

## Application Guidelines for the MCID Early-Career Research Grants for Women (ECRG-W) Project Funding Scheme

The MCID is committed to the support and promotion of all and especially non-tenured women in research who hold great promise as future academic leaders. With the **MCID Early-Career Research Grants for Women (ECRG-W)** funding tool, applications are invited for the first project funding call of the MCID to specifically support the next generation of academically talented women and scientific excellence at the University of Bern, Inselspital and associated institutes. The goal of the ECRG-W scheme is to provide resources for this talent pool to grow towards independence. The ECRG-W scheme is intended as a precursor for application to competitive career and/or project funding schemes.

The ECRG-W funding scheme belongs to the MCID first project funding cycle (period 2022-2024).

Call opens 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

The deadline for submission is **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 17.00 CEST**.

Please read the MCID Funding Call Text for more information on the MCID and the ECRG-W funding scheme, within the wider context of the MCID first funding cycle. For this and for information on the first MCID funding call and for an overview of currently funded projects and grantees, please see [here](#).

### 1. Outline of envisaged MCID Project Funding Activities

#### 1.1 Additional calls for project funding

It is possible that additional calls for project funding may be launched. Such additional calls will be advertised on the MCID website ([www.mcid.unibe.ch](http://www.mcid.unibe.ch)).

## 2. Overview of ECRG-W funding call 2022

### 2.1 Length of funded projects

- ECRG-W grants are intended to have a planned duration of maximum 24 months.

### 2.2 Funding volume:

- The maximum funding for an ECRG-W award is 150'000 CHF.

### 2.3 Application process

- Applications must be submitted in accordance with the general project funding application guidelines (sections 3-5).
- All ECRG-W applications are standalone, single investigator submissions.

## 3. Applicant eligibility requirements

3.1. The ECRG-W funding call is limited to women applicants.

3.2 Applicants must have a guarantee of host institute support (see section 5.5) at the University of Bern, the Bern-Inselspital and/or at an officially associated institute that:

- begins latest 4 months after the planned discharge of funds (January 2023; host institute support latest from April 2023)
- continues for the duration of the planned MCID-funded project
- covers the salary of the applicant should this not be covered fully by the MCID-funded project or other third-party funding

3.3 Researchers who have successfully applied for MCID project funding in 2021 (as Lead- or Co-applicant) **are not eligible** to apply for the 2022 call for ECRG-W funding.

3.4 At the time of application, applicants must fulfill the following eligibility requirements:

Non-clinical scientists:

- have a doctorate (PhD) or an equivalent qualification.
- have acquired at least one (1) year of research experience after their doctorate or equivalent qualification.
- defended their doctorate or obtained the equivalent qualification to a doctorate no later than eight (8) years ago.

Clinical scientists:

- have a medical or veterinary exam (state examination or equivalent)
- completed their medical exam no later than nine (9) years ago.

- have acquired at least three (3) years of clinical work and were involved in research activities for at least two (2) years after their medical or veterinary exam.

For both researcher types, justified career breaks (e.g. maternity leave, care duties, illness) as described in the CV and reported in the application form, account for an extension of eligibility and are subject to a case-by-case evaluation.

#### 4. Permitted expenditures

The following table summarizes the expenditures that are permitted for projects in the funding period 01.2023-12.2024.

Expenditures	Permitted/Not permitted
Salary support for applicant	✓
Salary support for technical staff and data managers	✓
Salary support for research personnel (PhD student, post-doc, where appropriate) working on this project	✓
Consultation/sub-contracting fees (e.g. biostatistical)	✓
Laboratory supplies and expenses	✓
Laboratory animal purchase and maintenance	✓
User fees for Core Activity services and other non-MCID Core Services	✓
Software purchases required for the applied project	✓
International travel and conference/meeting expenses	✓
Computers/computing infrastructure	✓
Access to data	✓
Data storage	✓
Publication costs, including reprints	✓
Secretarial/administrative personnel	✗
Capital costs/equipment, including maintenance/service contracts	✗
Office furniture and supplies	✗
Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories	✗
Rental of laboratory or office space	✗
Purchasing or binding of periodicals and books	✗
Dues and membership fees in scientific societies	✗

#### 5. Project funding application submission

→ Please note, **only one ECRG-W submission per applicant is allowed.**

The application should be submitted as a single pdf file containing the following documents, in this order:

### 5.1 Completed Application form

- Specific remarks relevant to your application are to be included exclusively in the allocated space on the application form.

### 5.2 CV

- The CV should have a maximum length of 3 pages (excluding publications, minimum font size 10), containing the following information:
  - Personal information including OrcID, ResearcherID or Google Scholar ID)
  - Clearly stated year of completion of PhD, or for clinicians and veterinarians, year of state examination if no PhD.
  - Employment history including current position(s)
  - Institutional responsibilities
  - Approved third-party funding
  - Supervision of junior researchers at graduate and postgraduate level (summary information, the names of the junior researchers should be indicated)
  - Prizes, awards, fellowships
  - Career breaks (provide justification)

### 5.3 List of publications

- Please include a maximum of five (5) publications most relevant for this application.
- This list should not include manuscripts in preparation or submitted but not yet accepted. Please distinguish peer-reviewed original research papers from reviews/commentaries/editorials.

### 5.4 Project description

- The project description should be prepared with a minimum font size of 11 (all margins set to default Microsoft Word setting 2.54 cm) and with page numbers.
- Budgets, including proposed costs and corresponding explanations, should be itemized based on terms presented in the table of permitted expenditures in section 4.
- The project description should be structured as follows:
  - Summary (200 words maximum)
  - Background and justification for the proposed activity
  - Current status of own research
  - Hypothesis and aims
  - Project plan including methods
  - **If applicable**, role for MCID Core Activities in the proposed research plan
  - Significance of the proposed research with respect to the [MCID mission statement](#)

- Timeline with yearly milestones in funding period 01.2023-12.2024.
- Budget (itemized and broken down per year)
- Relevant references

#### 5.5 Confirmation of support from the host institute

- Please see the template provided on the MCID website [here](#)
- Please **do not modify** the “letter of host support” other than to fill in information where required.

#### 5.6 Details relating to the application form

- The application form is available on the MCID website [here](#)
- Please **do not modify** the application form other than to fill in information where required.
- When requested to provide the name of an MCID cluster to which applicant expertise and proposed project most closely match, please select one of the following (more details provided in the funding call text document and online at [www.mcid.unibe.ch](http://www.mcid.unibe.ch)):
  - Immunity
  - Patient-Focused Research
  - Epidemiology
  - Microbiology
  - Neglected Diseases
  - Ethics and Policy
  - Economics
- When requested to provide the name of the research theme(s) to which your proposed project mostly closely matches, please select one (or more) of the following (name in bold only, more details provided in the funding call text document):
  - **Investigation** of infectious threats and underlying factors for susceptibility using an integrated One Health vision.
  - **Development** of surveillance and preparedness strategies and tools for current, emerging, and future infectious disease risks
  - **Solutions** to address the impact of infectious diseases on animal life, human life and livelihoods, considering biomedical, social, ethical, and economical aspects.