**TK Foundation – Maritime Research Application Guidelines**

1. **Introduction**

Amongst the priorities of the TK Foundation is support for research ‘to promote better health and well-being’ for Seafarers. The Foundation has worked hard over a number of years to develop an understanding of the health and well-being of seafarers (including both their physical and mental health environment), and to identify where the Foundation can best deploy its finite resources to maximum effect.

1. **General Principle:**

As a general principle, the Foundation may fund research with clear aims and identified outcomes that will deliver a measurable benefit to seafarers. This can be immediate and / or longer term and may include research aimed at influencing and effecting change within the maritime sector at the local, national or international level.

1. **Research Priorities**

The Foundation’s broad research priorities are:

* Research Projects that provide **practical options or identify possible solutions** that impact on the mental and physical health of seafarers.
* Research Projects that may offer practical solutions to improve opportunities for **employment and the employability** of seafarers particularly for young seafarers or those considering a career at sea.
* Research that leads to practical action to promote the **safety of seafarers** on board ship or in port.
* Research projects that provide proposals for the **treatment of seafarers** in port or at sea where seafarers have become involved in the **criminal justice system** of a country in whose territorial waters or port they are operating.
* Research and / or evaluation of current **services** provided for or aimed specifically at Seafarers either in port or at sea that may lead to improvements in those services.
* Research into the **efficiency and effectiveness of Seafarer charities** in providing effective health (physical and mental) and well-being support.
* Research into **collaboration or partnerships** between seafarers, charities, and other organisations working with Seafarers to improve the efficiency or effectiveness of those services. For example, sharing services or facilities in port or to work together in a more co-ordinated fashion in delivery of services such as ship visiting.

1. **What we will not fund:**

* Projects where the main or substantial benefit would accrue to shipping companies and other private maritime companies. However, the Foundation may consider projects where matched funding or a contribution towards the overall project costs are being sought and where there are clear direct benefits to seafarers from the outcomes of the research.
* Projects that are pure ‘research’ without immediate tangible results that can be developed and implemented.
* ‘General’ research projects.
* Research projects focused on those involved in the commercial fishing industry.

1. **Who can apply?**

We welcome applications from a range of registered non-profit organisations: from small non-profit groups including charities to larger non-profit institutions such as Universities.

*The TK Foundation will not fund research projects from private individuals or private companies.*

1. **Seafarer Involvement and Partnership Funding**

The Foundation has a strong preference to fund research which actively involves Seafarers and/or family members in the research process.

Whilst the Foundation is able to fund research projects in full, we have a strong preference to support research projects in partnership with other funders

1. **When can I apply?**

You can apply at any time. The TK Foundation operates a two-stage assessment process. In stage one, applicants who have approached the TK Foundation for a possible grant and where after an informal discussion we think the outline proposal might be something the Board of TKF might want to support, are invited to complete a Letter of Interest(outline proposal) Form. This is just a brief outline of the proposed research project and how it might fit within the overall aims and program objectives of the TK Foundation - its broad outlines, what the outcomes might be, an idea of duration and a rough estimate of costs and whether there are any other funders involved. Before completing this form however, you might want to email the **Maritime Program Officer (**[**dennis@thetkfoundation.org**](mailto:dennis@thetkfoundation.org)**)** with an outline of the project before completing the Letter of interest to get a view of whether it is something to take forward for Board consideration.

When we have received the Letter of interest, if we have any further questions, we will contact you to seek clarification or further information. If the Letter of Interest is approved a full application will be requested.

**IMPORTANT**

Applications for funding of research are considered against all other funding applications. There is no specific fund for 'research' so all projects go into a portfolio of applications for consideration by the Board.

**When will I hear?**

We aim to make a decision regarding your application (LOI or Full Proposal) within 3-4 months of receipt.

**Any Questions?**

Contact the Maritime Program Officer at [dennis@thetkfoundation.org](mailto:dennis@thetkfoundation.org)