

GERC - Early Career Researchers Development Fund (ECRDF)

Support for Early Careers Researchers

In order to further the careers of early career researchers within the GeoEnergy Research Centre we have established a fund to facilitate their development over and above what is encompassed within their day-to-day work programmes. The GERC provides an excellent opportunity for researchers at the University of Nottingham and the British Geological Survey to collaborate, and for early careers researchers to learn new skills from more experienced members of staff. However, we recognise that these links alone may not be able to provide certain specialist skills & training, or access to specialised facilities not available locally. Being able to provide for this will enhance both the skills of early career researchers, and the overall science portfolio of the GERC.

See our successful 2016 and 2017 applicants [here](#)

Funding available

Applications are sought for funding from 'Early Career Researchers' proposing specific, career-enhancing opportunities. The Early Career Researchers Development Fund (ECRDF) has limited resources and so particularly encourages applications that are timely and that can leverage additional external resources or in-kind support. The scope of funding available is very wide, and we will consider all well-justified applications that fall within one (or more) of the 12 GERC 'Combined Capability' areas. Cost sharing through jointly-funded opportunities are encouraged.

More details can be found [here](#)

Funding is available for the following activities:

1. Fees for specialised training courses

Up to £2000 is available to arrange specialised training courses in software, laboratory techniques, field work, or other skilled activities. Training courses can be hosted internally (at UoN or BGS) and delivered by external specialists, or they can be held at external venues. The requested funding must be for activities that include at least one Early Career Researcher from BGS and one from UoN.

2. Accessing specialised facilities not available locally

Up to £1000 (per Early Career Researcher) is available to cover equipment access charges at external institutes or companies. The focus will be on learning new skills and/ or access to specialised equipment and capabilities not currently available at UoN or BGS. Priority will be given to work intended to underpin research output or future applications for external funding.

3. Secondments to new or existing industrial partners

Up to £2500 is available (per Early Career Researcher) to enable full-time or part-time secondments to industrial partner organisations. Eligible costs include accommodation, travel & subsistence, and basic consumables to underpin research and training activities within the organisation. Priority will be given to applicants who have clearly identified a strategic opportunity to establish links with a new industrial partner, or to strengthen links with an existing partner.

4. Presentations or posters at major conferences

50% of the total travel & subsistence, accommodation and registration fees (up to a maximum value of £600) are available. This fund is to enable Early Career Researchers to attend and present a paper or poster at a major conference. Applications for attendance only are not eligible.

5. Collaboration with world-leading research groups

Funding is available to enable Early Career Researchers to collaborate with world-leading research groups at UK or overseas external institutions.

- Up to £2500 is available (per Early Career Researcher) for a full-time or part-time secondment. Eligible costs include accommodation, travel & subsistence, and basic consumables to underpin research and training activities within the organisation.
- Up to £600 is available in conjunction with an application for 'Presentations at major conferences'. This is to cover additional travel & subsistence and accommodation costs for networking activities. The objective is to allow Early Career Researchers to visit institutes or companies that are nearby the conference venue. Priority will be given to applications that have identified a strategic opportunity to establish new links with a world-leading research group, or to strengthen links with an existing partner.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the fund, the applicant must be a researcher within the GERC. This applies across the British Geological Survey, but for the University of Nottingham this includes only: the Faculty of Engineering, and the Schools of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy, and Mathematical Sciences, and other GERC affiliated researchers. They must also be at Research Band 5 or below (university grading scheme), or at 'Band 5 or below (NERC grading scheme). They must also fulfil at least one of the following: be within 10 years (FTE) of being awarded their first degree or be within 7 years (FTE) of completing their PhD. Allowance will be made for those working part-time, or having been on maternity leave or a career break.

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Application process

Fully completed application forms must be submitted electronically to Miss Lindsay Holowka, at: lindsay.holowka@nottingham.ac.uk Tel: 0115 74 86217

All enquiries should be directed to the Early Career Researchers Development Fund (ECRDF) Theme Lead, Dr Chris Rochelle. Email: caro@bgs.ac.uk, Tel: 0115 936 3259

Deadline for applications:

Call 1 - Friday 2nd March 2018

Call 2 - Friday 11th May 2018

Call 3 - Friday 20th July 2018

Call 4 - Friday 28th September 2018



University of
Nottingham
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Geological Survey
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL