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**Saltire Emerging Researcher Scheme**

**ECR Guidelines**

The aim of the ***Saltire Emerging Researcher Scheme*** is to promote mobility between Scotland and European research partners with the aim of strengthening existing, and seeding future, research relationships.

Funding of up to £7,500 is available for Early Career Researchers currently working in a SICSA institution to visit a partner institution for a focused research visit.

SICSA will work in partnership with EiT Digital to promote exchange opportunities with European institutions through their membership.

**Application Process**

Complete the Expression of Interest (EoI) form detailing:

* How the focus of the proposal and your research aligns with Resilient and Sustainable Digital Infrastructures Exchanges (Re-inDex) Theme
* Details of access to training, facilities and network building opportunities
* Details of host (if you have identified one)

After submission, the EoI will be considered by the SICSA team and the outcome will be communicated to you within **10 working days.**

On approval of the EoI, a Full Application Form should be completed, detailing:

* Host institution including a nominated contact champion and contact details
* Proposed title, start and end date of the exchange (these can be amended on the condition that the exchange is completed by end July 2022)
* Details of the Exchange (as stated in the proposal form) including how it aligns with Horizon Europe work programmes
* Budget requested and breakdown of costs (see funding information below)

**Eligibility**

* Applicants must be a ECR within 7 years of completion of their PhD and be employed within Informatics & Computer Science within within a SICSA institute.
* Exchanges must take place between Scotland and an EU Member State, EEA or EFTA country.
* The host must be a University / Higher Education or Industry partner.
* Only one successful application per applicant.
* The exchange may build on, or be extensions to, existing activity or may be new developments
* The visit should be a minimum of 3 months, maximum of 6 months

**Funding Information**

* A maximum of £7,500 will be awarded for economy class travel, accommodation and subsistence.
* Applications should be costed in line with the following guidelines:
  + Return air travel (economy class only)
  + Accommodation is limited to £75 per night (for extended trips rented accommodation should be sought).
  + Subsistence is limited to £25 per diem

**Conditions of Funding**

* The exchange must be completed by 31st July 2022.
* A supporting statement from your supervisor must be attached to the application.
* A supporting statement from the host institution must be attached to the application
* A contingency plan relating to the possibility of returning COVID restrictions must be included in your proposal.
* Any changes to the planned exchange must be approved by the SICSA Directorate.
* A short-structured report/video must be submitted within one month of return from the exchange.
* If you are successful, you will be enrolled in the Saltire Researcher Scheme Alumni and will be encouraged to attend a cohort event once all exchanges have taken place.
* Travel and accommodation arrangements must be arranged by the proposer/institution.

**Application Submission**

Applicants should apply using the downloadable forms (*Expression of Interest* and

*Saltire Application Form*) and submit to jamie.f.ferguson@glasgow.ac.uk

The funding call dates will be on a rolling basis - funding call deadlines are:

* 15th November 2021
* 15th December 2021
* 15th January 2022

Following submission, the proposal will be considered by members of the SICSA

Directorate and the outcome will be notified to you within **4 weeks.** See below review criteria for what to include in your full application.

**Review Criteria**

Full applications for ECR Saltire applications will be revied by: two SICSA directors and one SICSA theme lead from a relevant subject area. These reviews will use the following criteria:

* Do we consider the researcher to be engaged with SICSA
* Will the exchange provide career benefits to the researcher in the short and long term?
* Are there prospects for sustained European collaboration as a result of the exchange?
* Are there prospects for future Horizon Europe involvement?
* Will the exchange provide benefits to the SICSA community?

If you have any questions about the Saltire Emerging Researcher Scheme please contact

Jamie Ferguson ([Jamie.F.Ferguson@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Jamie.F.Ferguson@glasgow.ac.uk))

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