

## Grants

### MORATORIUM AWARDS

Participation in an IODP Expedition is a prestigious opportunity and for many researchers it is a career- building experience. However, each berth is a major investment by UK science of more than £300,000 . Consequently, we expect all UK scientists to make a substantial contribution to the scientific outputs of each expedition and support UK engagement in scientific ocean drilling. UK- IODP has put in place mechanisms to support expedition participation and facilitate post- cruise research.

All UK IODP expedition participants are required to: **i.** notify the UK-IODP Programme Manager and UK IODP Coordinator (contact details below), at the earliest opportunity, that they have been offered, and accepted, a berth on an IODP expedition; and **ii.** to submit a Moratorium Award application **in advance of sailing**. Failure to meet these requirements may result in less funding being available for a moratorium award due to budgetary constraints.

Moratorium Awards will combine funding to cover:

1. **Expedition participant's costs** for time on board ship or during science parties for MSP participants only (see below);
2. **Travel and subsistence** for travelling to/from expeditions, sampling parties and post-cruise meetings;
3. Support for **moratorium period research** work to be carried out during the moratorium period directly post cruise.

Moratorium awards to post-doctoral researchers (individuals must have passed their PhD viva before an expedition departs to be considered a post-doctoral researcher), faculty scientists, PhD students and co-chiefs may be up to the following limits. These limits are the total cost to NERC.

- Post-doctoral researchers - £50,000
- Established scientists - £25,000
- PhD students - £25,000
- Co-Chief scientists- £80,000

The awarding of the upper funding limit is subject to affordability and cuts to funding requests may be made. Future revisions to the scheme and funding limits may be required subject to budgetary constraints.

#### 1. Expedition participant's costs:

IODP expedition participants from the UK are eligible to apply to NERC for funding to cover their time on board ship, and this will be funded as part of a Moratorium Award. Salary costs during the cruise will need to be paid in the first instance by the university and will be reimbursed to the research organisation as part of the funds awarded for the moratorium grant. Onshore participants for Mission Specific Platform (MSP) expeditions are also eligible to apply for funding to cover their participation during onshore science parties.

The three different categories of expedition participation and the eligible costs for inclusion in Moratorium Award applications are listed below:

#### *Co-Chief Scientist*

- Directly Incurred costs:

- Staff time (for offshore and onshore co-chief activities)
- Directly Allocated costs:
  - Estates costs (only for time spent onshore)
- Indirect costs:
  - Only for time spent onshore

*Expedition Participant/Onshore MSP Science Party Participants (Post-docs and Established Scientists)*

- Directly Incurred costs:
  - Staff time (for offshore and during MSP onshore science parties only)
- Directly Allocated:
- Estates costs – not eligible
- Indirect costs – not eligible

*Expedition Participant: PhD Student (sailing)*

- No costs eligible

## **2. Travel and subsistence**

The cost of travelling to/from expeditions, sampling parties and post-cruise meetings must be included in Moratorium Award applications, no additional funding will be available to cover this.

## **3. Moratorium period research:**

The post-cruise moratorium period, when cruise participants have exclusive access to collected samples, has proven extremely important in achieving high profile outputs from IODP campaigns. UK cruise participants are, therefore, expected to include a proposal within their Moratorium Award application describing a discrete body of work to be carried out post cruise based only on the material to be collected during the IODP expedition. The proposal must constitute a new piece of research and must not be a continuation of any other unrelated project funded by NERC or other organisations.

The maximum funding limits for moratorium awards are the total cost to NERC and must include all Directly Incurred (Staff and Other), Directly Allocated (Staff, Estates and Other) and Indirect costs to cover up to 6 months of moratorium period research. Requests for Equipment and Exceptional costs are ineligible for moratorium grant proposals. Moratorium research funding limits are inclusive of costs claimed for expedition participation.

Applications must be submitted **3 months** ahead of departure. All Moratorium Award proposals will be peer reviewed prior to a funding decision being made. If the moratorium period research is considered fundable, the proposal will be awarded and required to start prior to departure. When a proposal is awarded, the award holder will be sent a 'Sample Confirmation Form'. At the end of the expedition, this form should be signed by an expedition Co-Chief Scientist, who must confirm that the appropriate samples have been obtained to carry out the proposed research. Signed forms must be submitted to the UK IODP Programme Manager within two weeks of the end of the expedition. If the form is not returned funding will be terminated. If appropriate samples have not been obtained to carry out the original proposal, a revised proposal should be submitted via email to the Programme Manager, together with confirmation that the revised plan can be achieved with the available samples.

If a moratorium proposal is not considered to be fundable, guidance will be provided to the applicants to enable them to submit a revised proposal.

Individuals will be limited to being named on no more than one proposal per expedition.

### **Specific requirements**

As with applications to any other NERC grant scheme, proposals must be led by a Principal Investigator from an eligible UK institution. PDRA's or PhD students should be named researchers on the application. These awards are not transferrable to another researcher. Principal Investigator's salary costs relating to supervisory time should be kept to a minimum and not exceed 1% of their time.

Applications must be made by or on behalf of individuals who have been accepted as (not simply applied to become) a UK participant on a forthcoming IODP expedition.

Moratorium Awards proposal will have a maximum duration of 18 months, inclusive of the duration of the expedition, and are required to start before the expedition departs. Requests to extend awards beyond an 18 month duration will be declined.

#### PhD Students:

Different funders of studentships have different rules regarding the interruption of training and all PhD students should contact their funder (where relevant) prior submission of a Moratorium Award proposal to determine these rules. NERC funded students will have their studentships placed into abeyance during the lifetime of a Moratorium Award. The NERC Research Careers team **must** be notified upon receipt of a Moratorium Award by the PI, and the students Je-S record updated accordingly with the new funding end and expected submission dates.

Moratorium awards must not be used to claim for salary where the student receives another income/award that is intended to provide for all maintenance during the lifetime of the proposed Moratorium Award, such as when a studentship cannot be placed into abeyance.

Where the student is eligible for salary to be paid as part of a Moratorium Award, the salary must be at least equal to the Research Council's minimum stipend rates for the relevant academic year or at least minimum wage (whichever is higher). The Research Organisation may, if they wish, pay a higher level of salary.

For further details on NERC eligibility criteria please refer to the [NERC Research Grants Handbook](#).

### **Submission**

Applications for Moratorium Awards must be submitted via the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submissions system (JeS) at least 3 months prior to the expedition start date. Applicants should select Proposal Type – 'Standard', Scheme – 'Directed' and Call – 'UK IODP Phase 4 Moratorium Awards'

All attachments submitted through the Je-S system must be completed in single-spaced typescript of **minimum font size 11 point (Arial or equivalent)**, with margins of at least 2cm. Please note that Arial narrow, Calibri and Times New Roman are not allowable font types and any proposal which has used either of these font types within their submission will be rejected. References and footnotes should also be at least 11 point font and should be in the same font type as the rest of the document.

Headers and footers should not be used for references or information relating to the scientific case. Applicants referring to websites should note that referees may choose not to use them.

Please note that on submission to council ALL non PDF documents are converted to PDF, the use of non-standard fonts may result in errors or font conversion, which could affect the overall length of the document.

Additionally where non-standard fonts are present, and even if the converted PDF document may look unaffected in the Je-S System, when it is imported into the Research Councils Grants System some information may be removed. We therefore recommend that where a document contains any non-standard fonts (scientific notation, diagrams etc), the document should be converted to PDF prior to attaching it to the proposal.

The duration of the project should be the moratorium period plus the period of the cruise and must not exceed 18 months. Proposals must include:

- A Case for Support document incorporating:
  - a Description of Proposed Research (up to 2 sides of A4)
  - a Previous Track Record (up to 2 sides of A4)
- A Justification of Resources (up to 2 sides of A4)
- CV for Principal Investigator (and researcher) named on proposal (each up to 2 sides of A4)
- Pathways to Impact plan (up to 2 sides of A4)
- Outline Data Management Plan (up to 1 side of A4)

The salary of the cruise participant should be one combined total within the proforma to include the salary whilst on the cruise and the salary within the moratorium period. However, as with all requested costs, it should be clearly identified within the Justification of Resources document which costs relate to the expedition and which to the moratorium research period.

For Moratorium Award proposals involving a PhD student eligible for salary costs, the student should be classified in JeS as 'Other' staff.

Please email the Programme Manager with your grant reference number following submission of your proposal to ensure that it is picked up and dealt with in a timely manner.

To use the JeS system, the applicant's Research Organisation must be registered as a JeS user. Full details are available on the JeS website. Further information can also be obtained by contacting the JeS Helpdesk by email at [JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk) or by telephone on 01793 444164.

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Programme Manager