

## Covid Support Programme

In addition to our existing well-being and support schemes for staff (<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/hr/wellbeing/index.aspx>) and research support and study leave arrangements, the University is investing in a new programme to support those whose research has been most negatively impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Covid Support Programme aims to support future research leaders who will bear the brunt of major Covid-19 setbacks to individual research projects and the wider research landscape. Building on our proven track record nurturing early/mid-career researchers through targeted pump-priming awards which lead on to significant returns on investment (both financially and with respect to career development), we will focus funding resource into the areas highlighted below, ***with key application criteria relating to how funding will help to mitigate specific individual career setbacks caused by Covid-19.***

These schemes include awards of up to a maximum of £5k across:

- **Pilot data:** The acquisition of data to support new research directly informing specific planned external research funding applications or in response to reviewers' comments on key articles
- **Mobility:** Establishing new collaborations or technical capabilities through national/global visits [note: awards will recognise the limited likelihood and risks of international travel]
- **Giving Back Time** – this stream gives successful applicants a payment of up to £500 to provide a short-term boost to their work capacity by alleviating other personal pressures. For example, an award could be used to pay for additional child-related expenses<sup>1</sup> over and above usual arrangements thereby 'giving back time' to the recipient.
- **Equity Bridging Fund** – to support award holders with their work. This can be through salary costs via extensions to contracts or increasing hours for part-time staff if required and applies to any staff group. For researchers, priority will be given to those who have not received any COVID-19 mitigation support to date.
- **Supporting Teaching, Technical, Research, Academic and Professional Services** – provides funds to pay for workers engaged through WorkLink to support staff with their work. Applicants can apply for either 20 or 40 hours of support.

### Funding Process

We will have two rounds of funding for this programme one in October 2021 (closing date 05/11/2021) and one in January 2022 (closing date 31/1/2022). A panel of College Equality Leads will decide which bids to fund. **Funding should be spent by end of July 2022.**

### Application Form

All applications must be submitted to: [ediresearchfund@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:ediresearchfund@contacts.bham.ac.uk) using the application template provided.

Applications will be considered by a panel of College Equality Leads and decisions will be communicated within one month of the closing date.

### Monitoring and Reporting

Those who are funded will be asked to provide a short one-page report on the outputs achieved from their funding after 1 year. The University may publicise details of the awards/award holders as case studies in internal and external communications.

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<sup>1</sup> There may be tax implications for payments given for childcare costs.