



The ZERO Institute's ECR Network - Seed Fund pilot

Call for Proposals

The ZERO Institute's seed fund aims to support early-career researchers from The University of Oxford in developing strong research proposals that drive innovative solutions for a zero-carbon energy system. It assists applicants by funding travel to research or industry sites to strengthen collaborations or by providing financial support for dedicated writing time, such as accommodation for writing retreats. The funding is limited to 500 GBP. For this round, we expect to award up to three grants. The deadline for applications is **07/03/2025, 5pm UK time**.

Project Proposals

We welcome proposals that support the transition to a zero-carbon energy system, for example: Zero carbon energy: Generation, Conversion, Storage, Distribution or Use, see <https://zero.ox.ac.uk/research/>.

Timeframe

The work will need to be completed, and the report and expense claim submitted, **within six months** of securing the grant.

Grant

Each grant awardee receives up to £500. Eligible expenses are those incurred in line with the proposal, in the following categories: travel, accommodation and subsistence, and hospitality and entertaining, as detailed by and within the limits of the University's expense policy <https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/files/expensespolicy110521pdf>. **The payment will be based on actual expenses incurred.** The grant will be paid **in arrears** upon submission and approval by the panel of a **300-400-word report** describing the work, and upon submission of an expense claim via the University system <https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/claimants-expenses-guidance>.

Who can apply

All Oxford University-affiliated Early Career Researchers (ECRs) can apply. Our definition of an ECR is consciously inclusive, aiming to cater for diverse backgrounds, skills and experience. For this purpose, we consider ECRs individuals who are DPhil students, researchers or academics at the University of Oxford or at an Oxford college at the time of application and throughout the proposed work, and who are within 10 years of their latest academic degree. At the ZERO Institute we are committed to upholding equality, diversity and inclusion throughout our work, and applications from a wide pool of candidates are encouraged.

How to apply

Please submit your online application form by **07/03/2025, 5pm UK time**. Online application form: <https://forms.office.com/e/RLjwksZ0JR>.

Applications will be assessed by a panel of members of the ZERO Institute, whose assessments will focus on the applicant's proposal. The panel will look for proposals that are sound academically and achievable in the given timeframe. This is a one-stage process (i.e. application -> review -> decision). The panel's decision is to be considered final. We aim to



notify the successful candidates by **28/03/2025**. The panel reserves the right not to award any seed funds if proposals are deemed inadequate.

Enquiries

Please address any questions to zero@eng.ox.ac.uk, no later than **28/02/2025**.
