# MERG Bursary Scheme

2019/20 Academic Year

* **Research or Scholarship bursaries**
* **Conference Support Bursaries**

Are you interested in doing some research or scholarship around your teaching? Have you done some research or scholarship which would be valuable to show at a conference? The Medical School Education Research Group (MERG) is offering 2 different types of funding to help Keele staff members develop educational research or scholarship this academic year:

**Research or Scholarship Bursaries (RSB):**

These are intended to fund the costs of conducting a project. This might include: UK travel directly associated with the research; student collaborator time; transcription or data entry costs; stationery; printing and postage; costs to host an event, pieces of equipment, or any other costs which are directly related to conducting the project, provided suitable justification can be made. The costs cannot be to “buy-out” the applicant’s time or to attend a conference.

Up to £500 will be available for each approved project. Projects (whether research or scholarship) can focus on any aspect of education related to the School of Medicine. Projects must be deemed reasonably likely to result in an academic output – whether a peer reviewed publication in an external journal, or a conference presentation, or another form of scholarly output.

**Conference Support Bursaries (CSB):**

These are intended to support the costs of attending a conference with the express purpose of disseminating educational scholarship or research**.** The costs can be used in addition to other funding. Up to £750 will be available for each approved bursary. Presented work must have an abstract accepted at a national or international conference, or be deemed likely to achieve this, and must focus on education research or scholarship. This can support any kind of conference output: e.g. posters, short communications, workshops or seminars.

**Eligibility**

We will consider applications from:

* Colleagues who hold a substantive or honorary Keele contract
* Students who have substantially engaged with MERG

Additionally, scholarly or research activity should have been signed off from the applicants line manager to ensure that their research or scholarship project is included in their WAM activity

**How to apply:**

To apply for the **research or scholarship bursary** please provide either a short description of the intended project (<1000 words) or a completed ethics application. Please describe a breakdown of the anticipated costs, the total sum requested, and a rough expected timeline.

To apply for the **conference support bursary** please provide either the accepted abstract or a description of the likely content of the abstract (<500 words), along with a breakdown of costs, the total sum requested, and an estimate of when the costs will be spent.

It may be appropriate to apply for both bursaries in the same academic year, if you are confident that the time lines of the project will make it possible to complete the work and have it accepted at a conference, however all funds must be spent with in the academic year 2019/20 so it is likely that many projects would be better applying for a conference support bursary in the academic year after the project is undertaken.

**What will be expected in return:**

There are a small number of not especially onerous conditions:

1. That you use Keele MERG branding on your slides / materials / poster
2. That you will write a short report describing your project / experiences at the conference (not just a copy of an abstract) which will be included in a MERG update to Keele faculty and students.

Additionally:

1. People receiving conference support bursaries will be asked to present to MERG (or, where this can’t be accommodated, to MERG committee members) prior to the conference, for feedback on the presentation.
2. People receiving Research or Scholarship Support Bursaries will be encouraged to present to MERG during development of the project +/- after completion to update on findings.

**Submitting Application:**

To apply please email applications to medicine.educationresearch@keele.ac.uk.

If the number of applications exceed the available funds then the MERG management committee will allocate funds based on a judgement of quality, visibility and expected benefit to the School of Medicine or development of research or scholarship potential within the School.