

ECRN Enhancement Award 2025 - Q & A

Q. What are examples of suitable activities?

A. Conferences to launch networks, training sessions to enhance networks, workshops to support people back on their feet to rejuvenate networks, etc.

Q. Can external speakers be commissioned?

A. Yes, but they can't be paid for until they have delivered, therefore the event must have taken place before the financial cut-off date.

Q. Can social activities be funded?

A. Although the award can support a social or community-building element, the bulk of the funding must be focused on learning and development activities that align with one or more of the 2025 themes. Costings will need to be clearly shown in the application form and paid for as per the financial guidelines in the 'Award Holder's Responsibilities' document.

Q. How should activities be delivered, online or face-to-face?

A. This depends on the nature of the activity and the aims intended. Applications can include either face-to-face sessions, online sessions, hybrid sessions or a mixture of these formats. The key thing is to choose the format that will encourage the greatest engagement or have the best impact.

Q. Can networks combine to deliver activities?

A. Yes, collaborative approaches are welcomed! Networks can work together to produce a joint application (e.g., 3 Networks can make 1 application for up to £9,000 max).

Q. How do we source administrative support?

A. The Researcher Development and Research Culture team have secured additional funding to recruit and manage the work of a temporary administrator to support you with your administration for the duration of this award.

For the panel's consideration, you will need to clearly identify in your application what support you envisage you will need and a reasonable estimate of the time this will take. Please bear in mind that this support will be shared across all award holders and does not include dealing with the financial elements of the award. If you declare that you do not need administrative support on your application, you will not be able to access such support at a later stage. Administrative support will ordinarily be delivered remotely, but if any in-person support is required for awards this would need to be stipulated on the application form and would be considered.

Please also note that your monthly and final reports will be your responsibility to produce.

Q. Will we get any further support from the Researcher Development and Research Culture (RD&RC) team, once the award application process is launched?

A. The RD&RC team will not be able to provide further support once the award application process is launched. The 'How to Guide' and the 'Award Holders Responsibilities' documents provide you with advice, guidance and key links. Please see Q&A above regarding administrative support.

Q. Do we have to apply for the full £3,000?

A. No, you can apply for up to £3,000 per network.

Q. Can we pay for goods/services that we won't receive until after the 27th June 2025?

A. No, the funding must be spent and receipted by the 27th June 2025, meaning:

- Goods/services received (pre-payment for goods/services received after the cut-off date is not eligible) and receipted (on T1).
- Travel undertaken prior to this date (prepayment for later travel is not eligible).
- Consultancy payments made (for work undertaken within the funding period)