

Development Gap Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the objective of the Development Gap Fund?

The Development Gap Fund (DGF) is a technology transfer initiative designed to increase the commercial value of MRC intellectual property (IP).

What are the selection criteria?

Whilst technical and scientific merit is important, assessment is against a number of commercial criteria. The latter will take into account prior art, potential market, market accessibility and likelihood of adding value to the commercialisation strategy. Projects will have defined targets.

Who reviews applications

Applications are reviewed by the DGF Panel which consists of the Development Gap Manager and Directors and Deputy Directors of Divisions of MRC Technology (MRCT).

When is a project ready for DGF?

When a clear need for value added applied studies has been identified in order to realise more fully the commercial potential of a discovery.

How do you apply?

Initial enquiries should be made to Dr Lorraine Anderson, Development Gap Manager, who can be contacted via e-mail at [lorraine.anderson@](mailto:lorraine.anderson@gro-c.ac.uk)

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Applications are made in conjunction with your usual MRCT contact.

What is the maximum duration of projects?

It is unlikely that a project extending beyond 2 years will meet the criteria of the DGF.

What percentage of project costs does the DGF cover?

100% of eligible costs.

What are considered to be eligible costs for funding?

Personnel salaries and consumables. DGF is a MRC initiative and as such overheads are not permitted. Only in exceptional cases will the DGF pay for equipment.

From the submission of a proposal, how long does it take to receive funding?

The process is designed to be as rapid as possible. We hope to have reached a decision within 8-12 weeks from the date of application.

Does the research require to be protected by patent(s) prior to applying?

DGF can be sought for novel ideas with commercial potential. It is important that no disclosure has taken place in order that future IP can be protected.

What happens once an application/award has been made?

Assessment, implementation and review of funded proposals will be managed by MRCT. For details of the DGF Application and Review Process please refer to the attached flow chart.

What are considered to be the outputs from projects that receive funding from the DGF?

Credible technical demonstrators: proof of concept, patents, licences, spin-out companies, start-up companies; jobs/skills creation and innovative technologies.