

## Application and governance process for academic and industry partnership awards

### General Information

These awards will enable the development of links between industrial partners and the FGx initiative. Industrial partners will be expected to provide matched funding (cash and/or in-kind). These awards can be used to support feasibility, pilot or initial studies to provide preliminary experiments to explore ideas and generate initial data which could support the development of competitive collaborative grant proposals for longer term projects.

**Each project will be in the range of £15-50K (and exceptionally £100k), with an expectation of equal (or greater) match from industry, and be 3-12 months in duration.**

All funded projects need to align with the initiative's ongoing activities and should build and strengthen collaborations between the FGx Initiative and industry through feasibility, pilot or initial studies, exploring ideas and generating initial data which could support the development of competitive collaborative grant proposals for longer term projects.

Industry match is considered as any contribution from a non-academic partner that directly supports the project and demonstrates meaningful collaboration. This may include financial support, in-kind contributions such as staff time, access to facilities, equipment, data, materials, or specialist expertise, as well as other forms of practical support that enable the work to be carried out. Contributions should be clearly linked to the proposed activities and represent a genuine partnership rather than routine service provision. The value of the match must be at least of equal value to the requested funding to be eligible.

The standard [UKRI Terms and Conditions of Research Council Grants](#) and [MRC's Additional Terms and Conditions](#) will apply to this funding.

Projects could fall into several categories, including but not limited to:

1. Projects proposed by scientists who have signed-up to be FGx associate-researchers involving a collaboration with at least one industrial partner
2. Inter-cluster projects proposed by initiative members involving at least one industrial partner
3. Technology priming projects that support the initiative or a specific research cluster involving at least one industrial partner
4. Projects that offer to bring in specific knowledge or contributions to the initiative involving at least one industrial partner.

### Eligibility

Each application needs to be made jointly by at least one academic researcher and at least one company, with match funding from the company of at least of equal value to the requested funding. Academics must be employed on a contract with their HEI which extends beyond the end of the funding period. To be eligible for an Industry Partnership Award, the academic applicant should be a FGx member or associate. To become an associate (at no cost or other commitments) scientists can sign-up on the FGx initiative website. We especially encourage applications involving UK based companies and SMEs. Overseas-based companies

may also participate where a suitable company cannot be found in the UK and where it can be established that their involvement is necessary for the delivery of the aims of the project.

## Timeline

1 April 2026	Grant call opens
27 April 2026	Webinar
May 2026	Follow on webinar: <i>Turning Human Functional Genomics Research into Industry Partnerships</i>
25 June 2026	FGx Scientific Symposium: networking opportunities
1 November 2026	Application deadline 23:59
Mid December 2026	Review Panel meets
January 2027	Funding confirmed with applicants
1 March 2027	Anticipated projects start date

## Application Process

Applications will be collected through an MS Word form hosted on the FGx initiative website and emailed to [fgxfunding@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:fgxfunding@exeter.ac.uk). You can include additional information (e.g. images relating to scientific proposal, budget details, letters of support/collaboration) however **applications must be as ONE PDF document titled as follow: surname, first name, institution**

## Review Process

The [UKRI principles of assessment and decision making](#) will be used when reviewing and later deciding on the funding outcomes for each application. The key principles are: expert assessment, transparency, impartiality, appropriateness, confidentiality, integrity and ethics, equality, diversity and inclusion, separation of duties. The following steps will be followed:

## Outcome of Review Meeting

All applications will be informed of the panel decision. Applicants can ask for any comments or feedback recorded as part of the review process. The agenda, minutes and comments section of the review forms will be retained under current MRC guidelines for documentation retention. Successful projects will be expected to complete a project agreement and set a start date within three months of the award.

## Project Agreement

Template project agreements will be made available that can be adapted for each project.

## Project Duration

During the project successful applicants will be expected to provide a short quarterly update on progress for presentation at the FGx Executive Group meeting. Submission of this report will be required for funding for each quarter to be invoiced. At the end of the project a final

project report is required and the applicants will be asked to present an overview of their project at the next FGx Scientific Symposium

### Conditions of funding

This grant may be used to support the following:

- Direct Project Costs: 100% directly incurred and directly allocated project costs can be claimed, including staff time, travel and subsistence on the individual feasibility or pilot projects.
- Costs of networking activities, including travel and subsistence.

This grant may not be used to support:

- Duplication of other sources of funding that would be more appropriate for the activity to be funded.
- Indirect or estates costs at the research organisation.
- Any costs relating to Intellectual Property protection including but not limited to registering, maintaining, or supporting patents or property rights.
- Equipment with a value of £10,000 or more.
- Undergraduate or postgraduate activities or training, or core PhD training including tuition or bench fees.
- Contributions to existing knowledge transfer partnerships.