
  - living well with technology
  - living well with difference
  - living well with uncertainty
  - just plain old living well!

- The main applicant must be based at University of Bristol for the project to be eligible. We particularly welcome applications from colleagues who have not yet been a PI on a research grant. Applications will be accepted from any academic staff member - post-doctoral researchers can also apply but must have the support of their line manager.

- Funds are available to initiate and develop partnerships to undertake experimental research. We are primarily interested in helping new teams work together on co-produced and/or interdisciplinary research rather than funding knowledge exchange of existing research.

- Outputs can take any form and we are keen that teams think creatively: toolkits, prototypes, texts, performances, exhibitions, objects, interventions etc. We encourage all teams to make something – which will be very much a prototype – together to exhibit at the October showcase.

- All funded projects will be expected to showcase their work in progress at the Brigstow Institute showcase in October 2018.

How to apply

To apply, please complete and submit the attached short application form. Applicants are welcome to discuss ideas for their proposals with the Brigstow team prior to submission for advice.

There will also be opportunities to meet and discuss potential projects with colleagues before the closing date. Further details for these will be published soon at www.bristol.ac.uk/brigstow/funding-and-events/ but we are also available if you have any questions or want to discuss your idea for a project - please contact either Gail Lambourne (Brigstow Institute Manager, gail.lambourne@bristol.ac.uk) or Tim Cole (Brigstow Institute Director, tim.cole@bristol.ac.uk)

Please send all completed applications to: hello-brigstow@bristol.ac.uk

Closing date: Monday 11th December 2017

Awards announced: On or after Wednesday 20th December 2017

We envisage a period of research/making between January and July 2018 (activities and expenditure must take place before 31st July 2018).