BACKGROUND

Conceptions provides a unique opportunity for early career researchers (e.g. research fellows, post-doctoral research associates and graduate students) at the University of Cambridge to run their own creative interdisciplinary project around the theme of reproduction. The project may involve a programme of invited speakers, a novel research proposal, the production of a short film or outreach material, or other activity.

The requirements are that the project must be:

- interdisciplinary and involve at least 2 members from different departments (preferably from different Schools) within the University of Cambridge or its affiliated institutions (applications from external institutions are not eligible);
- fully costed, as funding will be capped;
- completed by the start of the Michaelmas term following selection.

For the current round (Michaelmas 2020), applicants are strongly advised to consider how they will carry out their projects under COVID-19 restrictions. We are unable to extend funding except in highly exceptional circumstances.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will be considered once a year, during the Michaelmas term, and deadlines will be publicised on the Conceptions web page.

The application form comprises a 3-page document requesting information on the background to the project, the project proposal and the expected benefits of the project, as well as a breakdown of costings. If the project involves working with research subjects, appropriate ethical permission must be sought.

Applicants should also include a letter of support for the project from a University Teaching Officer, Principal Investigator or someone of equivalent status.

Applications will be considered by the Chairs of the SRI, and short-listed applicants may be invited to present their proposals.

FUNDING

Individual Conceptions may apply for funding of up to a maximum of £5,000. Applications for smaller amounts are also welcomed. Funds will be made available by the Coordinator on evidence of expenditure.

It is envisaged that at least 2 Conceptions will be funded per calendar year, and possibly more depending on the level of funding requested.

COMPLETION

Projects must be completed by the start of the Michaelmas term 2021. At the end of the project, a report outlining progress against the stated aims, and outcomes (max. 4,000 words) should be submitted to the Coordinator. Any material produced during the course of the project, e.g. films or outreach material, will remain the property of the SRI, but can be used freely by the creators.

Outlines of Conceptions projects funded and their outcomes will be displayed on the SRI website.