



# Incubator fund

## Cambridge Reproduction: Incubator Fund guidance (2023–24)

Cambridge Reproduction welcomes applications from current members for small grants from the Incubator Fund. The **Incubator Fund** has been established with additional funding from the Isaac Newton Trust in order to foster innovative interdisciplinary research in any aspect of reproduction. Grants provide seed funding as a basis for development of larger bids, with an emphasis on novel or exploratory reproduction research.

The requirements are that the project must be:

- interdisciplinary and involve at least 2 members from different research groups or 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 within 6 months of receipt of funding.

Grants will be awarded for any activities that promote interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration, typically including (but not limited to):

- development of a prototype or novel method or approach;
- providing proof of concept for a larger funding proposal;
- purchase of equipment or materials;
- a pilot research project that leads to an interdisciplinary publication or grant application;
- employing another researcher to work on the project;
- a visit or exchange with another institution or research group, in order to develop new skills;
- data collection or analysis to explore a new research direction;
- application of approaches or methods from another discipline to an existing piece of research;
- development of a new research resource (e.g. a website, archive or tool);
- costs associated with a publication or event, where this activity is likely to lead to further research outputs or attract additional funding;
- development of a new policy initiative or engagement with governmental or other external organisations.

Excluded costs include:

- Open access fees
- University overheads

We are particularly keen to support proposals that address one of our research themes (currently Maternal Mortality; Inheritance, Development and Environment; Future of Reproduction; and Routes to Parenthood). However, we encourage applications relating to any aspect of reproduction research, including translational outcomes.

### Funding available

Each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Awards will typically be between £500 and £5,000, and applicants are strongly encouraged to look for additional sources of co-funding. All projects must be completed within 6 months of receipt of funding.

## Assessment criteria

The key criteria for assessing applications will be:

- Strength of the proposal in terms of promoting and facilitating interdisciplinary research;
- Relevance to Cambridge Reproduction (see <https://www.repro.cam.ac.uk/about-us> for our vision and goals);
- Originality or novelty of the proposed research;
- Impact of the expected outcomes/outputs;
- Likelihood of the project to attract follow-on funding.

## Application and review process

Each proposal must be made by at least two applicants from different research groups or departments (and preferably from different Schools or institutions). Applications can be made [via the online form](#) or by emailing the Word application form to Tamsin Smyth ([admin@repro.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admin@repro.cam.ac.uk)). Applications should be accompanied by:

- a CV for each applicant;
- a statement of support from your supervisor, group leader or Head of Department. Only one statement of support is needed per application, and you may download a template statement from the Cambridge Reproduction website ([www.repro.cam.ac.uk/incubator-fund](http://www.repro.cam.ac.uk/incubator-fund)).

If the project involves working with research subjects, appropriate ethical permission must be sought.

Submissions must be made at least 4 weeks before your proposed project begins, as we cannot cover retrospective costs.

Applications will be considered once per term; please see the Cambridge Reproduction website ([www.repro.cam.ac.uk/incubator-fund](http://www.repro.cam.ac.uk/incubator-fund)) for current deadlines. In exceptional circumstances, we may be able to consider applications outside these timescales; if you think this applies to you, please email Christina Rozeik to discuss your situation: [coordinator@repro.cam.ac.uk](mailto:coordinator@repro.cam.ac.uk).

The review process is expected to take 3-4 weeks to complete. The review is conducted by the **Incubator Fund Panel**.

Preference may be given to those who have not previously received a grant from Cambridge Reproduction.

## Awards and report

Successful applicants will be contacted at the start of their projects, to arrange interim and final deadlines, and to discuss how the budget will be managed. They will also be expected to provide text and/or images for a project page on the Cambridge Reproduction website.

You should start your projects within 6 months of award, and projects should be completed within 6 months of the starting date, unless in exceptional circumstances.

If you have received an award, you are required to submit a brief report within one month of completing their projects. The report should be submitted to Tamsin Smyth ([admin@repro.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admin@repro.cam.ac.uk)) using the provided post-award report form, along with proof of expenditure (receipts, travel documents, etc). Funds will only be made available on evidence of expenditure. A brief report summary will be made available on the SRI website ([www.repro.cam.ac.uk](http://www.repro.cam.ac.uk)), together with one or more images from the project.

Financial support from Cambridge Reproduction should be acknowledged in project materials, outputs and outcomes. In the interests of transparency, it would be helpful if you could share any outputs with Cambridge Reproduction.

## Contact

Applicants may discuss the **Incubator Fund** with Tamsin Smyth ([admin@repro.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admin@repro.cam.ac.uk)).