RICHeS Access Fund: Expression of Interest Stage

Overview

The **Research Infrastructure for Conservation and Heritage Science (RICHeS)** *<https://www.riches.ukri.org/>* programme is launching an Access Fund to support eligible users in accessing RICHeS-funded equipment (including mobile units), facilities, collections, and expertise.

This initiative aims to foster and strengthen collaborative, interdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research between users and the access providers hosting these resources, while also demonstrating to the public the impact and value of a distributed research infrastructure.

As part of this approach, RICHeS will adopt a two-stage application process for the Access Fund. This will include an Expression of Interest (EOI) stage, followed either by an invitation from RICHeS to submit a full application, or (if a user has not submitted an EOI) the option to submit a direct application. In both cases, the full application must be submitted by the user.

Please note that all responses to this EOI form must be submitted in English. Responses provided in any other language will not be considered.

To support users in applying for this EOI stage of the Access Fund programme, we have created a dedicated page on our website to assist you throughout your application journey.

Please visit **How to Apply – RICHeS** *<https://www.riches.ukri.org/funding/riches-access-fund/how-to-apply/>* for further information and to view the flowchart for the EOI stage.

Please note:

- If you have accessed this EOI form via the **How to Apply – RICHeS** *<https://www.riches.ukri.org/funding/riches-access-fund/how-to-apply/>* page through the **HSDS Catalogue of Services** *<https://hsds.ac.uk/services-catalogue>* , you should have already identified your chosen service(s) and technique(s), allowing you to enter this information directly into the form, once you have contacted the service provider to confirm feasibility.

- If you have accessed this EOI form directly, please refer to the flowchart available on the **How to Apply – RICHeS** *<https://www.riches.ukri.org/funding/riches-access-fund/how-to-apply/>* page to ensure you are following the correct steps. You should first identify a service in the **HSDS Catalogue of Services** *<https://hsds.ac.uk/services-catalogue>* and contact the provider to confirm feasibility before accessing and completing this form.

Why your views matter

While the EOI stage is not mandatory and is not formally assessed, it is strongly encouraged. This is not only to build rapport between the user and their chosen service provider(s), but also to provide RICHeS with an indication of the level of demand across the sector and the potential volume of applications RICHeS might receive.

Expression of Interest Details

Related Information

If you are unsure how to respond or require support, please contact **RICHeS@ahrc.ukri.org** *<http://RICHeS@ahrc.ukri.org>* for assistance with this form.

1 User Name

(Required)

2 User Email Address

(Required)

3 User Organisation

(Required)

4 User Organisation Type

(Required)

Please select only one item

◯ Commercial Company (working in collaboration with an eligible partner organisation, such as a gallery, library, museum, archive, charitable or educational body, or any other UKRI eligible organisation)

◯ Community Organisation

◯ Freelance Specialist (working in collaboration with an eligible partner organisation, such as a gallery, library, museum, archive, charitable or educational body, or any other UKRI eligible organisation)

◯ Gallery, Library, Archive, or Museum (GLAM)

◯ Higher Education Institute (HEI)

◯ Independent Research Organisation (IRO)

◯ Registered Charitable Body or Social Enterprise

◯ Small Specialist Institution (SSI)

◯ Other (please specify below)

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5 Describe the proposed project in a way that could be publicised to the general audience.

Please limit your response to 2000 characters. *(Required)*

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6 Please outline the main objectives of the proposed work, and explain what impact the work would have on your organisation if the project were to go ahead.

Please limit your response to 3000 characters. *(Required)*

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7 Have you discussed this project with the relevant service provider(s)?

(Required)

Please select only one item

◯ Yes

◯ No

If yes: Please provide the name and contact details of your organisation(s) contact(s). Has permission been applied for and/or granted to work on the objects of interest related to this project? Please also limit your response to 1500 characters.

8 Which service(s) are you proposing to use from the HSDS Catalogue of Services?

Please limit your response to 1250 characters. *(Required)*

9 Please select the technique(s) your project intends to use from the list below.

(Required)

Please select all that apply

- [ ] Dating (e.g. radiocarbon, OSL, TL, other isotope methods, dendrochronology)
- [ ] Environmental Monitoring (e.g. air quality, pollution, light monitoring or recording)
- [ ] Imaging (e.g. XRF scanning, multispectral imaging, thermography, photogrammetry, laser scanning, structured light scanning)
- [ ] Marine (e.g. sub-bottom profiling, side-scan sonar, MBES)
- [ ] Mass Spectrometry (e.g. IRMS)
- [ ] Microscopy (e.g. high-resolution digital microscopy, optical or light microscopy, UV microscopy, VP-SEM)
- [ ] Molecular Analysis (e.g. aDNA, amino acid racemisation, LC-MS, GC-MS, ZooMS, proteomics)
- [ ] Molecular Spectroscopy (e.g. FTIR, Raman, micro-Raman)
- [ ] Remote Sensing (e.g. remote Raman or LIBS, hyperspectral imaging, photogrammetry, LiDAR, geophysical survey)
- [ ] Specialist Services (e.g. human, animal bone, plant, painting, textile or other material conservation or analysis; building conservation or retrofit)
- [ ] X-ray (e.g. XRD, XRF, CT or micro-CT)
- [ ] Other (please specify)

If you have selected 'Other' or 'Specialist Service', please provide details below.

10 Please identify any other internal or external collaborators.

Please limit your response to 2000 characters.

11 Can you enable the work to take place between April 2026 and March 2027?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No

12 Do you think your proposed project might cost more than £20,000?

(Required)

Please select only one item

◯ Yes

◯ No

◯ I'm not sure

13 Apart from the direct costs of completing the work, what other personal expenses do you anticipate incurring in order to undertake the project (e.g. travel, insurance, postage)? Estimates of these costs are also welcome at this stage.

Please limit your response to 2000 characters. *(Required)*

14 Are there any ethical considerations associated with your project, and are any ethical approval processes required by your organisation(s)?

(Required)

Please select only one item

◯ Yes

◯ No

If yes, provide more details. Please also limit your response to 2000 characters.

15 Do you foresee any reasonable adjustments that may be required to support you in this project?

(Required)

Please select only one item

◯ Yes

◯ No

◯ I'm not sure

If yes, provide further details. Please also limit your response to 2000 characters.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all funding applicants and encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

Career breaks
Support for people with caring responsibilities
Flexible working
Alternative working patterns
Find out more about **equality, diversity and inclusion at UKRI** *<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>*

EDI Profile

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Profile

To help UKRI identify inequalities among different groups and ensure we reach a representative cross-section of society, we ask you to answer seven questions. Some of these may not seem important or relevant to you personally. However, they are meaningful to individuals who share those characteristics.

Please be assured that your responses:

Are kept anonymous

Are not used to identify individuals

Are held securely by UKRI

Are used solely to ensure people are treated fairly and according to their needs

Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in UKRI-funded research and innovation maximises its impact, ensuring it involves and benefits all parts of society. Everything UKRI funds must embrace a diversity of thought, people and ideas. Completing this survey enables us to analyse the data accurately and drive positive change.

1 What is your date of birth?

If you prefer not to answer, leave blank and move on to the next question.

Guidance for answering this question
Please enter the date you were born.

If you don't know your date of birth, please estimate it as best you can.

Please enter your date of birth in the format day–month–year.

Day   Month   Year

[   ] - [   ] - [   ]

Why we ask this question

Asking this question helps us understand the age diversity of those who:

- Apply for funding
- Assess funding applications
- Are awarded funding

2 Do you have any conditions, illnesses or disabilities that reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

If you prefer not to answer, leave blank and move on to the next question.

Guidance for answering this question

Select all conditions, illnesses or disabilities you have that reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

Day-to-day activities can include eating, washing, walking and going shopping.

Please select only one item

◯ Yes (you can provide more details below)

◯ No

◯ Prefer not to say

Which of the following conditions, illnesses or disabilities do you have?

Please select all that apply.

Please select all that apply

☐ An unseen disability

☐ Autistic spectrum condition

☐ Blind/Partially sighted

☐ Deaf/Hearing impairment

☐ Dyslexia

☐ Mental health difficulties

☐ Mobility difficulties

☐ Multiple disabilities

☐ Personal care support

☐ Other disability

☐ Prefer not to say

If you selected 'Other disability' above, please enter your disability in the text box below.

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Why we ask this question

Asking this question helps us understand how our practices and policies impact people with different conditions, illnesses or disabilities.

3 What is your religion?

If you prefer not to answer, leave blank and move on to the next question.

Guidance for answering this question

If you do not have a religion, select 'No religion or belief'.

If you want to choose a religion that is not listed, select 'Any other religion' and enter your religion in the box that appears.

Please select only one item

◯ Buddhist

◯ Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)

◯ Hindu

◯ Jewish

◯ Muslim

◯ No religion

◯ Sikh

◯ Any other religion (please enter in the text box below)

◯ Prefer not to say

If you selected 'Any other religion' above, please enter your religion in the text box below.

[   ]

> **Why we ask this question**

Asking this question ensures our policies and practices do not discriminate against people observing a religion or belief, or those who have no religion or belief.

4 What is your ethnic group?

If you prefer not to answer, leave blank and move on to the next question.

Guidance for answering this question

Your ethnic group can be your cultural or family background.

If you want to choose an ethnic group that is not listed, select 'Other ethnic group' and enter your ethnic group in the box that appears.

Please select only one item

◯ Asian or Asian British (includes any Asian background, for example Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian, Pakistani)

◯ Black, Black British, Caribbean or African (includes any Black background)

◯ Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups (includes any Mixed background)

◯ White (includes any White background)

◯ Other ethnic group

◯ Prefer not to say

If you selected 'Other ethnic group' above, please enter your ethnic group in the text box below.

[   ]

> **Why we ask this question**

Asking the question helps us monitor the diversity of people who:

- Apply for funding
- Assess funding applications
- Are awarded funding

It also informs the actions we take to promote race equality.

5 What is your sex?

If you prefer not to answer, leave blank and move on to the next question.

Guidance for answering this question

Select one option. If you are unsure how to answer, select the sex recorded on your birth certificate or Gender Recognition Certificate.

The categories used in this question have been designed to match the language used in the Equality Act 2010 and the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) order 1976.

Please select only one item

◯ Female

◯ Male

◯ Prefer not to say

Why we ask this question

This question helps us to fulfill our public duty as sex is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, and in Northern Ireland equality legislation.

6 Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

If you prefer not to answer, leave blank and move on to the next question.

Guidance for answering this question

Gender identity is related to your personal identity. It is up to you how you answer this question.

Select 'Yes' if:

- You identify as female and your sex registered at birth was female.

- You identify as male and your sex registered at birth was male.

Select 'No' if:

- You now identify with a gender that differs from the sex recorded on your birth certificate. For example, transgender or non-binary.

Please select only one item

◯ Yes

◯ No (enter the term you use to describe your gender below, or leave blank if you prefer)

◯ Prefer not to say

If you selected 'No' above, please enter the term you use to describe your gender, or leave blank if you prefer.

Why we ask this question

This question improves our understanding of the diverse identities of the UKRI community.

7 Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

If you prefer not to answer, leave blank and move on to the next question.

Guidance for answering this question

Select one option. Use the following definitions to help you make a decision:

- 'straight or heterosexual' means that you are only attracted to people of the opposite sex
- 'gay or lesbian' means that you are attracted to people of the same sex
- 'bisexual' means that you are attracted to more than one sex
- 'other sexual orientation' opens a box in which you can enter your own answer, for example, pansexual or asexual

Please select only one item

◯ Bisexual

◯ Gay or Lesbian

◯ Straight/Heterosexual

◯ Other sexual orientation (enter the term you use to describe your sexual orientation below, or leave blank if you prefer)

◯ Prefer not to say

If you selected 'Other sexual orientation' above, enter the term you use to describe your sexual orientation, or leave blank if you prefer.

[   ]

Why we ask this question

This question helps us understand how people of different sexual orientations are impacted by our policies and practices.

Privacy Notice

All personal data provided to UKRI via this form will be processed in accordance with current UK data protection legislation.

Further information on how we use personal data can be found in the **UK Research and Innovation Privacy Notice** *<https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/privacy-notice/>*