**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 and priorities, particularly in addressing major challenges; to bring in further research income; or to explore research ideas of potential significance.

**The School has refreshed its research themes for 2025. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their work aligns with these: (i) Sustainable future, (ii) Health and wellbeing, (iii) Security and resilience, (iv) Increased competitiveness.**

Applications for typically up to £15,000 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).

*Funds must be spent within 12 months. Recipients must arrange a mid-term Teams call with the School Research Relations Team, to discuss progress and follow-on funding applications, 4-6 months into the project. A final 1000-word report of activities and outcomes, plus a 200-word summary suitable for publication on the* *School website, must be submitted within 14 months of the award date.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Applications received by 12:00** | **Assessed at Research Committee meeting** | **Outcome communicated** |
| Wednesday 30 October 2024 | 7 November 2024 | 21 November 2024 |
| Monday 17 February 2025 | 25 February 2025 | 11 March 2025 |
| Wednesday 7 May 2025 | 15 May 2025 | 29 May 2025 |

**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
2. Research that fits clearly into the School’s strategic research themes: (i) Sustainable future, (ii) Health and wellbeing, (iii) Security and resilience, (iv) Increased competitiveness
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:

* [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* * *If you are not requesting staff time as an eligible cost, state who will carry out the work* | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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:*   * *Which funder(s) and funding scheme(s) will you target?* * *When do you intend to submit your application by?* * *How exactly will the seed-funded work enable this/these application(s)?* | | |
| 1. Does this work align with any School of Technology Strategic Themes? If so, which ones and how? (max 100 words) (i) Sustainable future, (ii) Health and wellbeing, (iii) Security and resilience, (iv) Increased competitiveness | | |
|  | | |
| 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*](https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/Salaries/242) |
| 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 deadlines see* [*https://www.tech.cam.ac.uk/school-seed-fund*](https://www.tech.cam.ac.uk/school-seed-fund)*.*