

Hub Researchers Award

The Hub's Researchers Network invites applications from Postdocs and Research students to fund short research projects. The aim of the award is to facilitate activities to explore new research ideas or to try taking existing projects in a new direction. This could include collaborations between universities or between faculties to explore crossover technologies or new applications. These projects are much shorter than Hub's feasibility studies and the scope of the intended project should reflect this. Ideally, the project should be independent from the current applicant's project and supervisor. It is expected that a successful project can be scaled up into a larger project (within or outside the Hub).

Proposals must focus on composites manufacturing, rather than the development of next-generation materials and address at least one of the five Hub priority areas (<https://cimcomp.ac.uk/about/>):

- High rate deposition and rapid processing technologies
- Design for manufacture via validated simulation
- Manufacturing for multifunctional composites and integrated structures
- Inspection and in-process evaluation
- Recycling and re-use

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals, which explore new topics and fields, and create new connections between composites manufacturing and other areas. The projects focussing on material developments or in areas not connected to composites manufacturing will not be funded.

Examples of existing projects can be found on the Hub's website:

<https://cimcomp.ac.uk/research/> and <https://cimcomp.ac.uk/idc/current-engd-projects/>.

Applicants can apply for a project of **up to £5000** and can cover a wide range of costs associated with a project, such as:

- Staff costs (current Hub staff or staff at affiliated universities only, see Eligibility and consult with your finance department)
- Material costs, consumables and software licences
- Training on new software or equipment
- Equipment usage
- Technician time

The funding **cannot** cover:

- Conference travel
- International exchange visits

The application should be submitted to Mikhail Matveev by email (Mikhail.Matveev@nottingham.ac.uk) using the attached application form by **25th October** (5pm UK time). The short-listed applicants will be notified by 1st December 2021. The projects which comply with the basic rules (see above) will be invited to give short public presentations at the second stage which will take place in December (date and location TBA). All the projects are expected to be completed by 1st November 2022.

As well as providing early career researchers with a valuable first step into applying for research grants, the outcomes for these short research projects can provide a platform to scale up the project and apply for further grants and funding. At the end of the project,

the researcher(s) are required to write a short report (400 words and 2 figures). Successful projects might receive further support from the Hub.

For any additional information contact Mikhail.Matveev@nottingham.ac.uk.

Application and selection process

Applications should be submitted using the provided form (see at the end of this document) by 11th October, 5pm UK time. All applications will be initially reviewed by the members of the Hub's Researchers Network committee for compliance with the Hub funding rules as well as how the research fits within the Hub's research priority areas and focus on composites manufacturing. The applicants will receive a confirmation if their proposal is short-listed by 1st November.

Short-listed applicants will need to give a short presentation to the Hub Researchers Network at the research pitch event in December (date and location TBA). This peer assessment will then use the following primary criteria (novelty, research rigour, deliverables and potential for future projects) and secondary criteria (suggested time plan, new collaborations, and diversification of skills). The decision will be announced by the selected panel on the day and will be final. Up to two proposals will be funded.

Eligibility

Students and postdoctoral researchers from the universities which are members of the Hub are eligible to apply for the award. The current members of the Hub can be found on the website: <https://cimcomp.ac.uk/partners/> (see "Current Academic Partners" section).

The projects assume a certain degree of independence from the current project and supervisor. Please contact your supervisor/line manager and confirm with them they are aware of the project the applicant(s) is intending to do.

Hub Researchers Award: Application form

Project Title:	
Researchers involved (PhD students, postdocs)	
PI or Supervisors of the applicant(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is expected that the applicants will get clearance from the PI to conduct this independent project. The PI is expected not to participate in the project - Please ask your supervisor or PI to send a confirmation email to Mikhail.Matveev@nottingham.ac.uk to confirm that they are happy for you to conduct the research
University	
Project background: (max 200 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State the problem - How is it solved now? - Why does it need to be solved differently?
Project outline: (max 300 words, up to 2 figures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What it is you are going to do? - Why is this of interest for your research? - Why it is novel? - How does it add value to your work and to the Hub aims? - Is this research independent from your existing project or will it create additional standalone results in a new area?
Research methodology: (max 200 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detail any specific techniques and processes that will be used in the research. (Reference any specific papers or techniques cited)
Expected outcome: (max 100 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are potential outcomes and future applications?
Expected impact: (max 100 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the potential industrial impact?
Expenditure (no word limit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detail how the money will be spent (provide as much details as you can, provide costing from your finance department)

Submit the proposal by sending the application form to Mikhail.Matveev@nottingham.ac.uk by 5pm 25th October.

Please include a short CV (1 page) and name of your supervisor/line manager. In case of applications from PhD students, the RN committee will contact PhD supervisors to ensure that this research project will not disrupt the PhD programme of the student.