Criteria and process for evaluation of applications for funding from the Veterinary Fund Post Graduate Research Scheme

Background

The Vet Fund is the umbrella term used to promote the current priorities for the Vet School. Currently nearly all donations received by Development and Alumni Office (DAO) through their fundraising are allocated to one of the three funds; Weipers Equine Centre (WEC) Fund, Small Animal Hospital (SAH) Fund and James Herriot Scholarship (JHS) Fund. Funds come from a number of sources such as bequests and donations. The majority of the donations received by DAO will be for one of the current areas of support. Some donations may have restrictions on their use. Donations to the Vet School, where restrictions or specific wishes apply, will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Overall Aim of the Veterinary Fund Post Graduate Research Scheme

The Vet Fund has a number of bequests which are to be used to fund longer term PGR positions. These bequests are species specific and as such, dependent on the size of the bequest, will be able to fund a variable number of PGR positions. All positions will be funded in the University Of Glasgow School Of Veterinary Medicine and its associated Schools and Research Institutes. All proposals will have at least one Co-PI from the School of Veterinary Medicine, and Co-PIs from associated Schools, Research Institutes or external partners. The aim being to ensure that PGR studentships are as relevant to veterinary research as possible, have maximum possible academic and societal impact and have the potential to contribute to future REF returns.

Application for and allocation of funds (see Annex 1)

Calls for applications will be made in the autumn each year in order to enable new PGRs to commence in the following summer. Applications will be made using the form at Annex 1. A deadline for application will be set and decisions made by the School of Veterinary Medicine Research and PGR Committee, chaired by the SVM Research Convenor. Prior to distribution of funds all decisions will be confirmed by the Head of School, the Director of the Institute for Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine and, if different, the Director of the RI in which the non-SVM Co-PI works.

The broad aim of funding is to enhance veterinary research and the profession in the University Of Glasgow School Of Veterinary Medicine and its associated Schools and Research Institutes by identifying and investing in potential future leaders of the profession and this field of research. Applicants should be able to demonstrate the direct clinical or veterinary relevance of the proposed work.

**Eligible applicants:** Applications are invited from members of staff of the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences who hold a contract that extends beyond the expected duration of the proposed project.

**Scope of funding:** Support of PhD studentship for a period of 3.5 years with a tax free stipend of £20k pa and £5k consumables (for the first 3-years of the PhD). **Total funding available for each PhD studentship - £85k.** Funding is available for UK/EU students starting in session 2020/21. International students or EU students commencing studies after 20/21 academic year can be recruited IF external funding is available to cover the difference in student fees.

**Criteria for evaluation:** Evaluation of proposals will take account of the following criteria: Likely contribution to veterinary research, value for money, scientific rigour, originality, achievability within timeframe and budget.

Applications will be reviewed by the Research and PGR committee. Members of that committee will be asked to comment on the following with regard to scientific merit:

1. The clarity of aims, objectives and hypotheses.
2. Strengths and weakness of the experimental design.
3. Likelihood of fully delivering the work programme, given the track record of the applicants and extent of the work.
4. Any ethical issues identified in the application.

In addition members of the committee will be asked to:

1. Identify the likely impact of the work on current veterinary practice and research in the UK.
2. Comment on the value for money of the application and whether all costs are justified.
3. Identify any points for clarification which you would advise the Committee to seek from the applicants prior to funding.
4. Provide an overall assessment of the proposal ranking as exceptional, excellent, very good, good, not competitive or poor.

Reporting by fund recipients at the end of the project

Successful applicants are expected to provide a report to the Research and PGR committee on the funded project (maximum 1000 words) at the end of **months 18, 30 and 42** to include a note of papers, abstracts, posters, conference presentations or other publications arising from the work.

**Annex 1. Application form**

**Veterinary Fund PGR Scheme application form**

Please complete all sections and return to Marie Henderson: Marie.Henderson@glasgow.ac.uk

**Deadline for current round: 25/11/2020**

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| Principal Investigators (one from SVM and one from elsewhere) |
| Name and title: |
| Email address: |
| School/Institute: |
| Name and title: |
| Email address: |
| School/Institute: |
| Details of Co-Applicants (copy and paste extra lines if necessary) Name and title:  Email address:  Department: |
| **Veterinary Fund for which you are applying** (please mark “X”):  Small Animal Hospital Fund  Weipers Equine Centre Fund  James Herriot Scholarship Fund |
| **Details of the proposal**  Note: If you are going to use clinical cases/material it is very important to give a sensible estimate of the number of cases that would be seen and would fit relevant inclusion criteria during the period of the study.  Inclusion of pilot data, where available, is an important aspect of successful proposals. Please ensure that you fully describe that information in the relevant section below.  Please do include tables and figures to describe prior work and/or the proposed project.  **Title**  **Summary of proposed project** (Maximum 100 words)  **Project description** (Maximum 2000 words using the following headings. Do not include references, tables or figures in your word count).  Aims & Objectives  Work that has led up to this project proposal  Materials and Methods  Veterinary relevance  Strategic importance of the work and impact statement  References  ………………words  **PLEASE ENTER WORD COUNT** |
| **Proposed duration of the project and start date:**  **Please also include a Gantt Chart showing expected progress throughout the project** |
| **Amount requested** (if less than the £85k allocated for each project) |
| **Costing details/justification:** (outline use of available consumables funding) |
| **Matching Funds available and from where** (the availability of matching funds is desirable but not an essential requirement) |
| **Details of grants applied for** (indicate both successful and unsuccessful applications for funding related to this proposal): |
| **Further information to support your application:** |
| **Signature of applicant**  **Signature of applicant’s line manager** |