



Project Co-Lead (International) Policy Guidance

Policy Guidance

Guidance for UK Lead Research Organisations: eligibility criteria for International Project Co-Lead Organisations

It is the responsibility of the lead UK research organisation to ensure that the PCL(I)'s organisation is an appropriate organisation to receive, and has systems in place to manage, the funding provided. The UK RO will also need assurance that appropriate agreements are put in place for the delivery of the overseas activities funded under the grant. ESRC will not undertake eligibility checks as standard but reserves the right to undertake additional checks or seek further information from ROs if necessary.

To determine whether the PCL(I)s organisation has the necessary capacity and capability to conduct the specified work, the UK RO must consider the following questions before adding a PCL(I) to an application:

1. What is the organisation type (e.g. research organisation, NGO, charity) and who provides the core funding for the organisation?
2. What is the research capacity of the organisation? The organisation should possess in-house capacity to carry out research in the field or discipline in which it wishes to be funded and be able to demonstrate an independent capability to undertake and support research projects. The following criteria should be considered:
 - The number of researchers employed by the organisation and paid through payroll (not including temporary employees or consultancy staff). ESRC would expect a minimum of 10 researchers.
 - The portfolio of research projects led or co-led by staff while employed at the organisation over the last five years. Consideration should be given to the number of research projects, their duration, staff roles and contribution, the overall value of the projects and funding source.
 - Details of any collaborative research partnerships.
 - The organisation's research strategy, for example the ways in which the organisation has sought to maximise the wider impact and value of its research.
 - The organisation's ethical assurance procedures. For reference, please see the [ESRC's Framework for Research Ethics](#).
3. How will the organisation support the PCL(I) during the lifetime of the project?
4. If costs are requested for the salary of the PCL(I), are these absolutely necessary for their involvement in the project? The reason(s) for the inclusion of these costs must be clearly listed in the Resources and Costs Justification section of your application.

Please note that if funded it is expected the UK RO will have carried out appropriate due diligence on any third parties or collaborative partners used to deliver any part of the project, before any collaboration begins, as outlined in the [UKRI Terms and Conditions](#) (RGC 2.6). [Further guidance on UKRI Due Diligence and Trusted Research is available on the UKRI website](#)



Project Co-Lead (International) Eligibility for Salary Costs Examples:

A Project Co-Lead (International) is eligible to request salary costs where:

- A PCL(I) is employed by a university on a contract that requires they obtain external funding for their salary to work on research projects.
- A PCL(I) is employed at a university which requires teaching replacement costs to allow them to participate in the project. This is only permissible for PCL(I)s.
- A PCL(I) is employed by a university on a contract which specifies that they are expected to teach and carry out research for X months of the year. The remaining X months, they are expected to supplement their income with external contracts. They are eligible to request salary costs as an ESRC PCL(I) for the X months of the year they are not under contract from their institution or are on a sabbatical from research and teaching.
- A researcher is employed by a university in a developing country. Their base salary is expected to cover teaching and research but does not constitute a living wage. They would normally supplement their salary through several consultancy contracts with the national government or NGOs. The individual would clearly make a significant intellectual contribution to the proposed ESRC project but would have to forego their normal consultancy work in order to participate in the ESRC project. The researcher could be costed into the grant as a PCL(I) with salary costs. Alternatively, they could be included as a consultant at the going local rate, if more appropriate.

A Project Co-Lead (International) is not eligible to request salary costs where:

- A PCL(I) is employed by a university on a contract which specifies that they are expected to teach and carry out research throughout the year. This is the norm in their country and their national research funding agency therefore does not normally pay salary costs on its research grants.