FOLLOW-ON FUND: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. What is the Follow-on Fund (FoF)?
A. The FoF is designed to provide follow-on funding to undertake additional knowledge transfer and impact generation activities that can demonstrate the potential for significant economic, social, policy and/or practice impact(s). Eligibility could include applications that sought to commercialise research and the scheme would also be open to resources and methods research investments.

Q2. Which Research Councils are participating?
A. The ESRC's FoF has a different aim to the BBSRC, EPSRC, NERC and STFC FoFs.

Q3. What is the aim of the fund?
A. FoF aims to increase additional knowledge transfer and impact generation activities.

Q4. What activities are supported by the Fund?
A. FoF will enable activities essential to knowledge transfer and impact generation.
These might demonstrate:
i. economic impact
ii. social impact
iii. policy impact
iv. practice impact
Activities could include the commercialisation of research.

Q5. What is the relationship of the Fund to the University Challenge Funds?
A. The FoF has been established to bridge the funding gap within ESRC and other funding bodies' funded research, and the point at which other initiatives are able to provide support. It will not be used to simply extend existing research grants.

Q6. Is my application confidential?
A. Yes.

Q7. Who owns any intellectual property (IP) generated during a Follow-on Project?
A. All intellectual property arising from a FoF grant will rest with the institution to which the grant is awarded.

Q8. Is a return sought on a grant from the Follow-on Fund?
A. No, as with IP the Research Councils do not expect to receive any royalties, equity or any other form of financial return.

Q9. Who is eligible to apply to the Fund?
A. All social scientists employed in a UK HEI are eligible to apply.

Q10. Must the Research Councils have supported me previously?
A. No. we are looking to build upon ideas which draw from research that has been funded by various funding bodies. You will need to be able to demonstrate that your proposal draws substantially on the outputs of a previous research grant.

Q11. Is a company eligible to apply to the Fund?
A. No. The Scheme is only open to academic institutions that are already eligible for research grant funding.

Q12. Are project partners allowed on the grant?
A. Yes. If your original research grant was a collaborative project then it would not be unusual for the other partners to be involved in some way in the FoF grant. Similarly, you may need special expertise from a third party to take forward your idea.

Q13. Do I need to secure additional funding from other sources?
Whilst other funding is not a prerequisite, FoF grant applications which have secured funding from elsewhere eg host institution, Regional Development Agency support, will be looked upon favourably.

Q14. What do you mean by fec (full Economic Cost)?
A. For application from 1 September 2005, all new research grants are awarded on the basis of a proportion of the full economic cost (fEC). The proportion of fEC is 80% from 1 September 2005.

Q15. What size grant will be awarded?
A. The size of award will depend on the requirements of the proposed Follow-on project and the applicant's case for support. It is expected that 'typical' awards will be in the range £30K - £100K. Under present arrangements for fEC, Research Councils will award 80% of the full economic cost.

Q16. How will my proposal be assessed?
A. Your proposal will be reviewed by the KT Case Officer, one academic from our Peer Review Database, one user nominated by you and a member of the ESRC Communication and Information Committee (CIC).

Q17. How do I apply?
Applications for FoF will only be accepted through JeS which can be accessed from the Follow-on Fund webpage. Guidance notes and Research Funding Guides can also be accessed from the website.

Q18. If I am successful how will my grant be evaluated?
A. A short final report will be required for all funded projects and will be evaluated against the project Objectives.