

Financial Pathways Seed Funding Guidance

Call opens: Thursday 6 March 2025

Submission deadline: Wednesday 2 April 2025

Planned award announcement date: Week commencing 14 April 2025

Overview

The Alliance for Research Challenge (ARC) in [Energy, Homes and Livelihoods](#) provides seed funding opportunities to drive cross-sectoral research, acting as a catalyst in the process to support ideas from inception to reality. The scope of these projects is flexible, but they should contribute to one or more of the aims of the Alliance.

This seed fund round is specifically targeting the aims of the **Financial Pathways theme**:

- advance cross-sectoral research collaborations
- advance new lines of research inquiry
- advance empirical insights/research

The range of topics that applications may address within the theme of Financial Pathways is open. We, however, particularly welcome applications that address the following topics:

- The (co)benefits of climate action
- Methodologies to investigate community level benefits of climate action
- The health impacts of decarbonising houses and buildings
- The economic costs and benefits of local renewable power production

List of Example Funded Activities

These examples are not exhaustive but are intended to provide some examples of possible projects:

- Cross-disciplinary workshops/sandpits
- Research visits that enable collaboration across typical discipline boundaries
- Consortium building activity (e.g., towards a collaborative funding opportunity)

Ineligible Costs

Projects will be awarded at 100% FEC. Funding must not be used for the purposes of:

- Indirect or estates related costs at the institution you are based in.
- Costs relating to intellectual property protection, including but not limited to registering, maintaining, or supporting patents.

Award Value

We will accept applications up to £10,000.

Applicant Eligibility

We welcome applications from any organisation (academia, industry, non-profit etc.), and encourage cross-discipline collaborative projects involving multiple partners but proposals need to be led by at least one named partner from a Scottish University or Higher Education Institution (HEI).

Project Duration

We expect most projects to be less than or equal to 6 months in duration. Longer projects may be supported if a suitable justification is given.

Application Process

Please complete the application form and submit via email to SRAEHL@st-andrews.ac.uk.

Submission Timeline

Multiple rounds of funding will be distributed over the duration of the ARC. Details of future funding rounds will be announced in due course.

Assessment

Applications will be reviewed independently by two reviewers selected by the ARC leadership team. The reviewers will assess the applications against the following essential criteria:

- Contribution to the aims of the Financial Pathways Theme (outlined in the overview above)
- Quality of the proposal including feasibility, timeliness, and appropriateness of resources
- Potential impact
- Appropriate consideration of EDI in the proposal

You do not need to meet all of these, the assessment process will focus on the quality of the criterion/criteria met, rather than the quantity met. For example, an excellent contribution to a single desirable criterion could score more highly than a poorer contribution to multiple criteria.

Desirable criteria:

- Topic with desirable criterion
- Contribution to ECR development
- Ability to leverage this proposal for further activities that are aligned with the ARC's aims

Payment Arrangements

A collaboration agreement between the University of St Andrews and the lead Scottish University of the project will set out the terms and conditions under which the funds will be paid to the lead Scottish HEI. Payment of the award will be made **in arrears** as detailed below.

The lead Scottish HEI shall invoice the University of St Andrews in arrears based on actual expenditure and the University of St Andrews shall pay the lead Scottish HEI within thirty (30) days of a valid invoice, subject always to receipt of funds from the Funder and subject to the satisfactory completion by the Award Holder of any due diligence checks as may be reasonably required. The final invoice should be sent to the University of St Andrews within one month of the end of the Project. The cost statement should include the breakdown of the indexed full economic cost (fEC) figures as well as the actual sums claimed.

Post-award expectations

We expect awardees to provide a short report on their project following its completion. A template will be provided.

Enquiries

Any questions can be addressed to sraehl@st-andrews.ac.uk