

RGCF Q+A - 21 January 2026

1. Could you elaborate on the research portfolio aspect of the application?

We are asking applicants to outline the strategic ambition of their project from the outset. This includes considering whether the project has potential longevity beyond the initial 1-year funding period. For follow-up funding applications, applicants must outline what has been completed to date, whether previously set targets were met and proposed development for the project. Funding is awarded on a year-by-year basis, so continuation is not guaranteed.

2. Can a PhD student or affiliate be a Project Lead?

No. PhD students and individuals with affiliate status may participate as collaborators, but they cannot act as Project Leads.

3. What is the application success rate?

Across the past 7 calls, the scheme has received 128 applications, of which 47 have received funding. Typically, 6-7 projects are funded each year.

4. Will the committee reconsider the original project when assessing a follow-up funding application?

Each application is assessed on its own merit. Follow-up funding proposals must include outcomes and impact of the original project, evidence that initial targets were met, and a clear justification for further funding. We are not looking to fund a simple continuation of the same activities; follow-on proposals should demonstrate added value.

5. Could you elaborate on Horizon Europe applications?

Horizon Europe is a key priority area for both universities. We are particularly interested in funding projects that could act as a foundation for future large-scale European funding bids. Applicants are encouraged to consider how their collaboration might lead to external funding.

The Research Support Offices at both Radboud and Glasgow are closely connected and can provide advice and support for projects applying for external funding.

6. Can the funds be used to support third parties relevant to the project (e.g. travel or accommodation for NGOs)?

Yes – if the costs are clearly justified by the project goals, it is possible for funding to cover expenses for external partners who contribute to the collaboration.

Questions previously asked

Do we expect all projects to include some element of Learning & Teaching, or can they be solely research projects?

The RGCF is happy to support projects that contain both elements of Research and Learning & Teaching. We would encourage applicants to consider if there are ways that their research project could be extended to include Learning & Teaching element. However, there is no obligation to include Learning & Teaching elements in a project and the majority of projects funded to date have been research projects.

What are you looking for in terms of Learning & Teaching projects?

For Learning & Teaching projects, the Fund is looking at innovation and exploring new collaborative ways to deliver teaching. This could be through joint degrees or flexible/blended learning.

What are the criteria applications will be assessed on?

All the information regarding how the projects will be assessed can be found in the Guidelines for Applicants.

Are colleagues from the Radboud UMC eligible to apply to the Fund?

Yes, staff from the UMC can work on joint projects provided they hold an appointment at the Medical Faculty (as well) and the general eligibility criteria are met as outlined in the Guidelines for Applicants.

How do I manage participating in a project with my general workload?

For this, you will need to speak to your School/Faculty. As part of the application you are required to get the approval of your Head of School or Faculty. How your School/Faculty deals with workload will depend on your project and department.

Can I do a project related to my current research?

Yes, but would need to clearly explain why the RGCF should fund this and also demonstrate how the project would add additional value to your research. A project proposal that is exactly the same as your current research would not be funded.

Do you require a set number of participants from each side in a project?

There is no specific number of participants from each side required. However, applications should aim, so far as possible, to achieve balance between the institutions. This should be reflected in the budget.

Is there a minimal length of a project?

No, projects can run for less time than the project year states. However, you should not underestimate the work involved in managing a project. You would also need to justify why the project was shorter than the full year allocated.

Can I start a project straight away when the results are announced?

This is possible, but funds will only be accessible from the September of the year that the project is submitted.

Can I fund a research assistant as part of my project?

This might be possible, but you should get in touch with your School/Faculty as you will need to follow the internal rules for hiring staff. You should explain in your research proposal that the administrative steps needed to do this will be possible to complete within the funding year for the projects.

How can I establish contacts with colleagues at Radboud or Glasgow?

If you prepare a short proposal of a couple of sentences about your research area and your ideas for a project and send this to externalrelations@partnershipfunding@glasgow.ac.uk and glasgow@ru.nl, then the administrators of the Funds can pass this request along to the relevant department. Alternatively, many of the collaborations between Radboud and Glasgow colleagues have happened via one person looking through the staff pages of the other institution and getting in touch with staff. You should feel free to reach out to staff directly.

Will the Steering Committee still accept application where a larger part of the budget will be spent in one institution as opposed to equally balanced between both? For example, if one institution would like to involve a research assistant in the project.

The Steering Committee will still accept applications which have a more unbalanced budget. However, the Steering Committee will look for a strong justification of why there is a greater expenditure at one institution. The application would also need to demonstrate how the project would lead to an enduring partnership and collaboration when more money is being requested by one institution rather than another, e.g., would the collaboration still endure if the research assistant left the institution?

Do the project leads at both institutions need to be staff with a contract?

Yes, both project leads need to have an active contract of employment with one of the partner institutions (appointed at least 0.5 FTE). If on a fixed term contract, the end date must be beyond the funding period. However, other members of the project do not need to meet this requirement.

How does the application process work?

Each application needs to have a project lead from both institutions. The project leads

fill out one application form together and submit this to both externalrelations@partnershipfunding@glasgow.ac.uk and glasgow@ru.nl. The applications are then peer reviewed by staff at both institutions before being sent to the Steering Committee for its decision.

It is possible for project leads who were successful in a previous year to apply again? Either as part of a different collaboration, or in order to take an established collaboration forward.

Yes, it is possible to re-apply to the fund after being successful in previous years. It is also possible for a Project Lead who is successful in one funding year to apply in a following year as part of a different collaboration. We are also currently accepting proposals where the Project Leads wish to submit a portfolio of research over a few years in order to work towards a Horizon Europe bid.

What kinds of teaching projects have been funded and are the Steering Committee looking for?

Previously, and Learning & Teaching projects have focussed on PGT students, but projects can also focus on UG level. Collaborative projects often have an online element and an international classroom element. The Steering Committee is particularly keen to see projects with a focus on teaching innovation, and projects that will provide an international experience to students.

Can the money be used to fund mobility for students?

Please see the full list of eligible costs at section 4 of the Radboud-Glasgow Collaboration Fund 2024-2025 Application Guidelines. The Fund is not designed to offer continuous funding student mobility. Therefore, any application looking at student mobility would need to clearly show the sustainability of the project beyond the initial funding period and clearly demonstrate how the mobilities would be funded in future years. If this can be demonstrated, funding could be used to initiate or prototype a student mobility. However, bear in mind that we are looking for projects that have added value beyond simply initiating a mobility