



**Faculty of Education and Health Sciences**  
**Seed Fund for EHS Emerging and**  
**Early Career Researchers\***  
**June 2022**

The EHS Research Committee is delighted to announce a seed funding competition, with the aims of supporting emerging and early-career researchers who wish to develop new research projects, to ‘pump-prime’ original projects to facilitate application for external funding, and to enhance research-related outputs, e.g., publications, impact statements. The call is to acknowledge and accommodate emerging and early career researchers.

The funding will be dispersed through a competitive, peer review selection process. Applications should be led by emerging or ECRs and, where appropriate, with appropriate support from more senior academic researchers. Such associations aid larger external bids in the future so one intention of the call is to assist in developing such relationships. While this is encouraged, emerging or ECRs submitting an application on their own does not negate consideration of the application.

Small sums of money are available for activities to support each of the current four EHS priority research areas – (i) Optimising Health, (ii) Physical Activity and Human Performance, (iii) Professional Practice and Education, and (iv) Social Inclusion. Applicants need to demonstrate the inter- and/or multi-disciplinary nature of their proposed research. Each of the four EHS priority research areas will have an equal budget allocation, and applicants may request sums of between €500 and €7,500 to be used within eighteen months of the award. The total sum allocated to this call is €60,000 and is intended to support non-HRI research that does not have access to HRI funding streams.

Requests for funds should be made by **5pm on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to ADR.EHS@ul.ie** Please title your email 'EHS Seed Fund 2021 submission'. Submit a maximum of three A4 pages (Times New Roman text; font 12; 1.15cm spacing; not including references) (application form attached) detailing:

- (i) Significance and innovation of the proposed research (40%)
- (ii) Explanation of how proposed research aligns with and develops at least one of the EHS priority research areas (20%)
- (iii) Multi- or inter-disciplinary aspects of proposed research (10%)
- (iv) Complementarity with UL@50 Strategy for Research Excellence (10%)
- (v) Applicant's position within EHS as an early career researcher and research track-record (20%)

There is no need to complete a Proposal Authorisation Form (PAF) at the stage of application.

Applications for €500- €7,500 will be considered. The EHS Research Committee will oversee the seed funding call. Applications will be reviewed by a committee independent and separate from the EHS Research Committee. Every effort will be made to communicate the outcome of submitted applications by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

**General conditions of the call:**

- Applicants may only submit one application.
- In all cases, applicants must be an EHS faculty or research member who will be employed for the duration of the award.
  - Staff employed in adjunct or honorary positions cannot be named as an applicant.
  - Applicants must be either multi-annual appointments or on contracts with two or more years to run.
- Applications must align with EHS research priorities.
- Budget requests may include:
  - Research assistant salaries.
  - Research equipment.
  - Consultancy, dissemination and publication.
- Budget requests may not include:
  - Salary supplementation for investigators.

- Staff buyout from teaching.
- Awarded funding must be held in a UL research account. Orders and expenditure must go through the UL accounting system.

**Specific conditions of the call:**

- Applications with budgets  $\geq$  €5000 must convincingly demonstrate the project will produce a competitive research grant proposal that will be submitted within 18 months of receipt of funding;
- Applications with budgets  $\leq$  5,000 must convincingly demonstrate one research-related output (e.g., peer-reviewed publication, impact case study) within 18 months of receipt of funding.

**Examples of acceptable requests for funding:**

1. Pilot studies to demonstrate viability of larger projects.
2. Development of base data necessary for further research.
3. Equipment and materials necessary for conduct of research projects.
4. Salaries for research assistance required to develop a grant proposal or run a project.

Awardees must deliver a short progress report to the EHS Research Committee at the project midpoint and a final report no later than one month after the end of the funding period.

**\* Definition of an emerging and early career researcher:** For this call, emerging and early career researchers are no more than eight years post PhD award. Where researchers have not been research-active for extended periods of time this should be clearly qualified and documented in their application. Periods of maternity / carer and parental leave will extend this time period.