

STFC New Applicant Funding in Particle Physics and Nuclear Physics

Guidelines for Applicants

1. New Applicant Funding Scheme

- 1.1. Academic staff newly appointed to a department, including lecturers and lecturer-equivalent fellows, may exceptionally apply for support under the New Applicant Scheme if they have joined between consolidated grant review rounds. The scheme is designed to enable researchers to establish their research programmes at an early stage of their appointment. Successful applications will usually receive funding as a separate grant associated with the department's existing consortium or consolidated grant. This scheme applies to the nuclear, gravitational waves and particle physics communities.
- 1.2. Given the limited availability of funding, awards will be made on a highly competitive basis. Where funding is awarded, it will normally be at a modest level and intended to support essential research activities, including travel, consumables, computing, and administrative support.
- 1.3. Prospective applicants should contact STFC via pp@stfc.ac.uk prior to submitting an application to discuss their eligibility and the availability of funding for the proposed request for support.
- 1.4. Consideration of applications under this scheme is contingent upon the availability of budget within the relevant STFC funding allocation. Applications that meet the assessment criteria may not be funded where sufficient budget is not available.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. Applicants should not hold funding on more than one consolidated grant concurrently. For example, where an individual transfers from another university, they cannot be supported through both a New Applicant Grant and a consolidated grant at their previous institution.
- 2.2. Applicants must be employed on a full or part-time basis as academic members of staff at the award-holding university by the start date of the new applicants grant.
- 2.3. Standard [STFC eligibility rules](#) apply in addition to the above stated criteria.

- 2.4. Applicants must clearly justify the need for additional support by demonstrating that the proposed research cannot be accommodated within the resources and spending flexibility of the department's existing consolidated grant.

3. Terms of the scheme

- 3.1. The Applicant must be the sole investigator.
- 3.2. Applicants can only apply for a new applicant award once at any institution.
- 3.3. Applicants can apply for funding for a minimum of a year and a maximum of four years up to the start of the department's next consortium/consolidated grant. Applicants can apply for limited resources to allow the applicant to begin to establish a research programme.
- 3.4. The relevant grant panel will assess applications against the same criteria as the consolidated grant proposals (and funding will come from the appropriate funding line); however, research potential in addition to track record will be taken into account.
- 3.5. Grants are not renewable and cannot be extended.

4. Submission of Proposals

- 4.1. After the initial contact is made with STFC and if the applicant is invited to submit a new applicant funding application, Applicants should submit a one-page pre-proposal which will be reviewed by the relevant grant panel.
- 4.2. This pre-proposal should contain;
- brief explanation of the circumstances, explaining why a new applicant proposal is appropriate, and how the application matches the eligibility criteria set out above.
 - brief outline of the nature and strength of the scientific case that would be described in full if permission for a full proposal is given.
 - an indication of the requested resources
- 4.3. The pre-proposal should be accompanied by a brief letter from the Project Lead (PL) of the consolidated grant held by the department concerned, confirming the employment status and timing, and explaining carefully why the new member of staff's research cannot be supported using the spending flexibility allowed within the existing grant.
- 4.4. Requests will be reviewed as they are received through a streamlined assessment process.

- 4.5. If the case for funding is considered to be potentially a high priority, applicants will be advised of next steps, including a potential submission to TFS.