

Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA)

Seedcorn Funding Call 2016

The aim of MICRA seedcorn funding is to further ageing-related research within the University of Manchester. A maximum of £6K will be awarded per application. Applications must meet the following essential criteria:

1. The proposed research activity must be explicitly related to ageing
2. The proposed research activity must be interdisciplinary
3. The proposed research activity must lead to at least one specific outcome, such as a research proposal for a research council or a working paper.
4. The award must be held by a University of Manchester member of staff (except the MICRA/ MMU award and the Dementia@Manchester/ MMU/ MICRA award which can be held by an MMU or UoM member of staff) but can be used to fund collaborations with other institutions and/ or external partners.

Joint Awards

- **Centre for Ageing Better/ MICRA:** one project will be supported by MICRA and the Centre for Ageing Better, an independent charitable foundation working to help everybody enjoy a good later life. The proposed project should not be for pure evaluation research; projects should be relevant to the UK. Proposals are invited that address one or more of the following topic themes:
 - Relationships in later life
 - Ageism and inequalities in ageing
- **Care & Repair England/ MICRA:** one project will be supported by MICRA and Care & Repair England, an independent charitable organisation working to improve housing and related services for older people. Proposals are invited that address one or both of the following topic themes:
 - Low and modest cost physical modifications to ordinary/mainstream owner occupied housing to enable healthy, independent ageing at home.
 - The connections between physical housing conditions and later life health inequalities (life expectancy/ healthy life expectancy/ incidence of long term conditions)
- **Dementia@Manchester/ Manchester Metropolitan University/ MICRA:**
 - One project will be supported by Dementia@Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and MICRA. Applications must have two project investigators, one from each university, and must fall within the category 'dementia and cognitive ageing'
- **Greater Manchester Ageing Hub/ MICRA:** one project will be supported by MICRA and the Greater Manchester Ageing Hub (a subcommittee of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority). Proposals are invited that address one or more of the following topic themes:
 - Improving transport for older people
 - Communicating with older people – recommendations for public services

- **MICRA/ Manchester Health and Social Care Team (Manchester City Council and Manchester Clinical Commissioning Groups):** up to two projects will be supported by Manchester Health and Social Care Team and MICRA. Proposals are invited that address one or more of the following themes:
 - Understanding frailty trajectories across Manchester
 - Changing patterns of demand for health and care services within ageing BME communities AND/OR how best to engage older BME communities in health promotion
 - ‘Signposting’ to community and voluntary sector organisations:
 - a) Can or does this safely reduce use of traditional health and care services amongst ageing populations AND/OR
 - b) If so, how might this best work?
- **Manchester Metropolitan University/ MICRA:** up to two projects will be supported by MICRA and MMU. These applications must have two project investigators, one from each university. Proposal are invited that address one or more of the following themes:
 - Health and social care
 - Health sciences
- **Manchester Regenerative Medicine Network (MaRM)/ MICRA:** up to two projects will be supported by the University of Manchester’s Manchester Regenerative Medicine Network and MICRA; applications must fall within the category of ‘ageing and regenerative medicine’.

In addition to the above joint awards, a number of general awards may be made.

Application process:

- a. Applicants are required to submit a written proposal for their research activity totalling no more than two sides of A4; please state if you wish to be considered for one or more of the joint awards.
- b. The application should clearly demonstrate that the proposed research meets the above essential criteria (items 1 to 4) and should include:
 - Outline of proposed research including research title or research question, methodology and expected outputs of the research
 - Summary budget of project costs
 - Names and affiliations of the research team (institution/school/ faculty/ discipline as applicable)
- c. Applications from early career researchers will be looked upon favourably.
- d. In order for the proposal to be considered interdisciplinary, there should be a minimum of two members per research team.
- e. The deadline for applications is **Thursday 1 December 2016** (midnight); all submissions should be made via email to micra@manchester.ac.uk
- f. Funds must be spent by 31 July 2017, and a one page end of project report is due by 31 December 2017 to MICRA and any project partners.
- g. The MICRA commissioning panel will meet in December 2016 with input from:

• Centre for Ageing Better	• Greater Manchester Ageing Hub
• Care & Repair England	• Director of Dementia Research, UoM
• Manchester Health and Social Care Team	• Manchester Regenerative Medicine Network
• Manchester Metropolitan University	• MICRA Co-Directors and Institute Manager

Terms and conditions

- Seedcorn funds can be used to fund a range of research costs including salaries, travel, events and consumables; it is recommended that you seek input from Research Support Services around costings.
- Please confirm that your Head of School or Division supports your application (a line in your covering email)
- Publicity related to the research must include reference to MICRA and, if applicable, the body jointly supporting the award
- Successful applicants are required to submit a one page summary of research outcomes to MICRA (and if applicable, to the body jointly supporting the award) by the end of December 2017.
- Funded projects are expected to contribute to future MICRA seminars/ events, and to inform MICRA (and any organisation jointly supporting the award) of any research successes such as subsequent grants, awards and publications.
- As soon as they receive confirmation of the decision, awardees should contact their school finance team to set up a new account for the seedcorn monies; this will be an AA code for the University of Manchester as the funding is internal. MICRA will transfer the funds to the nominated University of Manchester (or MMU) account code as soon as the details are sent by the awardee.
- The awarded funds must be spent by the financial year 31 July 2017. It is the responsibility of the project investigator to manage expenditure and arrange for any unspent funds to be returned. The University does not permit funds in AA accounts to be carried over to the next financial year and MICRA is unable to arrange for any extension of the funds into the 17-18 financial year.

Any queries, please contact Jo Garsden, Institute Manager, MICRA jo.garsden@manchester.ac.uk
0161 275 1298

Examples of previous successful awards: <http://www.micra.manchester.ac.uk/research/funding-opportunities/seedcorn-funding/>