**NERC Discipline Hopping for for Discovery Science Call**

This opportunity is open to any Schools to support academics and researchers to build expertise and agility to work across disciplinary boundaries within [Discovery Science](https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/guidance-for-applicants/types-of-funding-we-offer/discovery-science/).  
  
Through this initiative, NERC seeks to facilitate exciting new collaborations for our community that will build momentum towards true discipline integration and enable adventurous and ambitious curiosity-driven, high-risk and high-reward projects that push the boundaries of Discovery Science. The initiative will support activities to help academics develop an understanding of different cross-disciplinary research perspectives and methodologies that could be used to enable discoveries that unlock new knowledge within the environmental sciences.

The grant can be used to support academics and researchers employed by St Andrews at lecturer (or equivalent) level or above and Post-Doctoral Research Assistants. PhD students are not eligible.

The funding can be used to support activities within St Andrews, or in partnership with other

UK research organisations (and/ or end users)[[1]](#footnote-1).

As the call is for highly interdisciplinary projects, for collaborative applications (all except where researchers are embedded or shadowing in other discipline areas), we expect collaboration to be between independent academic research staff from a minimum of two Schools with traditionally less obvious links.

Examples of the types of ‘discipline-hopping’ activities that could be undertaken include (but are not limited to):

• Embedding researchers, for a period of time, in departments outside of their own discipline area (within the same organisation, or in other eligible UK research organisations).  
• Sharing insights on priorities and looking for synergies/ new ideas that cut across departmental boundaries.  
• Work shadowing in other departments, for example to learn new skills and techniques  
• Organising meetings/ seminars/ workshops between departments and disciplines to share learning, understanding of key terms, concepts, language and tools to tackle problems.  
• Working with end users (e.g. businesses, policymakers, non-governmental organisations) to understand how their needs could be addressed through interdisciplinary approaches.

**Costs**

100% FEC. Eligible costs include:

• Directly Incurred staff costs, plus associated indirect and estates costs

• Directly Incurred T&S

• Directly Incurred Other costs (to cover other expenses, workshops, consumables etc.)

* Directly Allocated staff costs, (**Please use the table below and indicate % PI Time**), plus associated indirect and estates costs **(FAS will finalise and confirm if funded)**

• Other Directly Allocated costs **(FAS will finalise and confirm if funded)**

The grant funds may not be used for capital expenditure, i.e. no single items of equipment above the £10k threshold are permitted.

For staff costs: please use the values below, which are based on a 1.0 FTE member of staff per month; please state the grade and number of months when including staff costs on your application. Successful applications will have costs finalised by Finance Advice and Support (FAS) on the advice of the review panel committee.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Est. Total Annual Salary 2022/23** | **Est. Total Monthly Salary 2022/23** |
| **Grade 4 (e.g. Administrative Staff)** | **£33,691** | **£2,808** |
| **Grade 5 (e.g. Technicians)** | **£40,362** | **£3,363** |
| **Grade 6 (e.g. Research Assistant)** | **£51,325** | **£4,277** |
| **Grade 7 (e.g. Academic)** | **£63,393** | **£5,283** |

The **indicative maximum award will be £30,000 per project**. Funding can include PDRA/support staff salaries, consumables, and equipment (up to 10k for a single piece). The final award value may be adjusted by the funding panel. Projects are expected to start on, or after, 05/01/2023 and **spend must finish by 31/03/2023.**

The deadline for applications is **12:00 noon 1st December 2022.**

The review panel will meet to discuss and review submissions in mid-December 2022.

Submissions will be assessed on **the following criteria**:

* Environmental science contribution: build momentum towards true discipline integration and enable adventurous and ambitious curiosity-driven projects that push the boundaries of Discovery Science
* Interdisciplinary working: the degree to which the funding will be used to facilitate and enhance interdisciplinary working in areas of relevance to the environmental solutions agenda.
* Potential for sustainability: do the funds requested have good prospects for sustainability, for example through external funding generation?

**Applications must (1) have the support of the lead School/Department’s HOS, DOR or DOII and (2) must include confirmation of this in the form of a specific (rather than general) letter of support. The online form includes a question where letters of support can be uploaded.**

**Please complete the online Qualtrics form if possible:** <https://standrews.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6ManVNMyYbpgvt4>

If this causes you difficulties, please email [impact@st-andrews.ac.uk.](mailto:impact@st-andrews.ac.uk)

The application form has been split into 2 sections:  
- Section 1 is to be entered using the online application form.

- Section 2 is to be uploaded as a Word file via the online application form

**If you have any queries, please contact the Research Impact team at** [**impact@st-andrews.ac.uk**](mailto:impact@st-andrews.ac.uk).  

1. Expenditure on collaborations will be subject to robust controls to ensure value for money and propriety. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)