

SMERC GRANTS

SMERC 2019-2020 funding provides the opportunity for travelling fellowships, new researcher, small grant, large grant or doctoral research programme funding to the value of £1,500, £3,000, £10,000, £60,000 or £70,000 respectively.

Aims of the grants

These grant must support the over-arching goals of SMERC: to produce internationally excellent healthcare education research that has local, national and international impact in one of the following priority areas: Developing the workforce or Developing the clinical learning environment.

Eligibility

Anyone employed at any of the six SMERC collaborating institutions (NES, Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and St Andrews) will be eligible to apply for one of the above grants. Other than the new researcher grant, which may be from a single institution, only applications involving more than one institution (minimum of two institutions) and projects aligned with one or more of the SMERC research priorities will be eligible.

Assessment of applications

All applications will be reviewed by at least three independent assessors including: (1) minimum of one University-based SMERC assessor from a different institution from the applicants; (2) minimum of one NES-based SMERC assessor; and (3) at least one external assessor (outside Scotland and not currently involved in SMERC). All applicants will receive full feedback on their applications (anonymised if the assessor prefers this). All assessment criteria will be collated and forwarded to the SMERC Project Board, who will decide which application to fund. Grant applications are assessed relative to the amount of funding requested.

Assessment criteria

Criteria	Grade*	Comments**
At least two applicants are from different eligible institutions*** <i>Note this is not essential for new researcher grant applications.</i>		
The research is aligned with at least one of the SMERC themes.		
The proposed work is original, rigorous and significant.		
The work has the potential to impact on practice and/or policy locally, nationally and internationally, or to position the researcher to progress their career and position themselves to apply for a larger grant (New Researcher Grants).		
The proposed activities, timelines and milestones are realistic and achievable.		
The proposed work is good value for money.		
The ethical issues for the project have been adequately considered.		
The applicants have the necessary expertise in the relevant field, or the grant will help capacity build and foster the development of expertise (New Researcher grant).		
The project has the potential to facilitate collaborations within and beyond SMERC.		
The institutional environment in which the research will take place is appropriate .		
Total score and any additional general comments:		

Notes: *grades are as follows: 0=does not meet expectations; 1=only partially meets expectations; 2=meets expectations; and 3=exceeds expectations; **comments should highlight what the assessor particularly liked about the proposal and what aspects (if any) could be improved; *** if these criteria are rated 0 then the application is ineligible and the assessor should not review it