

## **Vitae innovate: call for bids 2010**

Vitae innovate will promote innovative approaches and projects in the field of the personal, professional and career development of researchers. It constitutes a funding stream to support innovative projects. In this round funding of up to a total of £100,000 will be allocated.

This fund recognises an opportunity to build on the excellent work undertaken to date, especially in response to the Roberts review of 2002 and the 2007 Concordat to support the career development of researchers. It aims to encourage the introduction of innovative approaches or projects into the researcher development field.

Vitae is a national organisation championing the personal, professional and career development of doctoral researchers and research staff in higher education institutions and research institutes. We play a major role in the drive for high-level skills and innovation and in the UK's goal to produce world class researchers.

### **What we will fund**

Funding is available for any innovative project that will have a positive impact on the personal, professional and career development of researchers in the UK.

Projects should ultimately benefit researchers from more than one HEI/research institute and ideally produce outputs that allow other HEIs/research institutes to replicate benefits for their own researchers.

Bids will be welcomed from any individual, organisation or consortium with an interest in researcher development, including but not limited to:

- Staff supporting researcher development in HEIs (including careers advisors, staff developers and other HR professionals, researcher developers, staff in Graduate Schools)
- Employers of researchers beyond the higher education sector
- Researchers (including doctoral researchers, staff researchers, supervisors and principal investigators)
- Other organisations and individuals with an interest in careers, learning and development (including freelance trainers or other commercial providers, Learned societies, associations, trade unions, Vitae programme staff)

Bids will be welcomed where there are practical outputs for UK researcher development including but not limited to:

- research findings
- events/activities that advance knowledge and understanding of researcher development issues
- replicable events/activities that provide development opportunities
- training resources
- publications.

The Vitae innovation stream will fund up to 100% of the costs of any project. However, projects that deliver value for money by securing additional funding will be welcomed.

There is no minimum amount of funding that can be requested in this funding round.

We will fund:

- small projects (up to £10,000 in funding and up to 1 year in duration) and
- large projects (up to £100,000 in funding and up to 2 years in duration).

The total funding to be allocated in this funding round is £100,000 so it is unlikely that one single bid for the full amount would be approved.

There is no limit to the number of bids any individual or organisation can lead or participate in submitting.

### **What we have funded**

The projects that are currently underway with funding from the 2009 round of Innovate are:

- Open Research: The application of e-knowledge tools in researcher careers training and development, The Open University
- Essential business skills for the low carbon economy: a bespoke programme for researchers, University of East Anglia
- Researcher-led Initiatives: generating frameworks for promoting a student stake in researcher development, National Union of Students
- Building impact into social science research, University of Leeds
- The research impact agenda and early career development for historians: a pilot study, History Research Wales
- Facilitating research as a creative process, Imperial College London
- Win-win: Developing the transferable skills of research staff through mentoring, The University of Sussex

For more information about the projects visit [www.vitae.ac.uk/innovate](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/innovate)

### **Bidding process and assessment**

Bids should be headed by a single named project lead.

Bids should be submitted using the form on the Vitae website.

An independent advisory panel will evaluate the proposals and select preferred bidders. The panel will consist of:

- One representative from Vitae
- One representative from the Research Councils
- One representative from a UK HEI
- One representative from a researcher-led initiative
- One learning and teaching specialist TBC
- Representatives from other innovative/innovation based organisations

Details of the panel (including biographies) will be posted on the website at [www.vitae.ac.uk/innovate](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/innovate) as they are confirmed.

Vitae staff will work with preferred bidders to agree contractual basis of funding. Please refer to '[Award of funding](#)'

### **Assessment Criteria**

Bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Innovation (how bold, new and exciting is the idea and vision for the project?) This is the main criterion. The proposal needs to show that the project is not a natural progression of existing projects or current practice. An element of risk is encouraged
2. Breadth of outcomes (will the outcomes have an effect for researchers in a wide range of institutions and disciplines?)
3. Depth of expected outcomes (how significant will the effect of the project be for researchers/researcher development beyond the pilot group or institution?)
4. Capability (accepting that truly innovative projects are generally high risk and may not succeed even when implemented well, are the bidders suitably equipped to give the project its best chance of success?)
5. Value for money (do the outcomes justify the investment being asked?)

We particularly welcome proposals that will address evaluation of the progress, impact and embedding of the researcher development agenda and support discussions around its long term sustainability. Examples of other themes that could be addressed are intra- and entrepreneurship, public engagement, or researcher-led events. These themes are suggested in order to help channel creativity. Proposals responding inside or outside these themes will be given equal consideration.

**The proposed timescales are:**

Publication of the process for 2010	12 March 2010
Invitation of bids	6 April 2010
Announcement of the panel	6 April 2010 and ongoing as confirmed
Deadline for responses to call	30 June 2010
Meeting of panel to select preferred bidders	w/c 19 <sup>th</sup> July
Contractual arrangements with project leads	No later than 3 September 2010
Notification to individuals on outcome of bid	4 <sup>th</sup> August
Public announcement and start of funded projects	6 September 2010

**Reporting**

Reporting requirements for each project will be light touch, and will be agreed once preferred bidders have been identified.

All successful applicants will be required to submit a final report detailing the success of the project as against stated intended outcomes and impact within 6 weeks of the end of the award period.

Projects lasting more than 1 year will be required to submit an interim report.

**Submission forms**

All bids have to be submitted on the online forms available at [www.vitae.ac.uk/innovate](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/innovate). Please select the form appropriate to your bid: small projects (up to £10,000 in funding and up to 1 year in duration) and large projects (up to £100,000 in funding and up to 2 years in duration). Please also ensure that you read our 'frequently asked questions at [www.vitae.ac.uk/innovate](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/innovate), in particular, our guidelines on word count.

**Further guidance**

For further guidance on any aspect of the process please contact Tennie Videler on [innovate@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:innovate@vitae.ac.uk) or 01223 448 529

The following pages summarise for your reference the fields and word counts for the submission forms.

## **Small project bid submission form**

**Project title (up to 20 words)**

**Funding requested (£ sterling, maximum £10,000)**

**Project overview (250-500 words)**

**Innovation (up to 250 words)**

Please explain what is bold, new and exciting about your project

**Project outputs (up to 250 words)**

Please outline the outputs you expect to produce from this project (examples might include publications, training resources, replicable events or research findings)

**Breadth and depth of project (up to 250 words)**

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project, whom it will affect and how

**Capability (up to 250 words)**

Please explain what makes you confident that you/your organisation/your consortium will deliver this project to give the best chance of success

**Budget**

Please tell us what you plan to spend the requested money on, and how you will use any additional money you raise for the project

**Project start date (normally 1 September 2010)**

**Project end date (no later than 31 August 2011)**

**Project outline**

Please outline the key stages in the project and when you expect to complete them

**Name of project lead**

**Job title/role**

**Organisation**

**Address**

**Email**

**Telephone**

**This proposal is on behalf of (please include details of any departments/committees in your own institution and any partners in this bid):**

## **Large project bid submission form**

**Project title (up to 20 words)**

**Funding requested (£ sterling, maximum £100,000)**

**Project overview (up to 500 words)**

**Innovation (up to 300 words)**

Please explain what is bold, new and exciting about your project

**Project outputs (up to 300 words)**

Please outline the outputs you expect to produce from this project (examples might include publications, training resources, replicable events or research findings)

**Breadth and depth of project (up to 300 words)**

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project, whom it will affect and how

**Capability (up to 300 words)**

Please explain what makes you confident that you/your organisation/your consortium will deliver this project to give the best chance of success

**Budget**

Please provide an outline budget including any additional funding for the project and a breakdown of planned expenditure

**Project start date (normally 1 September 2010)**

**Project end date (no later than 31 August 2012)**

**Key project milestones**

Please outline the key milestones anticipated in the project and expected achievement dates for each milestone

**Name of project lead**

**Job title/role**

**Organisation**

**Address**

**Email**

**Telephone**

**This proposal is on behalf of (please include details of any departments/committees in your own institution and any partners in this bid):**

## **Award of Funding**

CRAC (who manage Vitae on behalf of the Research Councils UK) may, at its absolute discretion, award funding to any party (“the Bidder”) who submits an idea that CRAC believes is worth supporting. The award of any funding shall be subject to CRAC’s approval (which it shall be entitled to give at its own discretion) and CRAC and the Bidder entering a legal contract, the main terms of which shall be as follows:

- an undertaking from the Bidder that the ideas, programmes and materials developed shall be for the benefit of researchers working at UK higher education institutes;
- any intellectual property rights arising in the programmes and materials developed from the use of the funding shall vest in and be owned by the Bidder;
- CRAC shall be entitled to a non-exclusive licence to use the intellectual property rights for any purpose connected to the Vitae programme and for supporting the professional and career development of researchers; and
- obligations to consult and liaise with CRAC together with standard representations, undertakings and indemnities.