

Faculty of Science and Information Technology  
RESEARCH & RESEARCH TRAINING COMMITTEE  
**ECA (PHD HOLDER)**  
**NETWORKING / CONFERENCE GRANT**  
**‘GUIDELINES’**

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In the spirit of fostering Early Career Academics, the objectives of the scheme are:

- to develop research linkages external to The University of Newcastle.
- to enhance the national and international research profiles of Early Career Academics.

The scheme objectives are addressed by providing some assistance, on a competitive basis, to Early Career Academics to meet travel expenses incurred in:

- undertaking one or more short-term (days to a week) research visits to national or international research institutes relevant to their area of current research activities.
- attending a national or international conference. Preference will be given for applicants presenting a paper or linking the conference with visits to research labs.
- undertaking a training course aimed at broadening research skills and capabilities.

The level of funding **per application is capped to \$2,000** and the amount awarded will be determined on a competitive basis depending on other funding applications within each year. In order to manage the benefits of this scheme across the tenure of the ECA period please note that:

**Each ECA may receive a maximum of \$7000 in Teaching Relief and/or Networking/Conference Funding over the term of their ECA status. The relative allocation of Teaching Relief and Networking/Conference Funding is flexible. Each ECA can request allocation of funds fully for Teaching Relief, fully for Networking/Conference Funding or distribute the funds across the two schemes. Their preference will need to be justified with reference to how this will assist in the achievement of research goals outlined in their Research Plan.**

**Eligibility:**

To be eligible for an ECA Networking/Conference grant:

- The applicant must fulfil the definition of an Early Career Academic
- The Faculty Research & Research Training Committee must have approved the applicant's Research Plan.
- The applicant must not have received **Teaching Relief and Networking/Conference Funding** (including the one sought) totalling more than \$7000 during their five-year tenure as an ECA.
- For an International Conference, the applicant must have applied for an RGC Travel Grant or accessed the fund previously.
- Applications requesting research visit funding, the applicant must submit correspondence from the host institution(s) indicating a willingness to host their visit.
- Only one national and one international Networking/Conference grant can be held in any one year.

**Award Criteria:**

In awarding the Early Career Academic Networking/Conference Grant, the FRRTC will take into account:

- If the applicant is awarded an RGC Travel Grant for an International Conference.
- The research track record of the applicant relative to opportunity.
- The perceived significance and benefit of the proposed visit(s) to the achievement of targets specified in the applicant's Research Plan.

**Priority funding will be given to:**

- Applicants who have been awarded alternative/supplementary funding through RGC Travel Grants or other funding schemes, especially for overseas visits/conferences.
- Conferences at which the applicant is presenting a paper.
- Applications that aim at extending the benefits from attending an overseas conference by including a research visit to an institution in the same area.

**Conditions of the Award:**

- The Early Career Academic Networking/Conference grant shall be used for the purposes described in the application and not for any other purpose.
- The account number of the grant is to be quoted on all financial transactions. The grantee(s) is the person authorized to approve expenditure of the grant, or, in the grantee's absence, the Head of the grantee's School.
- A brief report (one page) should be submitted to the Faculty Research & Research Training Committee within three months of completing the research visit(s). Please pay particular attention to outlining the research benefits derived from the visit(s) and, in particular, the nature of any long-term linkages that have been initiated with the host institutions visited.