# Nascent Partnerships Guidance 2025-26

Criteria for selection

Applications which are eligible will progress to a peer-review panel scoring and review process. The panel will score based on the essential/desirable criteria. Requests for clarification can also be made to applicants at any point in the process. If you have questions on the criteria, please contact the Research Impact team.

Eligibility:

Proposals must focus on building nascent partnerships between St Andrews staff and other institutions/sectors with a focussed outcome e.g. funding, knowledge exchange, network participation, translation of research to impact. Applicants should submit **one application only** in this call. This funding is not suitable for PhD students. All applicants must have a contract of employment until at least the end of the funding period. A Letter of Support from the applicant’s line manager will be required. Applicants will be asked to identify their career-stage, as proposals received by ECRs will be prioritised. For the purposes of STAIRS, and ECR is defined as ‘individuals employed to conduct research activities on precarious contracts (e.g. open-ended, fixed term or project-funded) and who have not previously led a project exceeding £100k[[1]](#footnote-2)’. If this does not apply to you, but you still feel you are an ECR, please contact the RIT.

Projects are expected to start on, or after, August 2025 and spend must finish by July 2026.

### **Deadline: 12 noon – 27th May 2025**

**Main award: Up to £5k**

Quality Indicators

These indicators form the metrics used to assess applications.

*Essential*:

* Clear description of planned activity/visits
* Clear articulation of the value of the partnership/network to ongoing or planned research
* Inclusion of next steps/forward thinking following the funding period to develop the partnership
* Clear [project planning](https://impact.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/impact-timescales/) including costings, timescales.

#### Desirable:

* External and/or internal matched funding, in cash or in-kind, including any funding from the School/Department.
* Raises the reputation of University of St Andrews outside of the institution.
* Contributes to strategic initiatives, e.g., [University strategy](https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/about/governance/university-strategy/), [REF2029](https://www.ref.ac.uk/), etc.

**Trusted Research**

Trusted Research, the term used by the UK Government and other bodies to refer to national security issues in the planning and undertaking of research. The University is required to put in place, and enforce, relevant provisions to ensure that it attends to this agenda. The University has created guidance and a Trusted Research Tool to assist researchers and direct colleagues towards existing policy and process to ensure compliance where necessary. As part of this application, you confirm that you have (or will) review/ed relevant guidance and complete/d a Trusted Research Tool submission including any required outcomes. See the [Trusted Research web pages](https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/research/integrity-ethics/governance/trusted-research/) for more information and access to the Tool.

**If you have any questions about the STAIRS process, this guidance, or your potential application, please** **contact the Research Impact team****.**

1. [Based on UKERC rationale](https://ukerc.ac.uk/about/ecrs/) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)