

**BU Policy for NERC Demand Management Measures**

**Introduction**

NERC introduced [demand management](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/researchgrants/demand/) measures in 2012. These were revised in 2015 to reduce the number and size of applications from research organisations for NERC’s discovery science standard grant scheme, and ensure research excellence, efficiency and value for money for the taxpayer.

From the July 2015 standard grants scheme, there will be a reduction in the maximum standard grant award size, from the current £1.2m to £800k (100% Full Economic Costing, £640k at 80% FEC).

At the same time, demand management measures in the form of a new institutional-level submission policy will take effect. This will be based on historic application and award data and will limit the number of applications an individual research organisation can make, where that organisation fails to meet a 20 per cent success rate quality threshold.

The calculation for the 20 per cent success rate quality threshold will be based on data from six standard-grant rounds (only): the first set of data will use the grant rounds with the closing dates July 2011 to January 2014 (inclusive). Standard grant data includes the applications submitted under the New Investigator call.

The measures only apply to NERC standard grants (including new investigators); likewise the data used to calculate RO restrictions is only based on NERC standard grants (including new investigators).

**NERC Measures**

An application counts towards an organisation, where the organisation is applying as the grant holding organisation (of the lead or component grant). This will be the organisation of the Principal Investigator of the lead or component grant.

The table shows which data will be used to determine the quota:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quota year** | **Closing dates** | **Quota announced** | **6 round data used** |
| 2015/16 | JULY15, JAN16 | January 2015 | JULY11, DEC11, JULY12, DEC12, JULY13, JAN14 |
| 2016/17 | JULY16, JAN17 | January 2016 | JULY12, DEC12, JULY13, JAN14, JULY14, JAN15 |
| 2017/18 | JULY17, JAN18 | January 2017 | JULY13, JAN14, JULY14, JAN15, JULY15, JAN16 |
| 2018/19 | JULY18, JAN19 | January 2018 | JULY14, JAN15, JULY15, JAN16, JULY16, JAN17 |

**What does this mean for BU?**

As at January 2018, BU has been capped at **one** application per standard grant round. This is based on the following success rate:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Research Organisation** | **Cumulative Number of Applications** | **Cumulative Number of Awards** | **Success Rate (%)** | **No. of Awards x 5 / 6** | **Cap** |
| Bournemouth University | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

**BU NERC demand management process**

As a result, BU has introduced a process for determining which application will be submitted to each NERC Standard Grant round. This will take the form of an internal competition which will include peer review. The next available standard grant round is January 2019. The process for selecting an application for this round will be as follows:

**Call for expressions of interest (EoI)**:

* to be publicised on the Research Blog October 2018
* EoI’s will be a one page synopsis of the research to be carried out, stating aims, objectives, potential impact, and any collaboration

**Closing date for EoI’s** – 18th October 2018

**EOI review** – will take place by Prof Tiantian Zhang, DDRPP and Prof Stephen Tee, Executive Dean. The final decision will be made by Prof Tee

The successful applicant will:

* Work with an RKEO Facilitator to draft the application – November 2018
* Submit a draft application to RKEO for peer review (either internal (RPRS) or to our external reviewers) – December 2018
* Finalise their application and seek quality approval (through RKEO) – December 2018
* Submit application to RKEO – 5 days before closing date – January 2019

RKEO will check the application in line with funder guidance and submit – January 2018

NERC have advised that where a research organisation submits more applications to any round than allowed under the cap, NERC will office-reject any excess applications, based purely on the time of submission through the Je-S system (last submitted = first rejected). However, as RKEO submit applications through Je-S on behalf of applicants, RKEO will not submit any applications that do not have prior agreement from the internal competition. Any lead or component application from another research organisation linked to the rejected application will also be rejected. If any applications are subsequently rejected based on rule adherence or remit, a research organisation cannot submit alternative applications.

**Appeals process**

If an EoI is not selected to be submitted as an application, the Principal Investigator can appeal to Professor Tim McIntyre-Bhatty, Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Any appeals must be submitted within ten working days of the original decision. All appeals will be considered within ten working days of receipt.

**RKEO Contacts**

Please contact Jo Garrad, RKEO Funding Development Manager – jgarrad@bournemouth.ac.uk or Rachel Clarke, RKEO Research Facilitator – clarker@bournemouth.ac.uk if you wish to submit an expression of interest.

**Useful links**

[NERC Demand Management site](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/researchgrants/demand/) – this includes FAQs at the bottom of the page

[NERC Standard Grants site](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/researchgrants/standard/)

[NERC success rates](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/howtoapply/success/)

[RKEO Funding Development Team](http://blogs.bournemouth.ac.uk/research/contact/funding-development-team/) - contacts