

FAQs: ERA Community Fund

1. Who can apply?

Funding is primarily aimed at doctoral and post-doctoral researchers involved in energy and net-zero research within the ERA partnership. Applicants must be affiliated with one of the eight ERA partner institutions.

2. What kind of events or activities can be funded?

Events and activities must have a focus on energy or net-zero themes and should offer researcher development opportunities. These could include workshops, conferences, seminars, or networking events.

3. How much funding can I apply for?

The ERA Community Fund offers up to £2,500 to support the design, development, and delivery of energy or net-zero-themed events.

4. Is collaboration with other institutions required?

Your application can come from a single institution, but the event must be open to researchers from all ERA partner institutions. While it's not necessary to have participants from all eight partners, the opportunity to attend must be extended to the entire ERA partnership.

5. Can I request additional funding beyond the ERA Community Fund?

Yes, applicants are encouraged to seek additional funding from other sources if needed. The ERA Skills team can provide guidance on leveraging additional funds.

6. What support is available alongside the funding?

In addition to financial support, successful applicants receive mentoring and training from the ERA Skills team. This includes help with event management, workshop design, and delivery.

7. Can I change my event's details after funding is awarded?

Yes, with ERA team approval, you can adjust certain aspects such as the number of participants, the event's format (e.g., in-person, hybrid, virtual), or location.

8. What is the timeline for applications?

Funding opens on 1 October 2024, with a submission deadline of 25 November 2024. Events must be completed by July 2025.

9. Do I need an equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) plan?

- You do not need to submit an EDI plan with your application. If your application is successful, you will work with the ERA team to co-create an EDI plan after the funding is awarded. This ensures the plan is tailored to your specific event.
- However, if your event will incur costs related to implementing equality, diversity, and inclusion measures (e.g., accessibility needs, inclusive materials), you can include those costs in your application budget.

10. How are applications evaluated?

Applications are assessed based on their commitment to researcher development, the quality of training provided, potential impact and outcomes, and the level of support from the host organisation.

11. How many people can be included on the application?

There is no limit to the number of people involved in the application. However, the application must be submitted by one individual, who will be considered the Principal Investigator (PI). Co-Investigators (Co-I's) or other collaborators can be named in the application under the section, "Who is supporting you to design and deliver this event?".