Applications are invited from Early Career Researchers (academic staff appointed to their first position which includes independent research as part of their contract of employment within the five years preceding the date of application), for pump-priming or proof-of-concept funding of innovative and distinctive research programmes. Completed application forms should be sent to Claire Grasby (c.grasby@uea.ac.uk), copying in Associate Dean Research, Professor Claire Jowitt (c.jowitt@uea.ac.uk), by Monday 9th January 2017.

1.1 Purpose of the Scheme

The aim of the Scheme is to support ECRs in developing innovative and distinctive research programmes. The Scheme is intended to stimulate ECR staff to engage in adventurous and ambitious research by providing them with pump-priming funds to enable them to progress their research to the point where they could attract further major funding from Research Councils, Europe, industry etc.

1.2 Selection Criteria

It is expected that applications made to the Adventures in Research Scheme will be centred on high quality original research that has substantial potential rewards in terms of helping the investigator develop new and distinctive areas of research excellence. Consequently the criteria that will be employed to assess the applications should be:

- novelty/innovation
- potential to leverage further funding
- strategic fit for the Faculty or cross-Faculty activities
- why the research cannot be funded through other sources

Since this is a competitive scheme, applicants should ensure that they address clearly and explicitly in their application forms how the proposed research meets these criteria. Candidates should consult their School Directors of Research at an early stage of planning.

Funding may be used, for example:

- to support initial investigations/preliminary studies,
- to enable the investigator to achieve proof-of-concept,
- as pump-priming for a new proposal to an external funding agency where a contribution from the University is required.

1.3 Eligibility

This Scheme is restricted to ECR staff who are required to undertake research as part of their contract of employment. An individual member of staff will not be granted more than one award as principal investigator. A team of researchers may make a joint application to the Scheme. In this case a single Principal Investigator should be clearly identified. Principal and co-investigators should all be ECR staff;

The Scheme will not consider proposals:

- from staff employed primarily for teaching duties (e.g. Teaching Lecturers, Teaching Fellows).
- from senior or established researchers
- from staff on fixed-term contracts (other than named principal researchers on research grants)
- that are suitable for submission to Research Councils or other funding bodies
- intended to provide continuing support for research
- seeking support for recurrent costs incurred in existing projects or studies
A AIR 2016/17

- to make good under-provision of existing research contracts

1.4 Amount of Grant & Duration

The total fund for the Adventures in Research Scheme is £10,000 per year and individual awards will not exceed £2,500. Research projects funded by the Scheme should not normally exceed one year in duration. However, in cases where the particular nature of the research requires a longer study, a project duration of up to a maximum of two years will be considered but in these cases applicants should make a clear case for requiring funding over the longer period.

Eligible Costs

All expenditure specifically required for the conduct of the proposed research can be included in the proposal’s costs, but must be fully justified in the Case for Support.

Ineligible costs

Awards will meet the marginal costs of carrying out the research but will not meet:

- indirect costs/overheads or the salary of the PI or co-investigator(s)
- recurrent costs incurred in related or unrelated projects
- attendance at conferences
- travel (unless this is an essential component of the research)
- journal subscriptions
- membership fees for professional bodies
- publication costs
- payment for teaching replacement for the principal investigator or co-investigators.
- the stipend or tuition fees for a postgraduate student

1.5 Applications and Timing

The Annual Adventures in Research Grants are awarded in a single annual competition held in winter 2016 and take up is expected between early March and 1st October 2017. All work is expected to start by the 1st October 2017.

Decisions on award will be made by the Faculty Research Committee led by the Associate Dean for Research and confirmation of allocations will be announced January 2017 with funds being available from 1st March 2017. Income will be released against actual expenditure on a three-monthly basis, this will be actioned by the Faculty Finance Manager, who will advise successful applicants of financial codes to be used. Actual expenditure will be expected to align with the expenditure breakdown in the original application; variances will be challenged as soon as they are identified by the Finance Manager. Funding will not be withheld awaiting a final report, but may be reclaimed in the event that the final report is deemed unacceptable by the review group.

1.6 Reporting

Upon completion of the project, Associate Dean for Research will be sent a one-page Final Report on the project and a financial statement of expenditure. The anticipated completion date shown on the application form will be regarded as the final date for expenditure. If the start date is later than originally anticipated, the completion date will be adjusted to reflect the length of time requested.

The Final Report should be sent within one month of the completion date and it is expected that all financial transactions and necessary paperwork will be finalised with the Faculty Finance Manager during this period. Any unspent grant will be returned to the Scheme’s central fund.
AAIR 2016/17

If the investigator ceases to be employed by the University before the completion date, the project will be considered to have ended on the investigator’s last day of employment. Any unspent grant will be returned to the Scheme’s fund.

**ANNUAL ‘ADVENTURES IN RESEARCH’ GRANTS SCHEME**

**NOTES ON COMPLETION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Details of Applicant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. Details of Proposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C. Statement of Proposed Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**C. Statement of Proposed Research (continued)**

When writing the Statement you should keep in mind the criteria that will be employed to assess the applications will be:
- novelty/innovation
- potential to leverage further funding
- strategic fit for the individual and the Faculty or cross-Faculty activities
- why the research cannot be funded through other sources

The word-processed Statement should include:
**AAIR 2016/17**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- A brief overview of the context of the proposed research, highlighting the problem or area that will be tackled together previous relevant work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- A statement of the aim(s) and objectives of the research together with the order of importance of the objectives and their priorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- A brief description of the work that you will undertake together with a description of the methods that you intend to use in your research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Description and justification of the resources that you will need to accomplish this work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- An outline project plan indicating key milestones and deliverables.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Scheme is intended to stimulate ECR staff to engage in adventurous and ambitious research by providing them with pump-priming funds to enable them to progress their research to the point where they could attract further major funding from the research councils or external partners. Consequently your Statement of Research should highlight the adventurous and ambitious aspects of your research, and how AAIR support would enable you to develop a distinctive and innovative research programme.

**D Your Research Proposal in Context**

**D1** Indicate the main risk factors in your proposal. Identify what, if any, mitigating actions/provisions are included in your plans.

**D2** Describe briefly how you see your research developing over the next three-to-five years and the way in which the work to be funded by the Scheme fits into these research plans.

**E. Research Track Record**

**E1** Insert an outline and abridged *curriculum vitae* for the Principal Investigator and for co-investigators. Please do not exceed the space provided.

**Declaration & Signatures**

**F1** Please sign and date

**F2** Applications that have not been signed by the Faculty Finance Manager will not be accepted.