

Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA)

Seedcorn Funding Call 2017-18

The aim of MICRA seedcorn funding is to further ageing-related research within the University of Manchester. A maximum of £6K will be awarded per application. Applications must meet the following essential criteria:

1. The proposed research activity must be explicitly related to ageing.
2. The proposed research activity must be interdisciplinary.
3. The proposed research activity must lead to at least one specific outcome, such as a research proposal, a journal article or working manuscript.
4. The award must be held by a University of Manchester member of staff (except the MICRA/MMU award, which is to be held by both UoM *and* MMU members of staff), but can be used to fund collaborations with other institutions and/or external partners.

A number of general awards will be made; in addition to these we specifically encourage applications to one of the following joint awards:

- **MIMIT/MICRA:** One project will be supported by MICRA and *Manchester: Improving Medicine with Innovation and Technology* (MIMIT). MIMIT is a community of senior clinical, academic and innovation partners, whose goal is to address unmet health and social care needs through the development of innovative technologies and clinical processes. MIMIT has traditionally scoped unmet needs through its clinical partners, but is also interested in what patients identify as unmet health and wellbeing needs; to find ways to address these with innovative solutions, MICRA and MIMIT are inviting proposals which:
 - Assess and review what older patients perceive as their unmet health and wellbeing needs, across a range of potential concerns, for example mobility problems. *Bona fide* unmet needs will feed into the MIMIT Innovation Pipeline for the development of interventions to address them.
- **Centre for Ageing Better/MICRA:** Two projects will be supported by MICRA and the Centre for Ageing Better, an independent charitable foundation working to help everybody enjoy a good later life. The proposed project should not be for pure evaluation research; projects should be relevant to the UK. Proposals are invited that address the following themes; the Centre for Ageing Better fund one project for each:
 - Relationships in later life.

- Ageism and inequalities in ageing.
- **Care & Repair England/MICRA:** One project will be supported by MICRA and Care & Repair England, an independent charitable organisation working to improve housing and related services for older people. Proposals are invited that address one or both of the following topic themes:
 - Low and modest cost physical modifications to ordinary/mainstream owner occupied housing to enable healthy, independent ageing at home.
 - The connections between physical housing conditions and later life health inequalities (life expectancy/ healthy life expectancy/ incidence of long term conditions).
- **Manchester Metropolitan University/MICRA:** One project will be supported by MICRA and MMU. The application must have two project investigators, one from each university.
 - Ideally the proposed project should focus on vascular dementia. We are particularly interested in proposals which take account of the biological, social and economic factors associated with this condition; for example projects investigating the biological basis of behavioural changes associated with Frontotemporal Dementia and the social impact of those changes.

Application process:

- a. Applicants are required to submit a written proposal for their research activity totalling no more than two sides of A4; please state if you wish to be considered for one or more of the joint awards.
- b. The application should clearly demonstrate that the proposed research meets the above essential criteria (items 1 to 4) and should include:
 - Outline of proposed research including research title or research question, methodology and expected outputs of the research
 - Summary budget of project costs
 - Names and affiliations of the research team (institution/school/ faculty/ discipline as applicable)
- c. Applications from early career researchers will be looked upon favourably.
- d. In order for the proposal to be considered interdisciplinary, there should be a minimum of two members per research team.
- e. The deadline for applications is **12:00pm, Monday 8th January 2018**; all submissions should be made via email to micra@manchester.ac.uk
- f. Funds must be spent by 31st July 2018. MICRA will seek a short update in April 2018 (one paragraph) and a one page end of project report will be due by 30th September 2018 to MICRA and any project partners.
- g. The MICRA commissioning panel will meet in January 2018 with input from:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Centre for Ageing Better ● Care & Repair England ● MIMIT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manchester Metropolitan University ● MICRA Co-Directors and Institute Manager
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Terms and conditions

- Seedcorn funds can be used to fund a range of research costs including salaries, travel, events and consumables; it is recommended that you seek input from Research Support Services around costings.
- Please confirm that your Head of School or Division supports your application (a line in your covering email)
- Publicity related to the research must include reference to MICRA and, if applicable, the body jointly supporting the award
- Successful applicants are required to submit a brief progress report (one paragraph) in April 2018, followed by a one page summary of research outcomes to MICRA (and if applicable, to the body jointly supporting the award) by the end of September 2018.
- Funded projects are expected to contribute to future MICRA seminars/events, and to inform MICRA (and any organisation jointly supporting the award) of any research successes such as subsequent grants, awards and publications.
- As soon as they receive confirmation of the decision, awardees should contact their school finance team to set up a new account for the seedcorn monies; this will be an AA code for the University of Manchester as the funding is internal. MICRA will transfer the funds to the nominated University of Manchester (or MMU) account code as soon as the details are sent by the awardee.
- Successful applicants will be notified no later than 17th January, 2018.
- The awarded funds must be spent by the financial year 31st July 2018. It is the responsibility of the project investigator to manage expenditure and arrange for any unspent funds to be returned. The University does not permit funds in AA accounts to be carried over to the next financial year and MICRA is unable to arrange for any extension of the funds into the 18-19 financial year.

Any queries, please contact Michael Leverentz, Institute Manager, MICRA
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Examples of previous successful awards: <http://www.micra.manchester.ac.uk/research/funding-opportunities/seedcorn-funding/>