

# Research Excellence Support Fund

**Academic year 2018/19**

**Call for Proposals**

***27.11.2018***

CEU academic staff members are invited to submit proposals under the first call of the ***Research Excellence Support Fund (RESF)***. The fund has been established to support high-quality and innovative early-stage research projects at CEU that contribute to the following long-term goals of the university:

1. To support CEU researchers in obtaining externally-funded large-scale research grants by providing extra time for research, research assistants and support for material costs necessary for developing their research concept and/or partnerships. Most typical examples of proposals encouraged under RESF would be to support the thorough preparation of applications to be submitted for European Research Council grants.
2. To provide financial assistance to researchers whose applications have been ranked high by independent, anonymous, external peer reviewers, but due to the fierce competition, did not get funded. Most typical examples of proposals encouraged under this heading would seek to further improve the initial application (the one that was very highly ranked but not funded) and/or continue the respective research activities, so teams and individual researchers do not lose momentum until the next funding opportunity becomes available.

CEU academic staff members can apply either for a Proposal Development Grant (linked to goal 1) or for a Bridging Grant (linked to goal 2). The requirements of both grants are outlined in detail below.

# **1) Proposal Development Grant**

## *Eligibility*

* CEU full-time faculty members, who have either a permanent contract with CEU or it is foreseen that their contract will continue during the time of the planned project are eligible to apply.
* Eligible applications would typically aim at preliminary coordination of either a prospective research team or, establishing CEU as a lead (coordinator) of a network of several partners.
* Future proposal budgets, to whose development the grant contributes, are expected to be minimum 500,000 EUR.
* Proposed projects must have the full backing of a department or a research center declaring their intent and proving their capacity to implement the future project.

## *Application process*

* Applications are received throughout the current academic year, but are evaluated following set deadlines:
	+ February 1
	+ April 1
* Applications must be submitted by the lead researcher to ACRO at acro@ceu.edu. Prior to submission, ACRO research managers will be available to assist in the development of the applications.
* Received applications will be evaluated by a committee chaired by the Provost within 3 weeks after the set deadlines.

## *Material to be submitted*

* Concept paper describing the research project and/or partnership that will be developed through this grant. The concept paper should also identify the external source(s) and the expected amount of funding that the project would seek to obtain, in addition to the necessary resources and infrastructure needed for this stage of the project (to be provided by CEU).
* Recommendation from the head of the hosting academic unit with a clear statement on the intent and capability of the academic unit to implement the project.
* Budget, including the breakdown of the most substantial cost categories.

## *Eligible projects and costs*

* Proposed projects should not be shorter than 3 months or longer than 12 months. The maximum eligible grant amount per project is 35,000 EUR.
* The following costs are eligible under the grant:
	+ Teaching waiver or part-time extraordinary sabbatical – in this case the cost of replacement should be highlighted in the project’s budget.
	+ Personnel costs – may include salaries of Post-doctoral Fellows, PhD students, and research assistant.
	+ Personal travel for research or consultation with team members, collaborators.
	+ Costs of team meetings (in the event of several institutions benefiting from the proposed project, e.g. collaborative research projects, CEU will not finance the travel costs of partner institutions).
	+ Any other costs indispensable for the success of the subsequent application, including cost of publications (Open Access) needed to improve the profile of the principal investigator.

# **2) Bridging Grant**

## *Eligibility*

* CEU full-time faculty members, who have either a permanent contract with CEU or it is foreseen that their contract will continue during the time of the planned project are eligible to apply.
* Eligible projects would typically aim to sustain large-scale applications submitted by CEU faculty members that have received high ranking[[1]](#footnote-1), but were not funded by the donor. In some cases CEU agrees to host ERC projects of external researchers when their application is successful. These external researchers are not eligible for the “bridge” funding.

## *Application process*

* Applications are received throughout the academic year.
* Applications must be submitted by the lead researcher to ACRO, at acro@ceu.edu. Prior to the submission, ACRO research managers will be available to assist in the development of the funding request.
* Received applications will be evaluated by a committee chaired by the Provost. Decisions can be expected within 3 weeks from the time of submission.

## *Material to be submitted*

* Statement describing how the grant could enable improving the original proposal in order to be successful during the upcoming call for funding.
* Recommendation of the head of the hosting academic unit with a clear statement on the intent and capability of the academic unit to implement the “bridging” project and commitment to implement the project should the next application be successful. If a research center hosts the proposed project, but the applicant is a member of a department, the recommendation of the department’s head is also needed. If applicable, the recommendation should include support for requested teaching waivers or sabbaticals and a plan for replacement.
* Budget, including the breakdown of the most substantial cost categories.

## *Eligible projects and costs*

* Proposed projects should not be shorter than 3 months or longer than 18 months (depending on the time to be bridged before the next application deadline). The maximum eligible grant amount per project is 50,000 EUR.
* The following costs are eligible under the grant:
	+ Teaching waiver or part-time extraordinary sabbatical – in this case the cost of replacement should be highlighted in the project’s budget.
	+ Personnel costs – may include salaries of Post-doctoral Fellows, PhD students, and research assistant.
	+ Personal travel for research or consultation with team members, collaborators.
	+ Costs of team meetings (in the event of several institutions benefiting from the proposed project, e.g. collaborative research projects, CEU will not finance the travel costs of partner institutions).
	+ Any other costs indispensable for the success of the subsequent application, including cost of publications (Open Access) needed to improve the profile of the principal investigator.

In order to facilitate the development of project proposals, applicants are encouraged to contact the Academic Cooperation and Research Office. To inquire about the consultation process, please send an email to: acro@ceu.edu

1. Examples would include ERC projects receiving Step-2 A or B ranking or collaborative projects on reserve list. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)