

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Coast-R Network is an inclusive and collaborative community of practice working to build knowledge, action and resilience for UK coastal communities and seas.

As part of that work, we are pleased to announce a **Small Grants Fund** offering grants of between £5,000 and £25,000.

Round 1 will support small scale, place-based projects involving University-based early career researchers in two-way (or multi-way) research and knowledge exchange. We encourage projects to incorporate partnership and cross-sectoral working, including active engagement with individuals and organisations with lived experience of coastal change.

Background:

The UK is a land of islands and coasts, embodying the environmental and social diversity that characterises historic and modern Britain. Our coasts also represent the front line of many of the UK's most significant contemporary resilience challenges – from coastal erosion, increased flood hazards, pollution and water quality, coastal and marine habitat loss, to long-standing demographic, socio-economic, health and infrastructural challenges.

At present, we are in a critical era where tensions and conflicts arise as one challenge or opportunity intersects with others – and where poorly planned adaptation strategies leave coastal places and people more, not less, vulnerable to climate change. The complexity, contingency and interconnectedness of these issues necessitates a whole-systems and place-based approach which prioritises active community involvement and participatory decision-making.

We urgently need to develop place-sensitive models for community-led action to enhance resilience informed by relevant scientific, geographical and historical expertise and recognising the legacy of low political trust and policy neglect of coastal places. This is crucial if we are to better understand how we translate findings from one place or region to develop nationally and globally-applicable policy recommendations and implementation plans for effective place-based resilience building – a challenge that can only be addressed through the transdisciplinary, cross-council and cross-sector collaborations that the Coast-R network is fostering.

Priority areas for funding for round 1:

Funded projects will focus on scaling and embedding research, knowledge and learning about UK coastal and marine resilience across and between different UK groups, including academic researchers, practitioners, policymakers and coastal communities.

This may involve activities intended to:

- generate new learning, data, approaches or resources
- make existing findings accessible to new and more diverse audiences
- or inform policy and enable transformative decision making at the community level.

Projects are expected to go beyond one-way knowledge transfer from universities to other sectors. In doing so, projects must address one of the following priority areas for research and knowledge exchange:

1. Generating, collating or scaling up learning across regions, devolved nations, or sectors
2. Translating knowledge / making research findings accessible to new audiences including practitioners, policymakers, communities and/or researchers
3. Developing new toolkits & approaches, including for delivering community engagement 'at scale'
4. Fostering the exchange of ideas and approaches between coastal communities 'at risk'
5. Developing improved evaluation and monitoring of existing projects
6. Fostering skills for inclusive resilience, including amplifying least heard voices

Outputs from funded projects will vary, but may include:

- Webinars and blogposts
- Toolkits and 'how to' guides
- Case studies and web resources
- Training resources which can be adopted and used by others
- Policy outputs including briefings and foresight documents
- Academic publications and/or practitioner-focused reports

Eligibility:

Projects in this round of funding must actively include an Early Career Researcher (ECR) based at a UK university or another eligible UKRI-designated Research Organisation in both their design and delivery. This may be in collaboration with a more senior member of staff, but the role of the ECR should be fundamental to the delivery of the project.

Participation in the Coast-R Network:

The co-leads of funded projects will be invited to join the Coast-R Network, benefitting from support through the Resilient Coastal Communities and Sea Programme. This may include:

- Access to and funding for attendance at specialist training, workshops and events
- Opportunities to collaborate with other projects and partners across the ReCCS Programme
- Opportunities to contribute to policy briefings, foresight documents or academic publications
- Support from the Coast-R project team to share and scale learnings.

In return, you will be also asked to contribute to Coast-R outputs e.g. to speak at a webinar, write a blogpost, or contribute to web resources or other outputs (as appropriate to your project).

Visit the Coast-R Network [website](#) for more information and application downloads.