



## CONNECTED Application Guidance: T19

### Summary

CONNECTED aims to build a sustainable network of international scientists and researchers to address the challenges of vector-borne plant viruses in Africa. CONNECTED creates opportunities for individuals to engage with each other, build capacity and create research consortia to respond to funding opportunities in the research area of African vector-borne plant viruses.

A key objective of CONNECTED is to enable Network Members, particularly Early Career Researchers, to enhance their knowledge and skills for career progression. This will enable capacity building within the field of plant vector-borne diseases in Africa. To contribute to this, we are providing up to £2,000 per award for network members to attend courses relevant to their career development in plant vector-borne disease within the CONNECTED remit.

Applications are open to all Network Members, and preference will be given to those who are Early Career Researchers and to those who are based in DAC-list countries.

All awardees will be required to complete a series of short evaluation forms to enable the CONNECTED Network to assess and monitor change resulting from the training.

Places are limited and will be awarded following a competitive review process.

### Applicant eligibility for funding

#### Network members who have research employment contracts:

All Network members are eligible, but preference will be given to those who are Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and to those who are based in DAC list countries. ECRs are defined as those who have received their highest degree (BSc, MS or PhD) within the past 7 years. To be eligible, you must have a current contract of research employment which extends at least until the finish date of the proposed training.

#### Network members who are students:

Network members who are part-time students are eligible for all costs associated with the training if they also have an employment research contract with their organisation which





extends at least until the end of the training, as above. This should be confirmed in the letter of support from your group leader.

Network members who are full time students, from DAC-List institutions only, can apply for costs limited to travel (and associated costs including travel visas, vaccinations etc), subsistence and accommodation, to attend training that is relevant to the scientific goals of the CONNECTED network. NB: full-time students would need to pay the costs of the training itself.

Applications must be supported by your organisation: please provide a letter of support from your group leader alongside your application.

For a list of eligible DAC countries, please visit the following link:

[http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC List ODA Recipients2018to2020 flows En.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf)

***Due to administrative processes, we strongly advise you to apply for funding for training opportunities that are at least two months away at the time you submit your application.***

#### **Activities supported:**

This award will provide up to £2,000 per award to support attendance at a training course relevant to the career development of the applicant within the CONNECTED remit.

Immunisation, visa, travel, costs, plus accommodation and subsistence costs are eligible together with course fees (except for full-time students, see above). We are unable to make payments in respect of travel insurance policies.

#### **Activities not supported:**

The funds distributed as part of this award should be used exclusively for costs relating to attendance at this course. Any additional costs claimed will not be paid.

#### **Value of grant and eligible costs:**

CONNECTED will cover the itemised costs to enable successful applicants to travel to and take part in the training. These can include costs such as (but not limited to) return flights to your home, visas, and vaccinations required for travel. Please detail and itemise these on the application form.





### **Application process**

Network Members will be made aware of deadlines and key dates via the CONNECTED website (<https://www.connectedvirus.net/>), in monthly newsletters, and news items. Guidance documentation and the application form are available on the CONNECTED website.

### **Application form:**

1. Applicant details – please complete all sections
2. Benefit of the training to the applicant - please detail how this training opportunity will contribute to your professional development in the CONNECTED research field (maximum 700 words). Main points to include:
  - a. The potential of this training to development your career in the field of plant vector-borne disease
  - b. Your opportunities to use and share the learning you will receive with colleagues
3. CONNECTED and other funding – please let us know if you have received funding from CONNECTED to date and what for/how much
4. Travel-associated costs – please itemise the costs you are applying for
5. Visa and vaccinations – please complete all sections
6. Required additional documents – please enclose your CV with the application form, this should include information on your current employment, education, publications, conferences, training courses undertaken and any previous awards. Please also include a letter of support from your research group leader confirming (1) your contract of employment at your institution, (2) that you are recommended to undertake this training
7. Please complete
8. Please complete

Completed application forms, CVs, and letters of support must all be submitted to the Network Team email account ([connectedvirusnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:connectedvirusnetwork@gmail.com)) by 4pm on the closing date. You will receive acknowledgement of your application.

### **Review process**

Each application received will be checked by the Network Team to ensure it meets the application criteria and contains the required information. If there are any problems, further information will be requested from the applicant. All complete applications will be reviewed by the CONNECTED Network Executive (selected Management Board members may also take part should any member of the Network Executive have a conflict of interest with any





applicants). The CONNECTED Management Board will receive a copy of the shortlisted applications, to enable final decisions for funding to be made.

### **Notification**

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application; please see the CONNECTED website for anticipated dates when results will be communicated to applicants.

### **Timescales for visas and travel**

Awardees must ensure that sufficient time is allowed for visa, travel and immunisation arrangements to be completed. Awardees are responsible for ensuring that the appropriate visa(s) and immunisations are in place to enable travel. If successful applicants are unable to secure visas or other requirements necessary to enable them to attend the course, they will lose their place and CONNECTED will not be responsible for any further costs.

### **Contractual Agreement**

Successful applicants will be sent an award letter that they must sign and return to the Network Team to confirm that they will use the funds in the manner set out in their application.

### **Evaluation**

At the outset and upon completion of the training course, awardees will be required to complete a short evaluation form. Awardees will be requested to complete a follow up questionnaire 6 – 12 months later. The Network Team will also request that the awardee's Research Group leader complete a related questionnaire for assessing change resulting from the Training course.

### **Payment of Awards**

Travel, visa and immunisations: the awardee will be responsible for booking their flights and travel needs plus any visa, and immunisation needs. Awardees should claim these costs back from the Network Team by completing an expense form (to be provided by the Network Team) and submitting itemised receipts. We are unable to make payments in respect of travel insurance policies.

### **Publicity and Data Protection**

Copies of applications will be made available to the CONNECTED Management Board, Network Executive Group, and BBSRC, who will use the information provided for reviewing proposals, making awards, and post-award administration. CONNECTED may choose to publish details of awards, awardees, and information of training provided.





All funding comes from the BBSRC, so to meet the UK Research Councils' obligations for public accountability and the dissemination of information, non-confidential details of awards may also be made available on the Research Councils' websites and other publicly available databases, and in reports, documents and mailing lists. The BBSRC will use this information for research related activities, including but not limited to, statistical analysis in relation to the evaluation of BBSRC funding, study of trends and policy and strategy studies.

