**School of Technology Seed Fund**

The School of Technology Seed Fund aims to support academics in the School to add value to existing research; to increase activity in [cross-School strategic research themes](https://www.tech.cam.ac.uk/research-themes) and priorities, particularly in addressing major challenges; to bring in further research income; or to explore research ideas of potential significance.

Applications for typically up to £10,000 to cover Direct Costs are invited from academics in the School of Technology Departments. An award could fund post-doctoral researcher time, support a workshop, or support development of a major collaborative proposal.

Applications will be assessed by members of the School Research Committee, with decisions made at termly Research Committee meetings. Applications can be submitted at any time; dates for the year are given below.

Please email applications to [researchstrat@tech.cam.ac.uk](mailto:researchstrat@tech.cam.ac.uk);Applicants will be informed of the outcome following the next School Research Committee meeting – see dates above.

*Funds must be spent within 12 months. The* *School requires a brief two-paragraph progress report at the 6-month point. A final report of activities and outcomes (maximum 1000 words), plus a 200-word summary suitable for publication on the* *School website, must be submitted within 14 months of the award being made.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Applications received by applicant’s COB** | **Assessed at Research Committee meeting** | **Outcome communicated** |
| Tuesday 24 October 2023 | 1 November 2023 | 15 November 2023 |
| Tuesday 6 February 2024 | 15 February 2024 | 29 February 2024 |
| 12:00 on Monday 6 May 2024 | 21 May 2024 | 4 June 2024 |

**Applications will be assessed according to:**

1. The merit and potential impact of the activities
2. The potential to provide a basis for further external funding or further major research initiatives

**Preference will be given to the following:**

1. Applications involving more than one Department (any School), or with potential to improve cross-School and cross-University activity; or new research initiatives in [cross-School strategic research themes and priorities](https://www.tech.cam.ac.uk/research-themes)
2. Research that fits clearly into the School’s Themes and strategic priorities.
3. Grand Challenges with potential for (i) further collaborations; (ii) influencing policy and decision-makers
4. New Strategic Research Initiatives (SRIs), should the University be running a call for these
5. Applications that leverage other internal funding sources, e.g. [Isaac Newton Trust Grants](https://www.newtontrust.cam.ac.uk/ResearchGrants/resgrantsprinciples)

**Eligibility criteria**

1. The lead academic must:
   1. Be based in one of the Departments of the School of Technology
   2. Be a PI who is eligible to hold their own grants within their Department
   3. Have a contract running beyond the proposed end date of the funding
2. The proposal must:
   1. Indicate how the work will directly enable further research income or seed significant further research
   2. Include direct costs only
3. The following are **not** supported by the seed fund:
   1. Buy-out of academic investigator time
   2. Stand-alone research
   3. Non-research activities (e.g. teaching, outreach, commercialisation)
   4. Proposals for the sole purpose of bridging a postdoc
   5. Proposals whose primary purpose is administrative support for bid preparation, (apply instead to the [RSO Bid Preparation Fund](https://www.research-strategy.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/bid-preparation-fund): rolling deadline; a response is normally given within 2 weeks of submission)

The Research Strategy Office has [support available for applications](https://www.research-strategy.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/bid-preparation-fund):

* [Large Grant Contributions Fund](https://www.research-strategy.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-funding/large-grant-support/large-grant-contributions-fund-0): aims to provide financial contributions to large collaborative grant proposals
* [Bid Preparation Fund](https://www.research-strategy.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-funding/large-grant-support/grant-preparation-support): provides small grants to enable preparation of large collaborative bids

**School of Technology Seed Fund Application Form**

**Applicant Details**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name |  | |
| University email |  | |
| Department (& Division, if in Engineering) |  | |
| Role |  | |
| 1. Title of proposal | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Summary of proposal (max 100 words) | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Academic leadership: why are you the right person to lead this project? (max 100 words) | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Collaborators   For each collaborator, provide (i) name & department/organisation, (ii) 1-3 sentences on their relevant background & expertise; (iii) their role on the project | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Details of the proposed work (max 500 words) | | |
| *Include:*   * *Why this work is needed; aims* * *What the work will consist of* * *Intended outcomes & impacts* * *Ensure each person’s contribution to the project is clear* | | |
| 1. What follow-on funding application(s), or further significant research, will be enabled by this project? How exactly will the seed-funded work contribute to this? | | |
| *Include intended funder(s), programme(s), timescale* | | |
| 1. Does this work align with any [School of Technology Strategic Themes](https://www.tech.cam.ac.uk/research-themes)? If so, which ones and how? (max 100 words) | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Have you applied to any other sources of funding for this or related work? If so, give details | | |
|  | | |
| 1. Funding requested & budget breakdown   *Direct Costs only. Investigator costs are ineligible. You may add or delete lines as needed.* | | |
| **Type** | **Details & justification** | **Cost (GBP)** |
| Staff | *Indicate duration, FTE, grade/spine point as per* [*University salary scales*](https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/pay-benefits/salary-scales) | *Include on-costs* |
| Equipment / software |  | *Include VAT where appropriate* |
| Consumables |  | *Include VAT where appropriate* |
| Travel & subsistence |  |  |
| Other costs |  | *Include VAT where appropriate* |
| **Total** | |  |
| **Approvals** | | |
| **PI name** |  | |
| **PI signature** |  | |
| **Head of Department**  **(or delegate) name** |  | |
| **Head of Department**  **(or delegate) signature** |  | |

*Email applications to* [*researchstrat@tech.cam.ac.uk*](mailto:researchstrat@tech.cam.ac.uk)*. For dates see* [*https://www.tech.cam.ac.uk/school-seed-fund*](https://www.tech.cam.ac.uk/school-seed-fund)*.*