TRUCE

Funding for TRUCE Collaborative Research
FAQ

Who can apply for this?
Any researcher within the TRUCE community. This is also available to anyone who is interested in joining the community.

What kind of collaborative activities are included and of what length? Who can be involved?
The key emphasis is on cross-disciplinarity, trying to encourage cross-fertilisation between disciplines by those who have traditionally not worked closely together. You are expected to identify some useful outputs resulting from the collaboration. Some examples of collaborative activities include organisation of workshops, conferences, competitions, meetings etc.

The length of the research activity can range from one day to several weeks. There is also flexibility with time and location, and they are not limited to members of the European Union.

For example, you might wish to invite a research expert from another country to your research group, or consider initiating a Research Knowledge Transfer partnership with a particular company engaged in research pertinent to research areas covered by unconventional computing. Researchers within the TRUCE community may want to exchange project methodologies or results and would benefit from collaborating together.

I've got a paper accepted at a conference. Can I apply for funding to attend the conference?
Generally we do not support applications to attend conferences or workshops, whether or not a paper is being presented. The funding is meant to cover research activities where both parties can benefit from the collaboration by working together. A tangible output is expected to be produced directly as a result of the collaboration.

What does the funding include?
TRUCE can reimburse travel, accommodation, subsistence, and local costs but only actually-incurred costs up to the total amount agreed before your visit.

What is the procedure for payment of funds?
a) Claim form
Only actually-incurred costs will be reimbursed up to the total amount agreed before your visit. This means that, after the activity, the TRUCE Project Manager will send you a claim form to reimburse your costs to the agreed amount. Receipts are required and payments will be remitted by bank transfer in your own currency. Advance payments cannot be made, all costs are reimbursed retrospectively against authenticated receipts.

b) Invoice
Payment may also be made via the university's purchase order with the provision of an invoice. In keeping with the university's financial regulations, 3 quotations must be obtained for any goods/services amounting £1,000 or more. Purchase is to be made from supplier who represents best value for money in terms of quality, resource use, fitness for purpose and timeliness of delivery.
c) Directly by TRUCE
In specific circumstances, accommodation and travel can be paid directly by the TRUCE project.

What costs are excluded or will not be paid?
TRUCE cannot pay salary costs to cover either temporary replacements or the time spent on the research activity/project. The objective of this is to facilitate new collaborations between researchers. In keeping with European Commission regulations, travel claims for meetings organised to prepare new EC grant proposals are not allowed.

What is the available amount of funding?
TRUCE funds activities ranging from £100 to a maximum of £10,000 over the duration of the project. Applications are judged competitively and funds allocated according to which best match the criteria. This selection process is overseen by the Executive Committee of the TRUCE Coordination Action and managed by the Project Manager.

What are the criteria for assessment of applications?
Applications will be judged against the following criteria:
a) Inter-disciplinarity of proposed activity/project

b) Novelty of research topic/collaboration

c) Proposed output of project/expenditure

d) Value for money

e) Degree to which project addresses TRUCE objectives, which are:
- To formulate, develop and maintain a European vision and strategy for Unconventional Computation (UCOMP)
- To identify important areas in UCOMP, and help focus research in these areas
- To provide a framework for discussion and resolution of current UCOMP issues
- To facilitate improvement in the quality, profile and applicability of European UCOMP research
- To encourage and support the involvement of students and early career researchers in UCOMP
- To facilitate industrial involvement with UCOMP

How do I apply for the TRUCE collaborative research funding?
1. Join the **TRUCE research community** by subscribing to our mailing list at http://www.truce-project.eu/truce-mailing-list.html. Registration is easy and free. (You will automatically become a member when you apply for research funding)

2. Complete an **application form** and provide a short letter from your organisation supporting the research collaboration.

3. Send these documents to the **TRUCE Project Manager** via email or post:

Email:
D.Lai@mmu.ac.uk

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What happens if my application is successful?
You will be contacted by the TRUCE Project Manager about your application and if approved, you may start organising the activity. After the event, you should advise the TRUCE Project Manager who will send you three items to complete, and please aim to do this within six weeks.

You should complete:

1. A **Reimbursement Claim Form (FIN 1C)** itemising your costs and including your bank account details. This claim form is personal to you so that funds can be sent by bank transfer directly to your account in your own currency. You will need to send your original receipts by post and email a scanned copy. Please note that credit card slips do not count as receipts, only FULL receipts are valid so ensure that these are retained.

2. An **evaluation form** which should summarise the main outcomes of the event, defining how the collaboration might continue. The aim of this form is to justify for any future audit on how the funds were used for the purpose outlined in your application.

3. A **short article** (800 - 1200 words), suitable for reading by a general audience, describing your activity/event and its benefits. Photographs and other graphical material are particularly welcome. Your article will be posted on the TRUCE website to inform a wider audience and to encourage future research collaborations. Please acknowledge TRUCE support in any publication arising from the activity, and feel free to contact the TRUCE Project Manager to advise of publications or future research work resulting from this.