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RESEARCH@



URC E-NEWSLETTER

2023

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UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

European Grants

ERC-2023-SyG synergy grants

The European Commission Horizon Europe: Excellent Science European Research Council invites proposals for its ERC-2023-SyG synergy grants. These enable groups of two to four principal investigators and their teams to bring together complementary skills, knowledge, and resources in new ways, in order to jointly address research problems. The aim is to promote scientific advances, to cross-fertilise scientific fields, and to encourage new productive lines of enquiry and new methods and techniques, including unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between established disciplines.

Applications may be submitted by groups consisting of between two and four principal investigators and their respective teams. Applicants may be researchers of any age or nationality, and may reside in any country at the time of the application. Each principal investigator must present an early achievement track-record or a 10-year track record and must spend a minimum of 50 per cent of working time in an EU member state or associated country and a minimum of 30 per cent of their working time on the ERC project. They must be engaged at the host institution for the duration of the project. Host institutions must generally be established in EU member states or associated countries as a legal entity under national law, or may be an international European interest organisation, the European Commission's joint research centre, or any other entity under EU law, including public and private entities, universities, research organisations and similar undertakings. Up to four host institutions can engage the principal investigators and one of these host institution at any one time may be a legal entity established outside the EU or associated countries. One of the principal investigators, as well as team members of any principal investigator, may be hosted and engaged by an institution outside the EU member states or associated countries.

The total budget is worth €300 million. Approximately 30 grants are available, each worth up to €10m over six years. An additional €4m can be requested to cover eligible start-up costs, major equipment costs and access to large facilities.

Closing date 08 November 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max €14,000,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

ERC-2023-CoG consolidator grants

The European Commission Horizon Europe: Excellent Science European Research Council invites proposals for its ERC-2023-CoG consolidator grants. These enable researchers to consolidate their independence by establishing or strengthening a research team. Applications may be made in any field of research with an emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering.

PIs may be of any nationality and based in any country at the time of application. They should have been awarded their PhD between seven and 12 years prior and must show evidence of research independent, for example by having produced several important publications as main author or without participation of their PhD supervisor. Host institutions must be established in EU member states or associated countries as a legal entity under national law, or may be an international European research organisation, the European Commission's joint research centre or any other entity under EU law, including public and private entities, universities, research organisations and similar undertakings. The applicant does not need to be working at the institution at the time of application. Applicants must spend a minimum of 50 per cent of working time in an EU member state or associated country and a minimum of 40 per cent of their working time on the ERC project.

The total budget is €595 million and 300 grants are available. Grants are worth up to €2 million over five years. An additional €1m may be requested for eligible start-up costs of moving to the EU or an associated country, purchase of major equipment, access to large facilities and other major experimental and field work costs. Funding covers 100 per cent of total eligible direct costs and 25 per cent of total eligible indirect costs.

Ref: ERC-2023-COG.

Closing date 12 December 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max €3,000,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Fellowships

RCP Research Fellowship

The Royal College of Physicians is offering 12-month research fellowships for trainee doctors or new consultants. The RCP Research Fellowship will provide seed-corn funding for junior doctors or new consultants to spend twelve months of protected time undertaking important, innovative research, developing research proposals, and collecting pilot data in order to submit and obtain further funding for their projects. The work funded by the fellowship will ideally lead to an MD or PhD and subsequently a career in academic medicine.

Closing date 31 July 2023

Award amount max £50,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/education-practice/funding-awards/rcp-research-fellowship>

New investigator grant programme

BrightFocus Foundation invites letters of intent for its new investigator grant program. This supports researchers working in the field of macular degeneration during their early years as an independent investigator.

Closing date 31 July 2023

Award amount USD 150,000 - 450,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://science.brightfocus.org/research/macular-degeneration-research-program/rfp>

IHS Sabbatical Research Fellowships

The Institute for Humane Studies offers a highly competitive grant awarded to faculty in need of sabbatical leave.

Areas of interest include research in the classical liberal intellectual tradition, free/open markets, individual rights, private property, peace, prosperity, self-determination/autonomy, and other related themes.

Closing date 01 August 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount min USD 50,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://www.theihs.org/funding-opportunities/?modal-id=modal-17793>

AAS/AASF Trainee Research Fellowship Award in Education

This award provides an eligible resident or fellow who has completed at least two years of postgraduate training in a surgical discipline the opportunity to spend one year in a full-time research position with an AAS member.

Closing date 01 August 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount min USD 30,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://www.aasurg.org/aas-aasf-trainee-research-fellowship-award-in-education/>

Damon Runyon Fellowship Award

The Foundation encourages all theoretical and experimental research relevant to the study of cancer and the search for cancer causes, mechanisms, therapies and prevention.

Closing date 15 August 2023

Award amount USD 60,000 - 252,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://www.damonrunyon.org/for-scientists/application-guidelines/fellowship/forms>

Radcliffe Institute Fellowship Program

Radcliffe fellows are exceptional scientists, writers, scholars, public intellectuals, practitioners, and artists whose work is making a difference in their professional fields and in the larger world.

Based in Radcliffe Yard—a sanctuary in the heart of Harvard University—fellows join a uniquely interdisciplinary and creative community. A fellowship at Radcliffe is an opportunity to step away from usual routines and dive deeply into a project. With access to Harvard's unparalleled resources, Radcliffe fellows develop new tools and methods, challenge artistic and scholarly conventions, and illuminate our past and our present.

Throughout the year, fellows convene regularly to share their work in progress. Coming from diverse disciplines and perspectives, they challenge each other's ideas and support each other's ambitions. Many say that it is the best year of their professional lives.

Closing date 08 September 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount USD 80,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/radcliffe-fellowship/become-a-radcliffe-fellow>

Michigan Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellowship

Each year the Society selects outstanding applicants for appointment to fellowships in the social, physical, and life sciences, the humanities, and in the professional schools.

Each fellow is expected to teach the equivalent of one academic year, i.e., a total of two terms during the period of the fellowship. Any subsequent appointment of a Fellow to a position at the University of Michigan would be subject to the rules governing new appointments.

Fellows are expected to be in residence in Ann Arbor for the academic years of appointment (September to May) and to participate in the activities of the Society of Fellows. Off-campus research leave during academic terms will be permitted only in rare cases, only for brief periods of time, and only upon written application to the Chair of the Society well in advance of the proposed leave. Any leave granted will count as part of the fellowship tenure.

Closing date 15 September 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount min USD 180,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://societyoffellows.umich.edu/the-fellowship/>

Society for the Humanities Fellowships

The Society for the Humanities at Cornell University invites applications for residential fellowships from scholars and artists whose projects reflect on the 2023-24 theme of Crossing.

Fellows include scholars and practitioners from other universities and members of the Cornell faculty released from regular duties. Fellows at the Society for the Humanities are “residential,” and will collaborate with one another and the Taylor Family Director of the Society for the Humanities, Paul Fleming, L. Sanford and Jo Mills Reis Professor of Humanities and professor of comparative literature and German studies. Fellows spend their time in research and writing during the residential fellowship, and are required to participate in a weekly Fellows Seminar workshopping each other’s projects and discussing readings based on the yearly theme.

The nature of this fellowship year is social and communal—fellows forge connections outside the classroom and the lecture hall by sharing meals following the weekly seminar and attending post-lecture receptions and other casual events throughout the year. Fellows live and work in Ithaca, NY, and are expected to be in their offices on campus frequently. All applicants for Society Fellowships should share in this commitment to creating a supportive and intellectually stimulating community.

Fellows teach one small seminar during their fellowship year appropriate for graduate students and advanced undergraduates. Though courses are designed to fit the focal theme, there are no additional restrictions on what or how the course should be taught. Fellows are encouraged to experiment with both the content and the method of their seminar particularly as it relates to their current research.

Closing date 20 September 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 56,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://societyhumanities.as.cornell.edu/society-fellowships>

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Fellowship

The Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Fellowship subjects are offered on a three-year rotation, with the subjects as listed below. Newnham research students in the whole field of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences may apply in any year, regardless of the rotational listing:

- 2023: Architecture, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Divinity, History, History of Art. The successful candidate will enter into their Fellowship on 1 October 2023.

- 2024: Archaeology & Anthropology, Classics, Geography, History and Philosophy of Science, Human Social and Political Sciences (HSPS), Modern and Medieval Languages (including Theoretical and Applied Linguistics), Politics and International Studies, Social Sciences, Philosophy. The successful candidate will enter into their Fellowship on 1 October 2024.
- 2025: Business & Management, Economics, English (including Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic), Education, Land Economy, Law, Music. The successful candidate will enter into their Fellowship on 1 October 2025.

Closing date 30 September 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max £64,800

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://newn.cam.ac.uk/research/research-fellowships/>

Cullman Center Fellowship

The Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers offers Fellowships to people whose work will benefit directly from access to the research collections at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. Renowned for the extraordinary comprehensiveness of its collections, the Library is one of the world's preeminent resources for study in anthropology, art, geography, history, languages and literature, philosophy, politics, popular culture, psychology, religion, sociology, sports, and urban studies.

The Cullman Center looks for top-quality writing. It aims to promote dynamic communication about literature and scholarship at the very highest level—within the Center, in public forums throughout the Library, and in the Fellows' published work.

Closing date 30 September 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 75,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website: <https://www.nypl.org/help/about-nypl/fellowships-institutes/center-for-scholars-and-writers/fellowships-at-the-cullman-center>

Research Grants

Eduard Gübelin research scholarship

This supports a student or scientist in pursuing an innovative gemmological research project in the field of Earth sciences or a related scientific field. The project should venture into new areas and test new concepts and methods, thus making a contribution to the advancement of gemmological knowledge.

Closing date 31 July 2023

Award amount max USD 30,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://www.gubelingemlab.com/en/gemlab/scholarship>

Research and networking grant

The European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition invites proposals for its research and networking grant. These enable members to undertake research activities and network among centres at an international level. Activities may include interactive educational events and clinical networks. Proposals relevant to the society's activities, such as the validation of guidelines, or clinical networks for testing treatment regimes or disease management, are encouraged

Main applicants must be members of the society and all projects must include more than one country. Non-society members may participate in collaboration with society members. Collaboration between two or more society members in different centres is required.

The grant is worth up to €50,000.

Closing date 31 July 2023

Award amount max €50,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://www.espghan.org/research-funding/Research-and-Networking-Grant>

Extramural Biomedical Research and Development

A primary emphasis of the USSOCOM Biomedical, Human Performance, and Canine Research Program is to identify and develop techniques, knowledge products, and materiel (medical devices, drugs, and biologics) for early intervention in life-threatening injuries, prolonged field care (PFC), human performance optimization, and canine medicine/performance. Special Operations Forces (SOF) medical personnel place a premium on medical equipment that is small, lightweight, ruggedized, modular, multi-use, and designed for operation in extreme environments. The equipment must be easy to use, require minimum maintenance, and have low power consumption. Drugs and biologics should not require refrigeration or other special handling. All materiel and related techniques must be simple and effective, and easily modified for commercialization. Research projects may apply existing scientific and technical knowledge for which concept and/or patient care efficacy have already been demonstrated to meet SOF requirements.

Closing date 31 July 2023

Award amount max USD 10,000,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=307754>

Education Research Training Grant

The SAEMF Education Research Training Grant supports a fellow or junior faculty member in education research training, including pursuit and preferably completion of an advanced degree in education. This award strives to foster innovation in teaching, education, and educational research in emergency medicine for faculty-, fellow-, resident- and medical student-level learners.

Closing date 01 August 2023

Award amount max USD 100,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website; <https://www.saem.org/about-saem/academies-interest-groups-affiliates2/saem-foundation/apply-for-a-grant/what-we-fund/education-fellowship-grant>

Research Integrity Dilemmas

The examples below are based on scenarios contained in the 'Dilemma Game Professionalism and Integrity in Research' (Erasmus University Rotterdam). These are provided for reflection purposes. Read each of the examples and consider what you would do.

Flexible criteria

A senior researcher asks me to work on a project with him. He has already collected data from 50 randomly-selected organisations and I am working on data analysis. After finalising the research paper, a reviewer points out that only 30 organisations meet the sample selection criteria. Making use of a smaller sample threatens the credibility and validity of the results. The senior researcher is not concerned and tells me to change the sample selection criteria so they are easily met by all 50 organisations.

What do I do?

Spoilsport

I am using data from a widely used data source within my institute. While processing the data, I come across some systematic problems (missing values, outliers) that apparently nobody has ever bothered about before. Remedying the error accurately would take me half a year. The head of my research group suggests following “common practice”, without specifying. Common practice is not to report the problem. Alternative sources are not readily available.

What do I do?

Read:

https://www.eur.nl/sites/corporate/files/24708_integriteitsspel_interactief_2016.pdf

WORKSHOP ON THE IMPORTANCE OF 'ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN RESEARCH'

The University Research Council (URC) concluded a workshop on the importance of ethical considerations in research, on March 30, 2023. The workshop was held at Hotel Tourmaline and was attended by 45 permanent staff members of the university and the four RAs from the AI4COVID project. The morning session was in a lecture format with three interactive sessions.



Ms. Purnima Perera from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Open University of Sri Lanka delivered an inspiring lecture on the basics of research ethics, the importance of ethical scrutiny in research, and the significance of ethical clearance for sociological research. Dr. Samidi Navaratna, from the Department of Community Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, followed with a lecture on ethical considerations in biomedical research. Dr. Chathurika Dandeniya, from the Department of Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya who also represented the Ethical Clearance Committee of the Faculty of Medicine discussed the ethical clearance process.

The evening session was an interactive session facilitated by three experienced researchers: Prof. RM. Mudiyanse from the Department of Paediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine; Prof. Niroshani Soysa from the Department of Oral Medicine and Periodontology at the Faculty of Dental Sciences; and Prof. Sakunthala Yatigammana Ekanayake from the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts.



All the participants enthusiastically engaged in the interactive session, which provided some good insights into ethical flaws in the research. The funding for this workshop was provided by the AI4COVID project, which is funded by IDRC, Canada. Overall, the workshop provided valuable insights into the importance of ethical considerations in research and how to ensure that research is conducted with integrity and accountability.





Research Publication Facilitation Fund University Of Peradeniya

The new application for Research Publication Facilitation application is now available in <https://site.pdn.ac.lk/centers/urc>

According to the new process introduced for the reimbursement of Article processing charges, applicants can get prior approval for the payments before submission of the application. Upon receiving the approval for the APC from URC, usually through an email, submit the invoice for the payment of the APC, and the credit card statement to process the payment.

Note:

- Application is a fillable form, which you can fill using Adobe Acrobat Reader latest versions.
- Furnish all the details, sign the application, get the Head and the Dean to sign.
- Attach a copy of the complete manuscript and the acceptance letter.
- Only the full-length articles published in SCI/SSCI/SCI-expanded/SSCI-expanded with an impact factor of 2 or higher will be considered for Article Processing Charge (APC).

Special Note:

- The payment must be done by a permanent staff member of the University of Peradeniya.
- If two authors claim for the same article fill in two separate applications and send both applications together (Attaching one copy of the manuscript and the invoice is adequate). If one author paid for the APC, a consent letter from the second author should be submitted.
- Funding is subjected to availability of funds.



Research Publication Facilitation Fund [RPFF] University of Peradeniya

The University Research Council [URC] is pleased to announce that it has initiated a scheme to provide financial assistance up to a maximum of USD 1000.00 per year for the researchers of University of Peradeniya to facilitate publishing their research findings in high-ranking peer reviewed journals.

Financial Assistance:

USD 500 per author up to a maximum of USD 1000 per paper per year.



Eligibility Criteria:

The applicant should be a permanent staff member of the University of Peradeniya and one of the authors of the journal article.

The University of Peradeniya should have been identified as the sole affiliation or one of the affiliations. Journal articles which do not carry the University of Peradeniya as an affiliation are not eligible for funding.

The journal should be indexed in one of the following Web of Science indexes:

- o Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)
- o Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)
- o Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)

The impact factor of the journal should be 2 or higher

The corresponding author of the journal article should have used the institutional e-mail address (pdn.ac.lk or any variant)

None of the applicants should have used this facility within the current calendar year

The URC reserves the right to amend the eligibility criteria. The article processing charge will be reimbursed subject to the availability of funds.

Procedure:

The applicant should fill in an application form and submit the same to the Director, URC through the Head of the Department and the Dean of the Faculty along with the original copy of the receipt for the payment of page charges and a copy of the journal article. The article should have been published either online or printed with a valid DOI in the journal within the year of concern. The application can be downloaded from https://www.pdn.ac.lk/centers/urc/doc/Application%20For%20RPFF_URC_2021.pdf

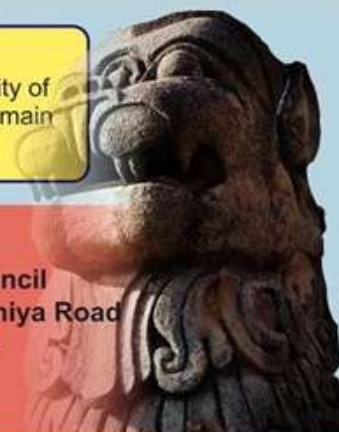
Important:

The author/s other than the corresponding author affiliated to the University of Peradeniya are encouraged to use the official e-mail address with pdn domain name provided by the University of Peradeniya.



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*Looking forward to your
contributions to the June edition*

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