

Innovation Studio Research Fund Guidelines

The Innovation Studio Research Fund is designed to support emerging, interdisciplinary research ideas and partnerships at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Funds of up to £1500 per project are available for research and researcher development projects.

Funding is suitable for:

- New research that is linked to the themes of the Innovation Studio
- Resource to engage with partners and to support your first steps as a researcher
- Development of a local or international research network
- Exploration or workshopping time to develop and discuss ideas with partners and collaborators before applying to further research funding

Up to 5 research projects can be funded in every Challenge. Proposals should align with the Challenges as follows:

Round 1 – Green Recovery (Spring 2022)

Round 2 – Placemaking (Autumn 2022)

Round 3 – Creative Health (Spring 2023)

Applications can be made for funding up to £1,500. There is therefore a total of up to 15 awards available over the 2-year pilot.

This fund is available to RCS staff (full time, part time, or PTHP) and we are particularly interested in applications from those just beginning to develop their research ambitions with ideas and proposals that may be at an early stage and need some resource to help to move your idea to the next stage, perhaps following on with an application to the RCS Athenaeum Awards.

The deadline for the first round of applications, relating to the Green Recovery, is **Friday 10 June 2022 at 17:00**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Decisions on the applications will be made by the Innovation Studio Panel.

A Note on Green Recovery

Green Recovery: a process of healing from the devastating impacts of Covid-19 that prioritises people, place, and planet.

How can we, as a community of artists, work with others to imagine and co-create positive change?

The devastating impact of Covid-19 and the climate emergency have brought immense changes to our day-to-day lives. It has also impressed a sense of urgency to find new solutions, influence policy, and work together in new ways.

The term Green Recovery brings with it a wide range of associations and can prompt many responses. We encourage you to interrogate the resonances of this in a way that is most suitable for you and your research partners.

The ethos of Innovation Studio is to enable participants to shape and influence the programme and, therefore, we invite you to bring your own experiences, perspectives, and critiques to your project.

Eligibility

1. Proposals from all Full-Time, Part-Time or Part-Time Hourly-Paid (PTHP) staff of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland are eligible.
2. Proposals must demonstrate how they align with the Innovation Studio Challenge.
3. Applicants must have the right to reside and work in the UK.*
4. Projects must be completed within 9 months of commencement. In extreme circumstances where no reasonable progress can be demonstrated, funding for the award may be withdrawn.

**All awardees are responsible for their own tax and the Innovation Studio team can work with you to explore whether the award should be paid via self-employment routes or through the RCS PAYE system,*

Costs

Staff should supply a detailed budget to cover the costs of the project they are applying for, up to £1,500. Consider all the possible hidden costs that may be involved and present a realistic budget.

Potential costs that can be applied for and should be included: time related costs, performer hire, buy-in expert time, room hire, catering, travel and accommodation, marketing, administrative costs, consumable costs, image usage costs.

The fund will not cover:

- Living costs, rent, overhead bills (Subsistence costs)
- Debts
- Business Consulting costs
- New instruments
- Membership of professional bodies
- Formal tuition fees

If applying for partial funding of a project, please include a full project budget with indication of other funding noted. If applicable, please include in-kind costs.

When applying for your costs on the project you should consider realistically the time you will need to spend making the project happen. If you are applying for time related costs, they should be based on the £36.17 an hour PTHP lecturer rate.

Unfortunately, the funding cannot be used to buy out full-time staff time.

Research Objectives and Results

The panel will be looking for applications that have clear *objectives* (i.e. what you want to do and why you want to do it) and *results* (i.e. initial thoughts on what may be produced or developed and what the next steps might be when the work is finished).

These awards are designed to help you map out a journey for your innovative research ideas, so tell us clearly what you would like to happen in connection to the work that you are planning to undertake.

For example: could it lead to an event drawing together a range of people to discuss; create a space to use making to explore new ideas; new skills development; a literature review to identify a gap in research; an ongoing interdisciplinary partnership/ network; creation of a new piece of work, or clarification of your research question.

Results may take any form that satisfy the criteria of the award given below, but will typically take the form of: performances; published articles; compositions; plays; short films; recordings, events, research reports, new processes, workshops, products and services.

Objectives may include new partnerships with external companies, newly-established relationships with artists or institutions, grant applications or other programmes of work directly related to the subject of the project or research.

Assessment and Criteria for Award

The panel is not obliged to recommend any awards for funding if the standard of applications is not considered sufficiently high.

Decisions will be made in relation to the overall merit (significance, rigour, and originality), the feasibility of the project, the expertise of staff involved, the approach and the commitment from your collaborating partner/s, if any, and its relation to the stated goals of the Innovation Studio.

The application will be considered in relation to one or more of the following criteria:

- The identification of clearly defined objectives which must be outlined in the initial application
- Alignment of the proposed research to the relevant Challenge within Innovation Studio
- The demonstration of a well-planned and prepared project and, if appropriate, with partnerships in place prior to application
- the extent to which the project is documented or recorded in a way to enable dissemination of research outputs, and through Innovation Studio showcases.
- The extent to which the timeline provided in the application is achievable.
- Confirmation that that applicant intends to apply for ethical approval from the RCS Ethics Committee if required at this stage

The RKE Team will provide feedback on your application if requested.

How to Apply

[Click here to make a Research Fund Application.](#)

Video application will also be considered. If you would like to apply this way, please contact Stephanie at innovationstudio@rcs.ac.uk.

The Innovation Studio and Research Fund are in a pilot stage. We may contact you for feedback on your experience with the fund to help us evaluate the programme and make improvements for the future.

Successful applicants must provide a short report (500 words), detailing how the money was spent, the difference it made and what you have learned about the innovation and research process. The report can be produced in any media form you would like (e.g. blog post, vlog, and can include images) and must be submitted within 9 months of receiving the funds.

If you have any questions, please contact innovationstudio@rcs.ac.uk.

Before submitting this application, please be aware that The Research & Knowledge Exchange Department and The Royal Conservatoire expect you to act as leader on your project and that all responsibilities and accountabilities for its administration are devolved to you.

By submitting an application, you are agreeing to take ownership of your project.

We take your privacy very seriously. Please find a copy of our privacy notice at:
www.rcs.ac.uk/policy/privacy