**IRF Research Excellence Fund Application Form**

**Overview**

The Imaging advisory group (IAG) is providing the opportunity for research staff and students to enhance their potential in securing research funding and achieving publication success through the Imaging Resource Facility Research Excellence Fund (IRF REF). This award grants low-cost access to cutting edge equipment and services in the IRF.

**Eligibility Criteria**

The fund us predominantly aimed at (but is not limited to) researchers who have no current funding and applications must be on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Pilot data for grant applications
2. Feasibility studies
3. Publication completion
4. New ideas – testing out new collaborations or concepts

**Please note – The award will NOT support any work that could and should be submitted for a research grant.**

It is expected that either the PI or designated individual will undertake the works. There will be no service provision by IRF staff. However, all facility users will have to undergo a standard induction prior to the project. For equipment that is not available for independent use (e.g. cell sorter and TSPIM), IRF staff will support the researcher.

Applications are welcome from:

1. PhD students
2. Postdoctoral researchers
3. Principal investigators
4. Research technicians

**Application deadline: 4 weeks post application opening date**

**Funding duration: 5 months from announcement date.**

**Process and decision making:**

1. Please complete the application form and send it to **irf@agul.ac.uk** or **ewoodcoc@sgul.ac.uk**
2. The IAG subgroup will score and oversee the decision making process – applications will be scored according to the eligibility criteria (see page 5) and equipment hours will be allocated based on these scores.
3. Outcomes from the process will be communicated to applicants within 2 weeks of the closing date. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application individually.
4. IRF Staff will create access to equipment and services for successful applicants at the basic consumables cost per hour/ per sample rate.
5. Successful applicants will be able to access equipment/services during the 5-month award.
6. Successful applicants will be required to produce a report on their project outcomes within 8 weeks of the agreed end date by completion of the IRF REF reporting form.

**Once the IAG subgroup has scored applications, should there be multiple applications requesting use of the same equipment, equipment hours will be allocated according to the score to distribute maximum available equipment hours.**

**Example -** Should there be four applications all requesting 115 hours on the Nikon A1R confocal. The applications will be scored according to the eligibility criteria. The Maximum available hours for the Nikon A1R to be used for the IRF REF is 230 hours. Therefore, the application with the highest score would receive 100% of their requested hours (115), the application scored second would receive 66% of their requested hours (76) and the application who scored third would receive 33% of their requested hours (38). The application that scored the lowest would not receive the IRF REF award this round as the maximum capacity for the Nikon A1R confocal has been reached. **Applicants are eligible to apply to multiple award rounds.**

**Reporting**

At the end of the award period, successful applicants must submit a follow-up report to the IAG using the IRF REF reporting form.

Successful applicants will be expected to present their findings at the next IRF symposium.

Information about successful applicants and projects (including the award end reports) will be updated to Research Committee.

**Please note that support from the IRF is to be acknowledged in any research outputs enabled by this funding.**

The table below shows the availability and cost of equipment and sample preparation available to successful applicants.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sample Based Service** | **Price per** | **Basic consumable cost per sample** | **Maximum request per applicant** |
| Immunohistochemistry | Slide | £0.50 | 300 |
| H & E Histology | Slide | £0.09 | 300 |
| Lillies Trichrome histology | Slide | £0.10 | 300 |
| Sectioning – cryostat | Block | £0.57 | 50 |
| Sectioning – wax | Block | £0.25 | 50 |
| Embedding – cryostat | Block  | £0.10 | 50 |
| Embedding – wax (excludes use of the automatic tissue processor) | Block | £0.38 | 50 |
| FACS Melody cell sorter | Sample | £3.05 | 30 |
| Leica Automated Tissue Processor | sample | 1.21 | 50 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Hourly Based Service** | **Price per** | **Basic consumable cost per sample** | **Maximum request per applicant** |
| Nikon A1R confocal microscope | Hour | £2.57 | 115 |
| Nikon NiE epifluorescent microscope | Hour | £1.35 | 195 |
| Zeiss Axiovert 200M epifluorescent microscope | Hour | £0.98 | 195 |
| Nanozoomer slide scanner | Hour | £0.84 | 115 |
| LiveCyte | Hour | £1.63 | 144 |
| Auto-Scratch wound maker | Hour | £0.84 | 195 |
| Cytoflex cell analyser | Hour | £2.52 | 115 |
| ImageXpress Pico | Hour | £1.21 | 195 |

**Application Form**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project title: |  |
| Principal Investigator/PhD/PDRA: |   |
| Co-Investigator/s: |  |
| Designated individual: | *Who will undertake the work and use the equipment?* |
| Service / equipment requested: |  |
| How many samples / hours are required (up to maximum allowance see table 1): | *Feasibility will be assessed by facility staff prior to scoring by panel*  |
| Does the designated individual have prior experience using this equipment or service?  |  |
| Have they been trained by IRF staff? |  |
| Approvals required: | Home Office License  Ethics approval Other (state) | **Delete as appropriate**:required**/**n/a**/**obtained required**/**n/a**/**obtained required**/**n/a**/**obtained  |

**Project Description** (max. 500 words):rationale for the project including clear objectives and specific aims. How will the work carried out contribute to the wider research of the individual? Why does this project require IRF research excellence funding?

**Please indicate below when you would perform the work, if successful:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | March |
| Tick as appropriate |[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

**Future Plans** (max. 200 words):explain how the project will result in a research benefit to the university. What funding call opportunity or publication manuscript will this work link to?

**For IAG use only – Scoring**

**Feasibility:**

* Extent to which the application is complete, succinct, and precise, and relates to institutional benefits.
* Extent to which the applicant has the necessary implementing capacity.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Tick as appropriate |[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

**Impact:**

* Extent to which the project aims at practical and tangible outcomes.
* Potential of planned outcomes to generate positive changes.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Tick as appropriate |[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

**Application total**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Decision**

This application has been unsuccessful [ ]

This application has been successful [ ]

**Subgroup feedback:**

Feedback will be provided to applicants within 2 weeks of the award application close date.