

RDICA Career Development Call

2026-27

Contents

Call details	2
Overview	2
The funding opportunity	3
Funding available and costs covered	3
Participant eligibility	4
Required outcomes	4
Deadline	5
How to apply	5
Application process	5
Assessment process	6

Contact information

For all queries, please contact the Research Development International team via
rd-international@bristol.ac.uk

Call details

Overview

The scheme is aimed at supporting activity that is focused on establishing a sustainable research collaboration with international collaborators by working together on a joint external grant funding bid.

The Research Development International Collaboration Awards (RDICA) Career Development call supports University of Bristol (UoB) early career researchers to establish long-term international research collaboration, by funding activities that demonstrate a convincing pathway to external research grant funding. This call is designed to support the development of new international collaborations. If you are applying for support for an existing collaboration, you must demonstrate how this award would enable a significant step-change in your collaboration. Eligible activities can include the organisation of an international workshop, a short international visit to or from a collaborator or some other joint activity as long as it represents a step towards developing the international collaboration via significant external research funding bids. If your plans don't align to the purpose of this call, you could instead consider applying for the [Global Positioning Fund](#) or check the list of other sources of internal funding on our [SharePoint page](#).

Please note that these awards do not cover the costs of carrying out research during your visit or any costs related to conference attendance. However, we may consider covering the costs associated with a specific research development activity that you organise in parallel to research activity or a conference. Contact the team if you are thinking about such a parallel activity to make sure it is eligible/can be considered.

Expectations on inclusive and equitable partnerships

UoB has a commitment to support equitable and transformative partnerships within research programmes co-created by overseas collaborators. Applications should demonstrate an approach that reflects this. Resources and principles that applicants could refer to include:

[Our team's training on Develop: Part 2 of 'Intro to Grant Funding for International Research Collaboration'](#)

[Global Challenges Toolkit](#)

[Equitable Partnerships Resources Hub](#)

[Research in a global setting – UKRI](#)

[ACU Equitable Research Partnerships](#)

The funding opportunity

Funding available and costs covered

The award amount will vary according to the location and proposed activity but must always represent good value for money. The maximum amount applicants can request is £2,500 but this is not a target. The spend must be suitably justified via a breakdown of costs that correlates with the Case for Support in the application form. For applications focused on LMIC-based partnerships, the limit may be raised solely to cover higher unavoidable costs (e.g., flights, visas) or financial constraints of some LMIC institutions.

Activities funded by this award can last between a couple of days and up to one week as a maximum. This is not a target; the length of stay must be justified in light of the specified research development activities and value for money. However, where there is long-haul travel involved, we may be able to consider extra days at either side of the activity to allow for this.

Supported activities can include:

- Travel, accommodation and subsistence associated with short international visits to establish or develop collaborations that will be sustained via future joint external research funding bids.
- Collaborative workshops e.g. to establish ways of working together, which direction the project should go, methods etc.
- Writing retreats to inform bid development.
- See the example of a costings table at the end of this document.

Permissible costs:

- Only if agreed by your School/Department, the buy-out of teaching time to undertake the research development activity.
- Costs of interpreters.
- Additional costs related to childcare, accessibility, or other identified barriers to undertaking the activity where the additional cost directly relates to fulfilling the objectives of the work and is fully justified. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Please note the following maximum limits:
 - For visitors to Bristol, maximum of £50 per day for subsistence and maximum of £120 per day for accommodation
 - For UoB researchers going abroad, accommodation and subsistence costs must be within the limits set by [UK Government employees' overseas travel guidance](#) and within the limits set in [UoB expenses policy](#)
 - We would expect the most economical form of airport transfer to be booked, which would normally be a coach/bus.

This fund does not cover:

- Costs associated with conference attendance.
- Sustained research itself.

- Activities primarily focused on producing publications or other research outputs rather than focused on a convincing plan towards external research funding bids.

Participant eligibility

The applicant will be considered the award's official Principal Investigator (PI) and is responsible and accountable for all activities and spend under the award.

UoB Applicants:

- must be a UoB researcher who is within 10 years of their PhD defense date (viva);
- must be seeking to apply for a joint external research grant that supports international collaboration
- can be based in any school, department, or faculty, and can be on any academic pathway (i.e. Pathway 1, 2 or 3);
- must be officially registered as an academic researcher at the University of Bristol for the full duration of the proposed activities and be employed by UoB at the point when the external grant outcome is due to be announced.

PhD students are not eligible to apply to this scheme.

Unsuccessful applications cannot be resubmitted, unless specifically invited to do so by the RDICA review panel.

Applicants who have failed to meet the terms of any previous awards through [Research Development International](#), including reporting requirements, are not eligible for funding.

International Collaborator:

- All applications must have one named International Collaborator
- Must be based outside the UK with any disciplinary focus; often academics, however, international partners can be from another sector if applicants can demonstrate their eligibility and capacity to be significantly involved in external research funding bids.

Required outcomes

To be eligible for this scheme, applicants must demonstrate that the activity represents a step towards a sustainable international collaboration supported through joint external research funding bids that include research income to UoB. The application form requires a Head of School statement that describes the School/Faculty support for the researcher towards this goal. There is also a section for listing the funding schemes that you would target as the next step.

Examples of eligible funding schemes are provided below. Please note this is not an exhaustive list:

- AHRC-DFG Research Grants
- AHRC/ESRC/MRC responsive mode grants

- UKRI bilateral calls on a particular topic, e.g. EPSRC Japan-UK joint call for collaborations in advancing human-centred AI
- Pillar 2 of the EU's Horizon Europe programme
- European Research Council (ERC) grants

Any proposed grant must be able to facilitate international collaboration. Please note, if a grant does not require an international collaborator, then you must clearly explain in the Case for Support how the collaborator will be involved in a substantial way within the grant programme. Failure to do so may make the application ineligible.

Examples of ineligible funding schemes include:

- Other internal UoB funding schemes
- Low value (relative to the individual discipline) external funding schemes
- Innovation funding, e.g. Innovate UK funding
- Commercial funding
- Prizes

Successful applicants will be contacted annually in January for up to three years following the award to complete a short reporting survey on their award outcomes and impacts.

Applicants who do not comply with the reporting requirements will be considered ineligible for future funding from the wider Research Development International team.

Deadline

The deadline for applications is end of day on **Wednesday 11th November 2026**, for activities and spend taking place between 1st February 2027 and 31st July 2027. **Late applications will not be accepted.** Outcomes are usually communicated within 6 weeks of the deadline. **Please note that project activity cannot start before February 2027.**

How to apply

Application process

1. Familiarise yourself with this document before commencing your application, paying particular attention to the eligibility and assessment criteria.
2. Download the application form, available on the [call webpage](#).
3. As this is an internal funding award, a [Worktribe submission](#) is usually not required when the total costs are under £5,000 and no staff costs are included. Costing specialists typically only need to be involved to set up a Worktribe where staff time forms part of the proposal (if unsure please check with your Faculty Finance [Costing Specialist](#)).
4. Complete the [Research Compliance Initial Assessment](#) and submit it to the Research Compliance Team before submitting the application form.
5. Submit the completed application form to your Head of School (HoS) for a statement and approval in good time before the deadline. The HoS's typed signature can be accepted if

an email trail with their approval is provided. We recommend that applicants notify their HoS of their intention to submit in advance.

6. Submit a copy of the completed application form, with HoS sign-off and statement, via email to rd-international@bristol.ac.uk.

Assessment process

1. The Research Development International (RDI) team will conduct office checks on all applications received prior to the deadline. **Applications which do not meet key eligibility criteria will be considered ineligible.**
2. Applications will then be reviewed individually by panel members from the RDI team.
3. A panel review meeting will take place around four weeks after the deadline (this may be pushed back if there is a high number of applications).
4. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the panel review meeting, along with any requests for further information and information on next steps.

The panel will review applications against the following criteria:

- Is the primary aim of the proposal to take a significant step towards submitting a joint external research funding bid?
- In line with Bristol's commitment to support equitable and transformative partnerships, is there strong potential for developing a mutually beneficial collaboration?
- Is there evidence that the applicant and collaborator(s) can deliver the proposed activities and sustain the collaboration beyond the award duration?
- Are the costs reasonable and appropriate, offering good value for money and demonstrating collaborator buy-in through financial and/or in-kind contributions?
- Does the application identify tangible links that will further the school, faculty or university research priorities and specify clear actions to engage with their objectives?

Applications will be scored against a six-point scale:

Assessment	Score
An outstanding application which fully meets all criteria.	6
An excellent application which meets the criteria.	5
A good application which generally addresses the criteria well.	4
A reasonable application which addresses most of the criteria.	3
A weak application which has some merits.	2
A weak application which does not meet the criteria.	1

Example Costings Table

To calculate the total, you are applying for from the RDICA scheme, please follow these three steps:

1. Calculate the total of activity costs
2. Calculate the total of financial contributions
3. Subtract the total contributions from the activity costs

Activity costs		
Item	Description of individual costs (e.g. per person) <u>These must correlate with activities outlined in Case for Support.</u>	Value (GBP)
Travel costs <i>Please itemise *</i>	Dr Watts visiting New York, June 2027 Return economy flights London – New York (£600) Transport to/from airport in New York (£60) Return National Express Heathrow to Bristol (£50)	£710
Subsistence costs <i>Please itemise and reduce accordingly when a meal will be covered by another source e.g. workshop catering *</i>	Dr Watts visiting New York, June 2027 Daily subsistence in New York for 5 days (£50/day for 5 days not including breakfast costs) Total £250	£250
Accommodation costs <i>Please itemise and indicate if breakfast is included *</i>	Dr Watts visiting New York, June 2027 Accommodation in New York for 4 nights (£120/day for 4 nights including breakfast) Total £480	£480
Other costs <i>Please itemise</i>	Administrative support for workshop 2 days Administrator to support logistics for the workshop in New York (£620) Catering costs Lunch and tea/coffee for one-day hybrid workshop at CUNY for 10 people (£200 including VAT and delivery)	£820
	Total costs	£2260

Financial contributions already secured towards the activity costs		
Item	Description of individual costs (e.g. per person)	Value (GBP)

UoB Faculty/School/ Dept Contribution <i>Please provide details</i>		£0
International Collaborator Contribution(s) <i>Please provide details</i>	CUNY paying for administrative support CUNY paying for catering costs	£820
	Total contributions	£820

Award amount requested (<i>Total activity costs – Total contributions from others</i>)	£1440
---	-------