Call for Applications: I-REACCH Inclusive Research Culture Fund 2024

# Summary

I-REACCH is a two-year Wellcome Trust-funded project investigating [research culture](https://royalsociety.org/news-resources/projects/research-culture/) at the University of Leicester. We are delighted to announce the first funding call for small projects which promote the development of inclusive research cultures within local research environments (e.g. schools/departments/research centres/research institutes). Cross departmental and interdisciplinary collaboration is encouraged.

This funding call is intended to pilot new initiatives or expand existing activity aimed at promoting inclusive research cultures for staff and students. Applicants should demonstrate how their initiative/activity can address barriers to equity, diversity and inclusion. Up to £2,500 will be available per project, subject to funding. Additional funding calls will be released in 2025.

# Who can apply?

All applications are welcome. Applications are encouraged from researchers at all career stages including postgraduate researchers, academic staff on fixed-term and open-ended contracts, research-enabling professional services, and technicians. **We are particularly keen to encourage applications by researchers from minoritised backgrounds.**

Applicants with disabilities who wish to apply through an elevator pitch are welcome to bring an assistant if needed. Please contact the project team to discuss any other reasonable adjustments.

# What do we fund?

Applicants can apply for up to £2,500 to address a barrier to inclusive research culture. Eligible costs include one or a combination of activities (but are not limited to):

* catered workshops;
* Café Culture discussions;
* PGR/departmental conferences;
* reading/literature discussion groups;
* idea generating exercises;
* best practice exchanges;
* external facilitators;
* networking events;
* writing retreats.

This call is not intended to fund:

* tuition fees at any level, including studentships;
* individual conference attendance and travel;
* salary costs of substantive staff members;
* salary or UNITEMPS costs for research assistance.

All funds should be spent by 31 July 2025 after which we will require you to provide feedback on your project.

# How to apply

There are three elements to the process: (1) an application in one of three formats outlining what your proposed project is and its purpose; (2) a budget; and (3) an EDI monitoring data sheet.

Applications can be made in one of the following formats:

* Written application (450 words maximum);
* Video application (three minutes maximum);
* Elevator pitch/in-person presentation (three minutes maximum).

These formats allow colleagues to apply in a way which best suits their communication skills and preferences. **Applicants will not be disadvantaged because of their chosen application format and the criteria do not include presentation skills.**

In your chosen format, please outline:

1. A barrier to inclusive research culture within your local environment (e.g. department, school, research centre or team) and why it is important to tackle it now;
2. What your proposed project is;
3. How your proposed project will address this barrier.

Applicants should also fill out the form below to provide details of the proposed budget, any outputs (e.g. reports of strategy documents) or measurable outcomes (e.g. changes in survey data responses) which might arise from the project, and data for equity, diversity and inclusion monitoring.

**All applications** will be reviewed by members of the I-REACCH Mirror Co-I Group which is comprised of researchers at different career stages and with varied lived experiences of research culture.

**Video applications** may take the format of (but are not limited to) a recorded PowerPoint presentation, speech to camera, or recorded text and images with no audio.

**Elevator pitches** do not require a PowerPoint or other presentation.

Regardless of the format chosen, **all applications** will be assessed on the basis of how effectively the application has demonstrated that their proposed project addresses an identified barrier to creating an inclusive research culture. Applications will also be assessed on the potential impact and feasibility of the project within the proposed budget.

**All applicants** will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible following the deadline and feedback will be provided on all applications.

# Deadline

**Written** and **video applications** should be submitted to ireacch@le.ac.uk by 23:59 on Tuesday 11 February. **All applicants should also submit their supporting form by this time.**

The **elevator pitch meeting** will be held from 2pm on Wednesday 12 February 2025. Applicants will be notified of the venue as soon as possible. If you wish to apply through an elevator pitch/in-person presentation, please book a time slot using this [booking form](https://outlook.office.com/bookwithme/user/609a8a9ffb634fe8a6f9cedf15f6c089%40leicester.ac.uk/meetingtype/V9QTe-rdekSeG5ZIQSW5BA2?anonymous&ep=mlink). **It will not be possible to arrange an alternative time so if applicants cannot make this meeting, please apply in writing or video.**

# More information

**If you have any questions about this funding call or would like to discuss your ideas before applying, please email Dr Aaron Andrews (****aa1397@le.ac.uk****) or the I-REACCH project team (****ireacch@le.ac.uk****).**

I-REACCH Inclusive Research Culture Funding Application Form

**This form must be completed in addition to your written, video, or pitch application. Please send this form, and the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Data sheet to** **ireacch@le.ac.uk** **by 23:59 on Tuesday 11 February 2025.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name(s)** |  |
| **School(s)/Department(s)** |  |
| **Career stage (self-defined)** | Postgraduate ResearcherEarly Career ResearcherMid-Career ResearcherSenior or established researcherPrefer not to sayOther  |
| **Potential outputs** (This might include publications, strategy documents, etc.) |  |
| **Potential measurable outcomes** (This might include changes in Postgraduate Research Experience Survey or other survey responses,participation in activities, etc.) |  |
| **Outline budget** | **Item** | **Cost** | **Justification** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Budget total** |  |

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Data**

Please complete the following table. This is not part of the selection criteria. The information will be used to feed back to the Wellcome Trust for the purposes of equity, diversity and inclusion monitoring. Anonymised data will also be used by the I-REACCH project for evaluation purposes.

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| --- |
| **Any information that may impact your ability to undertake research**, e.g. carer [unpaid], parenting responsibility, been in care, as a looked after child, official UK refugee status, asylum-seeker, adult returner to education, anything else: |
| *Categories under the Equality Act 2010:* |
| **Gender Identity:** | Female | Male | Other | Prefer not to say |
| **Sexual Orientation:** | Bisexual | Gay man | Gay women/lesbian |
| Heterosexual | Other | Prefer not to say |
| **Known Disability:** | YES | NO | Prefer not to say |
| **Ethnicity:** |  |
| **Religion or Belief:** | No religion | Buddhist | Christian | Hindu | Jewish |
| Muslim | Sikh | Spiritual | Other | Prefer not to say |