

Centre for Statistics - Seed funding for collaborative projects

One of the ambitions for the CfS is:

The organisation of interdisciplinary seminars and discussion series based in academic units across the University and, through the provision of small grants, to aid the development of collaborative research proposals.

Today's joint research day between the Centre for Statistics and the Centre for Discovery Brain Sciences is the first where we are offering the opportunity to bid for these small 'pump-priming' grants to facilitate the development of significant interdisciplinary research proposals.

Outline of criteria, eligibility and arrangements

- Up to £15,000 is available (£10,000 from the CfS and an additional £5,000 from the CDBS), to fund one or more proposals. A further £5,000 is available from the Simons Initiative for the Developing Brain, but only proposals that demonstrate some relevance to autism are eligible for that funding.
- The proposal must be related to the theme of the research day.
- Proposals must demonstrate a high likelihood that the investment will help establish a long term research collaboration. The intention is not to fund the completion of an existing piece of work, a short one-off project or purely speculative research.
- The deadline for receipt of the proposal is 11:59pm on Friday 11th January 2019. Proposals should be sent in pdf format by email to j.gair@ed.ac.uk by this deadline.
- Proposals will be judged by the Director of the CfS, one person from CfSBS and one of our Co-Directors from another College. They will come to a decision by the end of January.
- A report on the outcomes of the funding must be delivered to the Director of the CfS by August 2019.

Format of the proposal and eligibility of funding

Up to 4 sides of A4, detailing:

- The activity that the funding will cover.
- A clear description of how this work will progress a joint project (e.g. by assessing its feasibility, or otherwise strengthening the case for a future grant application).
- A description of the longer term (2-5 year) vision for the development of the research collaboration.
- How success will be measured, e.g., submitting a proposal to an anticipated future grant call.
- The resources requested.

The resources requested must represent good value for money. Only direct costs can be covered, but there are no other restrictions. For example, proposers can request funding for someone's time to assess the feasibility of a project, to bring in a third party to provide missing expertise in a particular area, or for travel. All such funding must be thoroughly justified and it must be clear that there are no other sources of funds available to support this activity.

Any funds awarded are not strictly grants, and will not be measured as such. On award of seed funding, discussions will take place as to the most effective way to distribute the funds between units.