



Common example funding searches on ResearchProfessional.com

Creating searches on ResearchProfessional.com doesn't have to be complicated.

Below we show popular sample searches. For more specific sample searches, do also have a look at our example searches for [Early Career Researchers](#), [Travel funding](#) and [Hosting Visits](#).

Please note: this document should be read in conjunction with our [Quick Start Guide](#), which gives a basic overview of the system and provides information on setting up e-mail alerts, saving, sharing and printing funding opportunities.

All these documents can be found at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/findfunding/

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1. Searching for funding by Discipline

You can search for very specific discipline terms. The best way to do this is to add the 'Discipline' criteria to your search from the first drop-down box and then **search the Rodman index** for your terms.

The screenshot shows the 'Funding search' interface. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Search', 'Browse by sponsor', and 'Browse by discipline'. The 'Search' tab is active. Below the tabs, there is a search input field with the text 'photo'. To the right of the input field is a 'search' button. Below the input field, there is a dropdown menu labeled 'Disciplines' which is currently open, showing a list of disciplines. The 'Select' button is circled in red. Below the dropdown menu, there is a 'Search' button and a checkbox labeled 'Include closed calls'.

Click 'Select', then click 'Search' to search for your specific discipline terms in the Rodman Index. You can also 'Browse Rodman Index' to see the terms in the hierarchy, starting at the top level, or browse alphabetically using the A to Z. We find the 'Search' option to be the quickest.

The screenshot shows the 'Select items' dialog box. At the top, there are three buttons: 'A-Z', 'Search', and 'Browse Rodman Index'. The 'Search' button is circled in red. Below the buttons, there is a search input field with the text 'photo' and a 'search' button. Below the input field, there is a list of disciplines with checkboxes. The 'Selected Items' section at the bottom shows 'Photovoltaics' and 'Photovoltaic Materials' selected. At the bottom right, there are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Searching for *exactly* 'Photovoltaic Materials' or 'Photovoltaics' returns 3 items (*Note: the operator 'is any' means 'exactly' in ResearchProfessional.com*):

The screenshot shows the 'Funding search' interface. The search criteria are set to 'Disciplines' with the operator 'Is any of' and the search term 'Photovoltaic Mate'. The search results show 3 items. The interface includes options to 'Include closed calls', 'Group by' (Closing date), and 'Sort by' (Opportunity name).

Changing the operator to *broader or exact* searches these terms **and** those indexed at the two levels above. This is helpful here as there are many funding opportunities for general Science subjects that would not be indexed specifically within 'Photovoltaic Materials', but which you would still be able to apply for.

The screenshot shows the 'Funding search' interface with the operator changed to 'Is broader or exact'. The search results now show 340 items. The interface includes options to 'Include closed calls', 'Group by' (Closing date), and 'Sort by' (Opportunity name).

Note: Searching by Discipline will return more results than a full text search. For example, as at August 2011, searching for 'Nanomaterials' by full text returns only 3 open calls, searching by Discipline (using the 'is exact or narrower' operator) returns 18.

So, please don't rely on full text searches but use the 'Discipline' operator instead!

2. A broad funding search by Key Sponsors and Discipline

The screenshot shows the search interface on ResearchProfessional.com. The search criteria are set to 'Sponsor (browse) Is any of' and 'Disciplines Is broader, exact or narrower'. The selected sponsors are 'Department for International Development', 'Department of Health', 'European Commission', 'Joint Information Systems', and 'Nuffield Foundation'. The selected discipline is 'Social Sciences'. The search results are grouped by 'Sponsor name' and sorted by 'Date posted'. The results show 84 items, with 50, 100, or 200 results per page. A 'Flag' button is visible in the bottom right corner.

In this example, we have chosen various sponsors we are interested in and then **added** the discipline 'Social Sciences' by clicking on the plus symbol next to the drop-down list. Using the operator '*Is broader, exact or narrower*' returns calls from the above selected sponsors indexed with:

- The discipline 'Any' (this means you will get funding opportunities that are relevant to all disciplines)
- Social Sciences
- **All** of the sub-terms of Social Sciences in the Rodman Index

Note: We generally recommend avoiding very broad searches by Discipline only, as you may be flooded with not very well-matched funding results. However, they can be a good starting point before you narrow down your search further (e.g. adding more search criteria such as 'Award Types', 'Closing Date is before', etc.)

See our [Quick Start Guide](#) for more information on setting up e-mail alerts, saving, sharing and printing funding opportunities.

3. PhD/DPhil Funding

Please note: ResearchProfessional.com has only a limited amount of PhD funding opportunities (most of its funding opportunities are at post-doctoral level.) Depending on the sponsor, it is still sometimes possible for senior academics to apply for a standard or student-linked grant that includes a PhD/DPhil studentship. You may, in the first instance, want to check the relevant [sponsors'](#) funding guides for further information and also contact your departmental administrator or [Research Facilitator](#) for further guidance.

In this example we search for PhD/DPhil funding indexed exactly with the term 'Pharmacology'.

The screenshot shows the 'Funding search' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Search', 'Browse by sponsor', and 'Browse by discipline'. Below these are two search criteria sections. The first section has 'Disciplines' set to 'Pharmacology' and 'Is any of' selected. The second section has 'Award type' set to 'Studentship allocations' and 'Financial aid for postgraduate students', with the 'And' operator selected and circled in red. Below the search criteria, there are options to 'Group by' (Closing date) and 'Sort by' (Opportunity name). At the bottom, a table shows 6 items with columns for 'Closing date', 'Opportunity name', and 'Flag'. The table also indicates '50 100 200 results per page'.

Explanation of Award Types used in this example:

- 'Studentship Allocations': funding that the University should apply for on the students behalf
- 'Financial aid for postgraduate students': funding that the student should apply for him/herself

The 'Selected Items' dialog box shows two items selected: 'Studentship allocations' and 'Financial aid for postgraduate students'. Each item has a checked checkbox on the right. At the bottom of the dialog, there are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

As this is quite a specific search, you might want to broaden it a little to see what more general science funding you could get. To quickly broaden this search and to return the most results, you would change the operator from 'is any of' to:

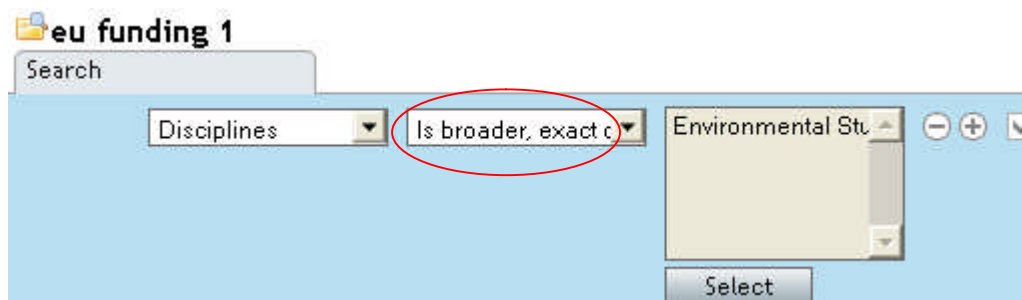
- 'is broader or exact' to include results indexed at the level above 'Pharmacology'
- 'is broader, exact or narrower' to include results indexed at exactly the level of 'Pharmacology', as well as any indexed above and below 'Pharmacology'. (This will give you less well-matched results but can be useful if you want to narrow your search down further by adding other criteria such as 'Closing Date', etc.)

4. EU funding

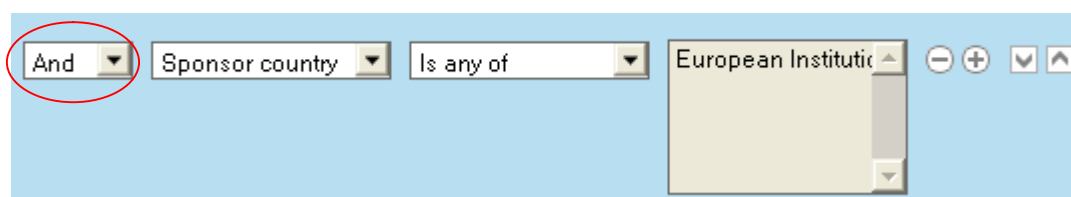
Many EU funding opportunities are open to any discipline, so while you can restrict the search by your chosen discipline (e.g. 'Environmental Studies'), you don't want to miss out on general funding opportunities that are open to any discipline.

This is why we select 'Disciplines' > 'is broader, exact or narrower' > 'Environmental Studies'. This will return results that are exactly on the level of 'Environmental Studies', any funding

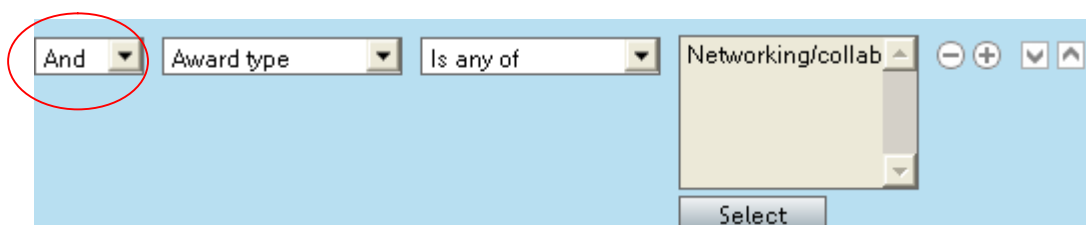
opportunities below 'Environmental Studies', e.g. 'Air Pollution', and any funding opportunities indexed above the top-level keyword 'Science & Technology, Maths & Computing', **and** any funding opportunities that are open to any discipline. If there are too many results you might want to separate this search into three searches (one searching for anything exactly at the level of 'Environmental Studies' ('*is any of*'), one for anything above ('*is broader*'), and one for particular keyword(s) indexed below 'Environmental Studies' (e.g. '*is any of*'>'Air Pollution'). You can then see which one(s) are the best searches for you.



To look for EU funding within these criteria, we then select 'Sponsor country' and then 'European Institution' (i.e. ESA, ESF, European Commission & others affiliated to the EU or the idea of Europe).



(You can then, if you wish, narrow the search down by Award type, by adding another criterion using the operator **AND** 'Award type'> is any of> e.g. 'Networking/Collaboration'.)



5. Networking/Collaboration Grants

In this example, we have selected two disciplines we are interested in (we are looking for funding opportunities exactly indexed at the level of Biological Sciences and Bacteriology, so have chosen the operator '*is any of*'), **AND** have added another criterion ('Award type') to show us 'Networking/collaboration'.

Explanation of Award Types used in this example:

- *Networking/Collaboration:* This is used when a sponsor offers funds to establish research networks or collaborations

5.1 Collaborative grants in genomics (using optional 'Or' operators)

Note: If you use 'OR' operators, the correct order of 'Or' and 'And' operators is vital!

In this example we are searching for Networking/Collaborative grants in Genomics.

To make absolutely sure that you don't miss any other potential funding opportunities that might have the keyword 'networking' or 'collaboration' in their description, you *may* want to add these keywords connected by the 'Or' operator. You do this by pressing the + symbol and adding another search criterion, in this case 'Or' > 'Full text' > 'contains' > 'networking', as well as 'Or' > 'Full text' > 'contains' > 'collaboration'.

A word of caution: The full text search will also get you results that will not be relevant to you, as it just picks up the word 'collaboration' or 'networking' in the funding opportunity description. For example, an opportunity explicitly stating 'Not for networking' would also be displayed in your search results.

This is a more complex example search, as it combines 'Or' and 'And' operators in the search. 'Or' will always search the **entire** database for results, whereas 'And' just searches the results we got from the previous search criterion.

This is why it is vital to get the order of the 'Or' and 'And' operators right.

Explanation:

In this example, we start off with the award type we want, 'Networking/collaboration'. Just in case the system has any other opportunities that have 'networking' or 'collaboration' in their text, we have added these connected with the 'Or' operators. This means we will get

1. All funding opportunities indexed with the award type 'networking/collaboration'
2. **Or** any funding opportunities in the whole database that contain the term 'networking'
3. **Or** any funding opportunities in the whole database that contain the term 'collaboration'.

To narrow this down further, we will need to add a Discipline. If we choose 'And' here, we will get all the search results from 1.) + 2.) +3.),

4. **And** then select just those that are exactly at the level of 'Genomics' by using the operator '*is any of*'.

Note: if we had chosen 'Or' at stage 4, we would get funding opportunities related to networking/collaboration (from all subjects), together with general funding opportunities exactly at the level of Genomics. This search would be far too broad!

6. Foreign funders

In this example, we are searching for sponsors from the US, Canada and Germany only that provide funding for researchers based at UK HEIs indexed at exactly the level of Social Sciences or more specific subjects within the Social Sciences.

Funding search

Search | Browse by sponsor | Browse by discipline

Disciplines | Is exact or narrow | Social Sciences

And | Sponsor country | Is any of | Germany, United States, Canada

Group by: Sponsor country | Sort by: Closing date | Sort

Closing date | 746 items | 50 100 200 results per page. | Flag

You could also exclude a specific sponsor country. In the example below, we want results from everywhere except the United Kingdom by using the operator 'And not'.

Funding search

Search | Browse by sponsor | Browse by discipline

Disciplines | Is exact or narrow | Social Sciences

And not | Sponsor country | Is any of | United Kingdom

Group by: Sponsor country | Sort by: Closing date | Sort

Closing date | 1048 items | 50 100 200 results per page. | Flag

7. Do's and Don'ts

- **Do** set up at least a couple of different searches and compare their results before turning them into e-mail alerts, so you know you get well-matched results every time. If you get few results, consider broadening your search criteria.
- **Don't** rely on full text searches but use the 'Discipline' operator instead.
- **Don't** set up email alerts from searches with **time-based criteria** (e.g. closing date within 90 days) as you will get very few (if any) results in your weekly email alert.
- **Don't** exclude by Award type, i.e. don't use the operator 'And not' with any Award types. (Example: Award type = 'Mid-career fellowships' *And not* Award type = 'Travel' will exclude those awards listed with both mid-career fellowships and Travel.)

Disclaimer

ResearchProfessional.com and Research Services aim to give the correct information about these opportunities, however, please always check the sponsor's website as details can change, for example the deadline dates.