

## UK-Portugal Bilateral Research Fund: Guidance Notes

CLOSING DATE: March 1, 2021, 5pm

Research grants (up to 3,000 EUR each) are available to support the establishment and the development of research links between universities and research institutes in the UK and Portugal. Funds should primarily be used to support travel, accommodation and subsistence costs associated with individual or group visits to Portugal (from researchers based in the UK) and/or the UK (for researchers based in Portugal). The fund can also be used to cover small-scale research costs, such as laboratory consumables, software licenses, or assistance with data collection and analysis. However, the fund should not be used to purchase equipment as it is expected that the applicants' home institutions already provide this, neither can it be used to cover overheads. Each grant should have a total duration between 3 months and 6 months, and may include multiple visits within this period. The size of the fund is 15,000 EUR.

The **Lead Applicant** must be an Early-Career Researcher based at a research institution in Portugal or in the United Kingdom. The lead applicant must have obtained a doctorate and should not have secured a permanent academic post yet (e.g., Lectureship, Professor Auxiliar, etc.). However, the lead applicants must have a contract with the home institution that exceeds the life-time of the grant.

Each application must include **at least one Co-Investigator** who is based at the partner country. For example, if the lead applicant is based at a research institution in the UK, then the Co-Investigator must be based at a Portuguese institution, and vice versa. The early-career requirement does not apply to the Co-Investigator. That is, the Co-Investigator can be a permanent member of staff at a research institution. Several co-investigators from both countries and from multiple institutions can be added to the application. We particularly encourage applications for projects that actively involve other early-career researchers (e.g., PhD students, postdoctoral researchers).

In addition, either the Lead Applicant or the Co-Investigator must be member of PARSUK. Membership is free of charge; to learn more about PARSUK and to register, please visit <https://www.parsuk.pt>.

Typical projects will include collaborative research visits, meetings to prepare joint large-scale funding applications, or the organization of joint events, e.g. research symposia. In each case, it is expected that the project has a concrete outcome (grant submissions, publications, etc.).

Applications can be submitted by researchers based in the UK or in Portugal. The application needs to be approved by both institutions (where the Lead Applicant and Co-Investigator are based) prior to submission. The Fund is administered by PARSUK's Scientific Advisory Board. Due to the budget cycle, activities must be completed (and funds spent) by the end of December 2021.

When evaluating the projects, the Board will give preference to those that fulfil the following criteria:

- Projects that actively involve early-career researchers (e.g., PhD students, postdoctoral researchers)

- Projects that have a concrete, measurable outcome (e.g., submission of grants to national or international funding agencies, publications in peer-reviewed journals, development of a software or prototype, proof-of-concept for commercialisation of research, etc.).
- Projects that open new areas of collaboration, or that go significantly beyond the research already carried out by each of the applicant groups.
- Projects that are feasible within the proposed time frame of the grant.
- Projects that show evidence of leading to a continuous and sustained research effort (as opposed to a one-off initiative).
- Projects that involve several researchers based in the UK and Portugal.

Applications should be submitted electronically to the Fund's evaluation committee via the [www.parsuk.pt/brf](http://www.parsuk.pt/brf), by 5pm on March 1, 2021. We expect to communicate results by April 30, 2021.

Applications should be submitted **in English**. For general inquiries, please email [cc@parsuk.pt](mailto:cc@parsuk.pt).