

RETF OPEN CALL

Applicants should submit the completed form no later than Friday 28 April 2023. Please, read the guidance in Section 1 of this form carefully before completing it.

Guidance & Criteria

1. Terms of Reference for RETF Funding

RETF is available to enable strategic research projects led by academic staff. Funding will be awarded through a competitive process. The University Committee for Research and Innovation (UCRI) will assess applications according to the criteria outlined below.

The range of funding for each application is between £10,000 and £50,000, for projects of up to maximum 2 years duration. For 2-year projects, a mid-term report is required for approval of the 2nd year of funding.

Eligible costs include salaries (and on-costs) for research, technical and professional staff, appropriate public engagement projects and/or teaching replacement as buy-out for academic staff to complete the project. For further information on costings, please contact James Church (james.church@reading.ac.uk) in Research Services for the Food and Health, and Environment Research Themes, and Colin Bulpitt (c.d.bulpitt@reading.ac.uk) for the Prosperity and Resilience, and Heritage and Creativity Research Themes. For all costings, please ensure that either James or Colin have reviewed them in RES before submitting the application.

Applicants should demonstrate that funding for the proposed project is not available from other sources, and/or they should specify match funding from internal or external sources. If match funding is not available, applicants should explain why.

Applicants should specify any previous RETF awards (maximum two) held and the resulting outcomes (grant applications, grant awards, published outputs).

All projects must specify anticipated spend in each financial year (1 August-31 July). Projects can extend across financial years but spend cannot be transferred between financial years. Previously submitted applications are NOT eligible unless they are substantially different. Submission deadlines are published in the Staff Portal.

All applications must be submitted on this form. Please note that applications are not required to be sent to the Research Deans for approval as the Deans now form part of the assessment panel.

Please note that for support to enable the completion of major outputs (anticipated to be 4* quality), academic staff should apply to the annual competition for Research Fellowships (these will be advertised separately).

2. Criteria for RETF

Proposals must meet all of the 'core' RETF criteria and at least one of the 'strategic' criteria.

a) Core RETF Criteria

Applications must meet all of the following: Support research excellence at any career stages;

- Deliver value for money with potential to leverage external funding;
- Align to strategic priorities of the University and/or Research Theme and/or Research Division Plan.

b) Strategic RETF Criteria

Research proposals must address at least one of the following:

- Demonstrate ambition to achieve growth measured in terms of, for example, research income, scale, methodologies, partnerships, reputation, audiences, etc.;
- Enable high risk research, for example providing proof of concept to inform external grant applications;
- Support innovation and the translation of research into products and processes, for example, through supporting pilot projects.

If you have questions or require assistance, please contact Dawn Cobbold (d.b.cobbold@reading.ac.uk).