

Leadership Training Bursaries for NERC Fellows



Call Closes: July 31st 2016

Background

NERC supports fellowships to develop scientific leadership among the most promising early-career environmental scientists and a key expectation of award holders is that they use their fellowship to position themselves as recognised leaders within their field. Fellows are expected to develop these skills by building their research profile, gaining applied experience through opportunities such as supervising PhD students and building their research group, and through completing training relevant to their learning needs. These requirements principally relate to the NERC Independent Research Fellowship and Research Programme Fellowship schemes but are also of relevance to Knowledge Exchange (KE) Fellowships.

Although NERC Research and KE Fellows have reported that they are satisfied with the development opportunities available to them, they consider there to be a shortage of appropriate leadership skills training. This was identified through feedback received at the 2015 and 2016 NERC Fellows Training Workshops.

To address this, NERC welcomes applications from its Research and KE Fellows to a pilot scheme offering training bursaries to support participation in leadership skills training courses. Bursaries will cover attendance costs, including travel and subsistence costs, relevant to undertaking identified leadership skills training.

Fellow Eligibility

This opportunity is open to all active NERC Independent Research Fellows, Research Programme Fellows and Knowledge Exchange Fellows.

Attendance on leadership skills training courses must be completed before the end of your fellowship award or March 31st 2017, whichever is the sooner.

Eligible Leadership Skills Courses

Eligible fellows are permitted to apply for funding to attend one training course through this opportunity.

Bursary funding is available to support attendance at any course relevant to leadership skills training. Funding is not available to support training concerning research or technical skills. The leadership skills training can focus on leadership within an academic environment but the learning outcomes should be leadership skills and not skills relevant to academia.

Examples of training relevant to this opportunity are Team-Building, Effective Personal Impact, Strategy Development, Facilitation Skills, Professional Networking, Impact Through

Policy, Research Translation, etc. and can be offered by standalone training providers or through universities.

Applicants may attend international courses if they can demonstrate that comparable training is not available within the UK.

If you have any questions concerning whether a particular training course is eligible for this opportunity, please contact NERC.

Eligible Costs

Funding is available to support all costs associated with attending a leadership skills training course. These costs must be clearly detailed within the application with supporting evidence if available. Applicants will be expected to provide information concerning the following costs:

- *Course Fees*- the cost charged by the training provider for attending the course
- *Travel and Subsistence*- costs necessary for attending the course where not included within the course fee. These must comply with the [RCUK T&S Policy](#).
- *Other* – Please detail these within your application but can include reasonable items such as childcare.

How to Apply

All applicants to this pilot scheme are required to complete and submit a NERC Leadership Skills Bursary application form available in **Annex A** to this document.

Applications must be submitted to fellowships@nerc.ac.uk by **July 31st 2016** to be considered eligible for this competition. Please title your application email *NERC Leadership Skills Application: Your Name*.

Applicants may only apply for funding to attend **ONE** training course which must be clearly identified within their application.

Award Process

All applications will be assessed internally by NERC staff to determine whether the training requested is within remit for this opportunity. All applicants and their research organisation will be notified of the outcome of this process by email and successful applicants will have a new funding stream added to their NERC Fellowship award to support their attendance on their proposed training course.

Queries

Please contact fellowships@nerc.ac.uk should you have any queries regarding this opportunity.

Annex A: Leaderships Skills Training Bursary application pro forma

1. Fellow Details	
Fellow Name	
Research Organisation	
NERC Fellowship Grant Reference	
End Date of Fellowship Grant	

2. Course Details	
Course Name	
Course Provider	
Course Dates	
Link to Course Details	
Please provide brief justification concerning why you wish to attend this training course and its relevance to your personal development as a research leader.	

3. Costs – please provide evidence of cost where available	
Course Fees	
Travel and Subsistence	
Other (<i>Please provide details</i>)	
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	£ -

4. Other Information – if necessary, please provide additional information in support of your application such as, for example, why the course being proposed is international rather than in the UK.

Annex B: Timetable of NERC Fellows leadership skills training call

Date	Item
July 6th 2016	Call for proposals opens
July 31 st 2016	Call for proposals closes
August 5 th 2016	Applicants informed of award outcomes
August 6 th 2016 - March 31 st 2017	Applicants attend training courses
March 31 st 2017	All training completed