

Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA)

Seedcorn Funding Call 2021-22

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, and will be awarded following a detailed review process involving a panel that includes co-funders:

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 new network, an event, a working paper, report or journal article.
4. The award must be held by a University of Manchester member of staff, but can be used to fund collaborations with other institutions and/ or external partners.

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

Joint Award

- **Centre for Ageing Better/MICRA:** One project could be jointly supported by MICRA and the Centre for Ageing Better, an independent charitable foundation working to help everybody enjoy a good later life. The Centre for Ageing Better has a strategic partnership with Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the GM Ageing Hub. The proposed project should not be for pure evaluation research; projects should be relevant to Greater Manchester, and to the UK. Proposals should look at inequalities in later life, particularly the following areas:
 - Contributing to an economic recovery inclusive of those in mid and later life.
 - Entering later life in safe and accessible homes that support people to live independently.
 - Tackling health inequalities.

The Centre for Ageing Better welcomes proposals that focus specifically on one or more of these areas and help to further our understanding in relation to the inequalities people face in ageing and how to have impact for those at risk of missing out on enjoying later life.

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 the joint award.
- 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, Wednesday 15th December 2021**; all submissions should be made via email to micra@manchester.ac.uk
- f. Funds must be spent by July 31 2022. MICRA will seek a short update in April 2022 (one paragraph) and a one page end of project report will be due by 30th September 2022 to MICRA and any project partners.
- g. The MICRA commissioning panel will meet in December 2021/January 2022 with input from:
 - **Representative from Centre for Ageing Better**
 - **MICRA Co-Directors and Institute Manager**

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 2022, 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 2022.
- 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 in December 2021/January 2022.
- The awarded funds must be spent by the financial year 31st July 2022. 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 22-23 financial year.

If you have any queries, please contact Kerry Jones, Institute Manager, MICRA
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