



## Early Career Engagement Awards Guidance

Early Career Engagement Awards provide funding for NC3Rs-funded early career researchers who wish to undertake dissemination activities to further maximise the impact achieved from their 3Rs-focused research. The awards will enable junior researchers to further develop the skills and experience necessary to support their career ambitions, through skill development and networking opportunities, while building and sustaining an impactful 3Rs legacy.

### What is an Early Career Engagement Award?

We are offering awards of up to £15k for NC3Rs Training Fellows and postdoctoral researchers employed on NC3Rs Project grants, and up to £10k for NC3Rs-funded PhD Students.

This award will fund an event or activity aimed at furthering the 3Rs impact of an existing grant/ award by achieving wider awareness and uptake of the 3Rs approach, in addition to supporting any tailored training required to facilitate greater engagement and dissemination.

Examples of eligible activities include (but are not limited to):

- Presenting the 3Rs approach at a key scientific meeting/ conference
- Delivering a practical workshop to raise awareness of the 3Rs approach and providing hands-on technical training
- Networking activities to engage end-users of the 3Rs tool or technology
- Developing online resources, including videos, to aid further dissemination of the 3Rs approach
- Sharing resources (e.g., cell lines or data) to enable wider uptake of the 3Rs approach
- Undertaking tailored training (e.g., communication and science media) to further support the dissemination of the 3Rs approach
- Performing additional validation studies required by collaborators/ identified end-users to catalyse the adoption of the 3Rs approach

Public engagement activities fall outside the remit of this award but further information on our public engagement awards can be found on our [website](#).

## Who can apply?

- Applicants must be an early career researcher employed either as an NC3Rs Training Fellow, NC3Rs-funded PhD Student or as a postdoctoral researcher on an NC3Rs Project grant. This includes awards co-funded with the BHF, CRUK and BBSRC, and NC3Rs CRACK IT Innovation grants.
- Applicants must have less than 12 months (at the time of application) remaining on the NC3Rs funded grant/ award.
- Applicants must be based in a non-profit, academic institution.
- Dissemination activities funded by the NC3Rs Early Career Engagement Awards must take place within 12 months of receiving the award (**funds must be invoiced by 15 January 2023**).
- You may only apply once during the lifetime of your current NC3Rs funding.

## Key dates

<b>Application deadline</b>	4pm, 23 November 2023
<b>Applicants notified of outcome</b>	Week commencing 4 December 2023

## How to apply

The completed application forms should be submitted as **PDF files** by email to [3rsgrants@nc3rs.org.uk](mailto:3rsgrants@nc3rs.org.uk) by 4pm on 23 November 2023.

General points to consider:

- Failure to complete all fields on the application form may result in the application being rejected.
- The application form should be completed using a font size no smaller than 10pt (Arial) and text limits must not be exceeded.
- The use of acronyms should be kept to a minimum.

## Eligible costs

Applicants can apply for funding for:

- Commensurate salary/ stipend costs for the applicant (as agreed by the host organisation and where the planned activity falls outside of the existing grant/ award period. Please note salary for other researchers or technicians is not within remit.)
- Other directly incurred research costs (e.g., travel and subsistence, consumables)
- Article Processing Costs (APCs) may not be included. The NC3Rs contribution to APCs is paid via

the MRC contribution to the [UKRI block grant](#).

## Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed by the NC3Rs Office staff. Final decisions will be made by the NC3Rs Chief Executive.

The following criteria will be taken into consideration when making funding decisions:

- Progress made on the NC3Rs-funded grant/ award
- Strength of plans for the proposed activity including clear objectives, the potential to engage the target audience, as well as benefit of the activity to the researcher's career
- Potential impact on the 3Rs
- Value for money and justification for use of funds

## Financial arrangements

Awards are cash-limited, made to the institution employing the applicant and must be invoiced by **15 January 2023**. Upon an award being made, an award letter will be issued setting out terms and conditions and advice on liaising with the University finance office to receive the award. Institutions must ensure the funds awarded are used to support the project as approved by the NC3Rs. Funds cannot be used for activities falling more than 12 months after the award date and any expenditure incurred after this date will not be met by the NC3Rs.

## Reporting

All recipients of funding will be required to complete and return a brief final report on completion of the award. A form will be sent to the applicant when the award is confirmed.

Sections of the application and final report may be published on the NC3Rs website.