EMS Research Support Fund Rules

23 October 2026

These rules shall be subject to the over-riding authority of the Constitution and Rules of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society.

1. **Aims**: The aim of the Research Support Fund Committee shall be to judge applications to and award funds from the Research Support Fund (RSF). The awarded funds shall be for the benefit of the Scottish mathematical sciences community as a whole.

2. **Composition**: The composition of the Committee shall be as determined in the Rules of the Society. A quorum will be at least half the members.

3. **Convener**: The Board of Trustees will appoint the Convener of the Research Support Fund Committee. Should the Convener position become vacant, or if the Convener is unable to carry out the duties of their office for any reason during a session, the RSF Committee should notify the Board of Trustees to appoint a new Convener. The Board of Trustees may also appoint a Deputy Convener to assist the Convener.

4. **Voting**: The method for settling matters before the Committee at any meeting shall be by majority vote of the members participating, in the presence of a quorum. Between meetings of the Committee, business may be transacted by the Committee in writing. In this case, votes shall be counted as specified above, with "members participating" replaced by "members voting."

5. **Reports to General Committee:** The Convener shall prepare a report on the activities of the Committee for every General Committee meeting.

6. **Power to distribute funds**: The Committee, unless otherwise mandated by the Constitution and Rules of the Society or the Board of Trustees, shall have the power to distribute the awards of the Research Support Fund among funding schemes as they see fit.

7. **Communication of funding schemes**: The Committee shall make available the funding schemes, the criteria for funding, and the method of application on the Edinburgh Mathematical Society website.

8. **Funding schemes**: The Research Fund Committee shall normally award grants from the following schemes:

   (a) **Network Grants**: Network grants will be awarded to fund new mathematical networks or in continuation of existing active networks. The awards will cover a two year period. These awards may be renewed for an additional two years. Each network should have at least three nodes, with a requirement that at least two are based at Scottish institutions. There should normally be three meetings of the network per year, at three different nodes. For every year of funding, each network will be expected to organise an EMS Ordinary meeting at one of its Scottish nodes, concurrent with their network meeting. These meetings are expected to rotate through their Scottish nodes.

   Award amount: up to £5000 for two years

(b) **Meetings**: Meeting grants will be awarded for scientific workshops and conferences taking place in Scotland, with priority given to Early Career Researcher (ECR) events. When the RSF contribution supplements other funding sources, the EMS expects its funding to benefit the Scottish ECR community, underrepresented communities, or any other criteria the Committee determines. The RSF also expects the wider Scottish mathematical community to have access to the contributions it funds.

Award amount: up to £3000

(c) **EMS Distinguished Speaker**: Edinburgh Mathematical Society Distinguished Speaker grants will be awarded to sponsor a speaker, with demonstrable links to Scotland, at large international conferences. As a condition of the funding, any informational material (e.g., website, schedule, etc.) must refer to the funded speakers as the *Edinburgh Mathematical Society Distinguished Speaker* and refer to their lecture or talk as the *Edinburgh Mathematical Society Lecture* or *Edinburgh Mathematical Society Talk*, respectively. Outwith the travel and accommodation costs for the EMS Distinguished Speaker, funds may be requested, up to the maximum award, to fund ECR participants.

Award amount: up to £3000

(d) **Visitors**: Grants for visitors will be awarded for visits by researchers from outside Scotland, provided that a clear and robust benefit to the wider Scottish mathematical community is demonstrated. This typically takes the form of activities organised during the visit at more than one Scottish institution.

Award amount: up to £2000

(e) **Launchpad Grants**: Startup grants will be awarded to support ECRs, new appointments, and researchers returning after a break to organise a workshop or conference, plan a research visit, and/or host visitors. Applications can involve more than one of these activities, but they must occur within a 12 month period.

Award amount: up to £2000

(f) **Special funding schemes**: The Committee may consider any application that demonstrates value to the Scottish mathematical community and its visibility, even when it falls outside the schemes listed above.

Award amount: up to £3000

(g) **Student Research Bursaries**: Student Research Bursaries in Mathematics and Statistics will be awarded to fund undergraduate students to do research for up to six weeks, normally during the summer vacation between the intermediate years (usually between years 3 and 4) of their undergraduate degree. Students are expected to work roughly 30 hours/week on their project.

Award amount: £345/week for up to six weeks giving a total bursary of £2070

9. **Criteria and eligibility for funding**: The Committee may add additional criteria to the contents of the application, or additional eligibility requirements, so long as it does not fundamentally change the purpose of the scheme. These changes should be communicated to General Committee at the next General Committee meeting and communicated to the public as in Rule 7.

10. **Submissions**: The Committee may, for each scheme, set, as appropriate, the method to submit applications to that scheme. These methods should be communicated to General Committee at the next General Committee meeting and communicated to the public as in Rule 7.

11. **Application deadlines**: There shall be at least three application deadlines per year for all funding schemes except the Student Bursaries, which shall only have one deadline per year. The application deadlines non-Student Bursary funds shall normally be January 15th, May 15th, and September 15th, and March 10th for Student Bursaries. The Committee may, as they see fit, add or extend deadlines. Any deadline extension of more than 60 days shall require approval of the Board of Trustees.

12. **Resubmissions**: The Committee may give feedback on any application to the applicant and allow them to resubmit following that feedback before the next application deadline.

13. **Member signature requirement**: All funding applications must be signed or cosigned by a member of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society.

14. **Expenditure not normally eligible for funding**: RSF funding will not normally be awarded for:

    (a) social events, including receptions and conference dinners, except where reasonable hospitality is directly associated with a research or networking activity (e.g., light refreshments, coffee breaks, and meals associated with research or network meetings);

    (b) institutional overheads, including charges for the use of university facilities.

15. **Concurrent applications for one event**: An applicant may apply to more than one funding scheme in respect of the same event. Such applications must include a compelling justification for seeking support from multiple schemes, and no expenditure may be funded more than once.

16. **Reports on funded activities:** For every award, a short report on the activity supported should be sent to the Committee. This should include a brief, but complete, financial statement.

17. **Award amount**: The Committee shall have the power to award funds for individual grants 50% higher than the maximum award, if it sees fit, without the approval of Board of Trustees.

18. **Ineligibility of Trustees**: Trustees of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society cannot cosign or submit applications for funding from the Edinburgh Mathematical Society.

19. **Conflict of interest**: A committee member must declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest in relation to an application. A member who has declared a conflict of interest must not participate in the discussion, evaluation, ranking, or determination of that application and must withdraw from the meeting while the application is considered.

20. **Joint funding schemes**: The Committee shall have the power to co-fund joint calls with other learned societies, for any funding scheme, subject to the approval of Board of Trustees.

21. **Change of Research Support Fund Committee Rules**: The Convener should present changes of these Rules to the General Committee for approval by the Board of Trustees.