

**Aerosol Properties,
Processes And
Influences on the Earth's
climate (APPRAISE)**

[Introduction](#)
[Contacts](#)
[Programme Summary](#)
[Science Plan](#)

Programme awards:

[Core programme](#)
[AO - Core Programme \(closed\)](#)
[AO - Consortia](#)
[AO - Science Co-ordinator](#)

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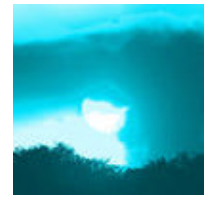
NERC programme - Aerosol Properties, Processes And Influences on the Earth's climate (APPRAISE)

**Announcement of Opportunity (AO) for funding – Core Programme of Activities
Closing date for proposals: 21st April 2006**

APPRAISE is a new £4M NERC-funded directed programme, running from 2005-2010/11.

Details of APPRAISE can be found on:

- The [main programme website](#)
- The [summary website](#)
- The programme's [Science Plan](#)
- [AO for Consortium grants](#) – deadline 22 August 2006



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Background

The main purpose of the APPRAISE programme is to provide major advances in understanding the nature and lifecycle of aerosols in the atmosphere thereby reducing the uncertainty connected with global and regional climate change predictions. APPRAISE will provide key information on aerosol and cloud properties, processes and effects on climate, which will be used to further develop climate models. APPRAISE will seek to tackle key research challenges that include understanding and quantifying:

- The direct effect of aerosols on the Earth's radiation budget, via scattering and/or absorption of radiation;
- The influence of aerosols on cloud properties and hence indirect effect on climate and influence on the hydrological cycle;
- The role of aerosols in feedback processes between land, the biosphere and climate.

This will be carried out through an integrated hierarchy of laboratory studies, field and global observations, process models, regional models and global/climate models. The effort needs to be driven by both top-down and bottom-up methodologies.

The APPRAISE programme will provide funding via **consortia proposals** (one funding round) supported by a **Core Programme of key strategic activities** (one funding round).

This AO is for the funding of the Core Programme of key strategic activities.

Note: As APPRAISE is an integrated programme of activities, the **AO for consortia proposals** is running concurrently with the Core AO but with a deadline of 22 August 2006. This later deadline for the consortia bids is designed to enable potential applicants to plan ahead and to co-ordinate and integrate with the funded core activities resulting from this AO.

APPRAISE Core Programme of key strategic

activities

To achieve its overall objectives, add value to the consortia activities and provide a strategic vision for aerosols research, APPRAISE will fund activities in four key scientific areas that will provide underpinning science to the programme. These have been specifically targeted at areas not covered by the [NERC Centres for Atmospheric Science research programme](#) and other NERC institutes and facilities, though they will work closely with these frameworks. These activities will start-up in advance of the consortia grants in order that they facilitate and assist the consortia.

The **four** key scientific areas are:

- Formation Pathways and Properties of Organic Aerosols
- Improved Representation and Validation of the Radiative Properties and Impacts of Aerosols and Clouds
- Development of a Global Model to Investigate Key Aerosol and Cloud Processes
- Improved Coupling of In Situ Cloud Measurements with Novel Model Schemes

These are specific packages of work with specific programme deliverables that will underpin the rest of the programme. These are detailed in the [APPRAISE Science Plan](#) Applicants should read this carefully and understand how the programme works as a whole.

Application Procedure


Awards are likely to be in the region of £100-£150K (pre-FEC) for each of the four science areas.

Applicants from HEIs should propose the same volume of research that they would have done on this pre-FEC basis, but cost the proposal according to FEC. Additional uplift funding to cover the extra cost of the research under FEC costings will be available, to allow an equivalent amount of research to be supported, but at 80% FEC.

Funding is available in each of the four areas, for activities anticipated to start from **July 2006** and lasting up to 3 years in duration. Examples of such activities might include employment of a postdoctoral and/or postgraduate researcher/s to carry out a project within an established research group.

As the deliverables have been specifically and tightly defined by the programme, the application procedure is via a two page application form and an additional case for support, to be submitted to aerosol@nerc.ac.uk by **21st April 2006**.

For full details of the application procedure please read the guidelines for applicants, below. Any queries on the application procedures may be sent to aerosol@nerc.ac.uk

- [Guidelines for Applicants](#)  (36KB)
- [Application form for HEIs](#)  (63KB)
- [Application form for commercial organisations](#)  (56KB)

Assessment will be made by a Moderating Panel made up of independent experts and appropriate members of the NERC Peer Review College. Since the applicants are essentially being asked to provide a service to the programme, there

will be no peer review of applications.

The outcome of the assessment is expected to be announced in June 2006 and the earliest start date is therefore 1st July 2006.

Further Information

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