

MRC Confidence in Concept details

Expected governance standards

Institutions are expected to allocate funds transparently, and will be required to be able to explain the rationale behind decisions made.

Awards should be used to support the transition between fundamental and translational research, to a point where the project is competitive for more substantive funding. Awards must not be used for other purposes.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

- Background scientific environment: does the institution have a significant amount of high quality discovery research where translation could be accelerated? Does the institution's science offer opportunities in distinct areas not addressed elsewhere?
- Translational environment/expertise: does the institution provide a suitable environment to support progression from preliminary into full scale translational projects? Will they provide expertise (including through links with industry) to help projects to develop appropriately? Do they have a convincing strategy for translation? Has translational performance so far been impressive?
- Use, impact and governance: is the proposed use likely to make a significant difference, beyond what the institution already achieves? Will the university contribute additional funding or specialist advice/expertise? Does the proposed governance give confidence that the funding will be selectively allocated and managed to best effect? Are decision-making mechanisms based on high-quality expertise and experience in translation, and transparent?
- Project vignettes: are these well thought through, and is it clear what additional work is needed to progress each project? Are endpoints clearly described? Is it clear why the vignettes were chosen?
- Use of previous award and evidence of need for additional funding, if relevant.
- Plans for appropriate industrial engagement.

Expectations and Reporting requirements

The provision of a Confidence in Concept award is expected to lead to successful applications for more substantive funding, from DPFS or equivalent schemes from other funders, or from industry. Institutions will be required to report to the MRC on the projects awarded and their funding outcomes. Any potential renewal will be dependent on performance.

Contact

If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact:

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