RSC Sustainable Laboratories Grant
Frequently Asked Questions

Membership requirements & details on how to upgrade membership

The Lead applicant must be an RSC member - either Affiliate (AFF), Associate Member (AMRSC), Member (MRSC) or Fellow (FRSC) categories - before you can submit your application.

Undergraduate Student Members (AFU) are not eligible categories of membership for this grant. If you hold AFU, you will need to upgrade to one of the eligible categories – please see the table below.

Please note: Membership applications can take up to 2 months to be processed and approved (you cannot submit an application until this process is complete). If you have any questions, please contact our Membership team.

Your application will be rejected if your membership has not been confirmed when your application is processed by RSC staff

Categories of Membership

Undergraduate student member	Ineligible
Affiliate	Eligible
Associate	Eligible
Member	Eligible
Fellow	Eligible

If your membership login shows your membership status as "Web Applicant / Applicant" this means your Membership Application is still being processed, and you have not yet been admitted as a member. You will receive a confirmation email to confirm once it has been activated.

If you are upgrading your membership category, please check the web portal to confirm the change is complete – your new category will show there once the upgrade is finalised. For renewals, you will need to check that the 'paid through date' on your portal has been updated.

How do I submit my application to the Grant?

Please carefully read the Guidance for Applicants document to ensure you are eligible and that you have all of the information you need to apply.

You will then need to log onto our online application system. If you have not used the SurveyMonkey Apply system before, you will need to create an account (this is not an RSC system and so your RSC membership login will not work). Once you have created an account, it will take you step-by-step through completing your application, from entering your details, uploading your project proposal and obtaining the required contributions from your collaborator or supervisor/line manager/head of department.

Can I save my application to return and complete at a later stage?

You are not required to complete your application on the same day you start it. You have the option to save your application as you go through allowing you to return multiple times prior to submission.

I need to reset my Application Portal password. How can I do this?

You can request a password reset by visiting this page: https://roysocchem.smapply.io/acc/p/

Still unable to reset password on SurveyMonkey Apply?

As this is not an RSC site we are unable to reset or request for your password to be changed. If you follow the below instructions, SurveyMonkey staff will be able to assist you. Please bear in mind that they are based in Canada so response times may vary, but they are usually really quick to help.

In order to assist you further with accessing the site, please take the following steps:

- Go to the Support Contact Form (https://roysocchem.smapply.io/helpdesk/).
- Select from the available drop downs the options that best describe your issue, and review the suggested articles as they may help to resolve your concerns.
- If you are unable to find an answer to your question in one of the articles, click Request Support.
- Enter the Name and Email address that your account is registered under.
- Provide the subject of your email and a brief description of your issue.
- Click Submit.

Alternatively, you can also send SurveyMonkey an email directly at (support@smapply.io) from your account's email address, requesting login assistance. In order to maintain the security of your account the following conditions must be met when requesting login assistance:

- The request comes from the exact email address that you are using to login to SurveyMonkey Apply.
- There are no additional recipients on the email chain.

I would like to apply to the Sustainable Laboratories Grant, but I am not based in the UK or Ireland.

The Sustainable Laboratories Grant is open to applicants anywhere in the world. The lead applicant must be an RSC member.

I am unable to access the next task on the application form.

Some tasks can only be started after you complete one or more previous tasks. Please note, you will not be able to submit your application until all sections have been completed including those that require other parties to provide letters or declarations of approval. So allow plenty of time for them to complete prior to the grant deadline as stated on the webpage.

Please explain the difference between lead applicant and co-applicant

The lead applicant is responsible for submitting the application and the overall delivery of the project. They are the main point of contact and are responsible for the use of the grant and submission of the grant report upon completion of the project. Any grant funds awarded will be paid in a single payment to the lead applicant's organisation.

Applications may also involve a co-applicant. The co-applicant is someone that is part of the project team and has a clear role and responsibilities in the project. They should be involved in developing the project proposal as well as making a significant and essential contribution to its delivery. Co-applicants must not be added solely to fulfil grant eligibility requirements. Applicants will be asked to provide information on the co-applicant's role as part of the application.

Please note that for an application to be eligible, the lead applicant must be an RSC member at the time of the grant application deadline and for the duration of the grant period.

I am not a chemistry researcher. Can I apply?

Applicants do not need to be researchers or working in the field of chemistry (as long as all eligibility criteria are met). However, the project in your application must relate to sustainability in chemical sciences research. For example, we will be happy to receive applications from technical staff or social

scientists undertaking a project on behavioural change related to sustainability in chemical sciences research.

What projects, initiatives or activities can I apply to this scheme to support?

The Sustainable Laboratories Grant is a broad scheme and we will consider any application for projects, initiatives or activities that seek to accelerate the chemical sciences community's journey to environmentally sustainable research and innovation. For consistency, we refer to any eligible project, initiative or activity as "project" in our documentation for this grant scheme.

Eligible projects achieve one or more of the following aims:
- Advance understanding of environmentally sustainable laboratory practice in the chemical sciences
- Increase the take-up of environmentally sustainable laboratory practices in the chemical sciences
- Facilitate sharing of best practices

Importantly, projects must also have benefits to the wider chemical sciences community beyond the grant recipient. If you are unsure whether your project qualifies, please contact us at funding@rsc.org.

What do you mean by "sustainable research practice"?

We use the term **research practice** to refer to the way that scientific research is done, and the activities that researchers carry out when conducting research (whether in wet or dry lab, computational, field or other settings). **Environmentally sustainable research practice** refers to doing research activities in a way which minimises their impact on the environment.

The environmental impacts of scientific research (as discussed in detail in the RSC Sustainable laboratories report) can include:
- the energy consumption of laboratories and laboratory equipment (including equipment for computation)
- water usage in laboratories
- chemicals and consumables and their sourcing, manufacture, use and disposal

Environmentally sustainable research practice is distinct from sustainable or sustainability-focused research, where the outcomes are not applicable to a laboratory or other scientific research setting.

Please refer to the RSC Sustainable laboratories report for further information about environmentally sustainable research practice, including challenges and potential solutions identified in a survey of chemical sciences researchers. You may also find this recent Chemistry World webinar useful.

If you are unsure whether your project is in scope for this scheme, please contact us at funding@rsc.org.

What do you mean by "wider benefit beyond the grant recipient"?

This scheme aims to accelerate the chemical sciences community's journey to environmentally sustainable research and innovation. This will necessitate the entire community working together towards this goal. As such, applications that only impact the sustainability of the applicant's (or their immediate colleagues) research will not be funded. For example, an application to purchase a more energy efficient piece of equipment that will improve the sustainability of the research of the applicant and their lab group is unlikely to be successful. However, equipment purchase as part of a project that has benefits to others (e.g. through sharing of knowledge or resources) would be an eligible expense. Applications for projects aiming to increase knowledge (e.g. data collection) should also include plans to disseminate that knowledge to the wider community (e.g. through conferences or data repositories).