Generator Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

(See also: full guidance document at Generator Fund - GW4)

1. **How many GW4 institutions need to be involved in the application?**

   Must involve at least three, although four preferred. Where fewer than four, this must be fully justified.

2. **How can I find other suitable GW4 partners?**

   GW4 Programme Managers can help put you in touch with appropriate partners. Refer to the current guidance for contact details: Generator Fund - GW4

3. **Can we have more than one named PI on the application?**

   For the purposes of award delivery, fine. For the purposes of award administration, no. The application needs to identify a lead PI who is prepared to act as the main point of contact for the award for administration purposes.

4. **Can we involve/name other non-GW4 partners in the application?**

   Yes. As long as at least three of the GW4 institutions are involved, we encourage teams to extend their collaborations to as many other relevant partners as they see fit. It's up to the team to decide who would be beneficial to the successful delivery of the proposal. Non-GW4 partners can be named in section 7 of the application form.

5. **How should the team be structured?**

   This question is often raised by teams that include a combination of ECRs and more senior academics. It's up to you to decide what will work best for the delivery of the award, but from our experience we often find the most successful teams are those where the PI is an ECR (more flex with time/ high energy and motivation to deliver and learn new skills such as leadership), supported by more senior academics. In these cases, consider and explain in your application suitable plans to provide support/ mentoring for the ECR(s) and what the different roles and responsibilities will be across the whole team.

6. **Can the awards be longer than six months?**

It's possible, but only where fully justified. There will be 2 months between award being given and award start, for paperwork on our side and preparation from the team, and six months for delivery - we feel this should be adequate for most awards. Justification for a longer timeframe should be considered carefully, and could include factors such as

➢ Reasonable, anticipated difficulties within the context of what is proposed (eg. working with overseas partners, dove-tailing with key, external partners agendas or processes)
➢ The delivery of a higher than usual levels of deliverables e.g. significant grant application(s)/ high quality academic paper(s)/ substantial commitment and engagement with external partner(s)/ robust plans for ensuring broad and effective collaboration and future sustainability and success
➢ Acceptable within the norms of the academic discipline area
➢ Supporting the development of a strong team – clear, additional collaboration strengthening activities, perhaps including the mentoring and development of ECRs

7. **Is there flexibility with the use of the budget?**

Eligible and non-eligible criteria are clearly set out in the guidance. Within this, we encourage teams to decide how best to allocate the budget to deliver the award – you are best placed to know this. Key is to provide full justification in the columns provided.

8. **What are indirect costs?**

Indirect costs are not permitted. These are those costs which cannot be attributed to this one award, they can include things like telephone expenses, general office support and supplies, childcare unless directly linked to award activity and otherwise activity could not take place.

9. **Is the word count crucial in the application?**

The panel prefer succinct explanations, however, in our experience no application has been penalised for going over the word count. (This is unlike some application processes where words beyond the word count are ignored/deleted.)