UK Research and Innovation

UK Research and Innovation

UKRI Cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme - round two

Guidance for applicants and research organisations

October 2024 – version 1.3
Round Two Outline stage

UK Research and Innovation

This is a living document that will be updated at appropriate intervals. This version of the guidance was published as part of the opening of the outline stage of round two. The version control below indicates what and where changes have been made. UKRI reserves the right to make necessary changes to the guidance before the full stage opens. The next version is expected to be in April 2025, with the opening of the round two full stage.

Please note that this guidance should be read in conjunction with details found on the UKRI funding finder for the round and stage you are applying for and the UKRI Standard Grant Terms and Conditions.

Version control

Version	Date	Changes
1.0	3 June 2024	(Published)
1.1	August 2024	i) Edited sentence regarding invited resubmissions (page 11) ii) Updated guidance on data management (page 12-13) iii) Added section "3.3.3 Additional disability and accessibility adjustments" (page 19) and associated costs that can be requested (page 23) iv) Updated facility information list link (page 24) v) Added section "5.1 EPSRC-supported facilities" (page 25). vi) Updates to section "5.2.2 Polar research facilities", including the deadline to contact BAS for Antarctic logistic support requests (25 October 2024) and instructions for access to the NERC Arctic Research Station (page 26). vii) Included council relevance against each of the 5 research domains that are then combined to form interdisciplinary assessment panels (page 34). viii) Removed sentence stating that applicants have the opportunity to propose which interdisciplinary panel their application has most relevance to, in section 7.3.2 (page 36). This is no longer a requirement as we will be asking for keywords from a standardised list to support us in assigning applications to panels.
1.2	September 2024	i) 3.2.3.1 Project partners: Added note about project partner contributions at the outline stage (page 17) ii) Added to the list of 4.3 What we will not fund: contingency costs for Visas for unknown researchers at the point of application (page 24) iii) Added to section 5 that requests to delay the grant start date for access to facilities (page 25) and/or to exceed the maximum budget to access NERC's large research infrastructure (page 26), should be made by emailing ukrirm@ukri.org by the outline stage deadline (19 November 2024) iv) Updated section 6.1 Outline stage application, to include application questions (page 26 onwards). v) Updated section 7.2 Assessment criteria for the outline stage (page 35 onwards)

1.3	October 2024	i) In 3.2.3.1 Project partners: correction of sentence where missing content: "However, where there are specific circumstances where project partners require funding for minor directly incurred costs such as travel and subsistence, **this will usually be paid at 80% FEC unless otherwise stated by us**." (page 17). ii) In 7.1 Interdisciplinary panels, cut the line "You will be asked at the outline stage of round two to identify which interface panels are most relevant to your application", as this is no longer a requirement (page 34). iii) Addition of two identical webinars for applicants invited to the full stage, either on 24 or 28 April, to the key dates listed in Annex 1 (page 39). iv) Standard assessment panel scoring system of 1-10 added to Annex 6 (page 60) and refreshed banding definitions for round 2 (page 61).

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to outline the policies and procedures to follow when applying to round two of the UKRI cross research council responsive mode scheme in the UKRI Funding Service. It accompanies the details published in the UKRI Funding Finder for the funding opportunity.

This guide does not outline how to use the UKRI Funding Service. Following this link for further details of how applicants use the UKRI Funding Service.

1.1 UKRI cross research council responsive mode scheme

This guide is for applicants to round two of the UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme (CRCRM).

This pilot scheme is designed to support interdisciplinary ideas emerging from the research community outside current disciplinary boundaries. We will support projects that transcend, combine or significantly span disciplines, involving different knowledge and methodological spheres. This scheme will power innovative conceptual thinking and research, and novel methodological approaches, to ensure we support a rich and diverse array of blue skies and applied research.

We know how important existing responsive mode council schemes have been in supporting research and innovation with transformative outcomes for knowledge, economy and society. This scheme will help do the same for research that does not fit the remit of current research councils' responsive mode schemes, helping ensure there is space for the convergence and divergence of new ideas across all fields of research.

We are piloting this scheme over two rounds of funding, allowing us to assess demand, and test and refine our processes. This is round two of the pilot scheme. Round one was well received by the research community with nearly 1000 outline applications submitted. We will be using what we learn from the pilot scheme to consider CRCRM funding opportunities as part of future government spending review processes.

1.2 Scheme objectives

This funding is to support interdisciplinary research, including to:

- unlock new research, new approaches or new methods that would not emerge from established disciplinary thinking
- demonstrate reciprocal research benefits through the involvement of distinct disciplinary perspectives and spheres of knowledge
- support breakthrough or disruptive ideas and collaborations
- incentivise new and unexpected types of interdisciplinary research not routinely funded through existing UKRI responsive mode schemes
- encourage speculative, early-stage and high potential interdisciplinary research proposals, embracing new concepts, techniques, or technologies

We are seeking:

- high quality, and creative ideas that transcend, combine or significantly span research council remits
- new, unexpected and novel projects that have the potential to lead to breakthrough ideas and collaborations
- research that can only be addressed through interdisciplinary collaboration
- projects combining disciplines to create new approaches to a research question, new methodologies or new ways of working
- reciprocity across the disciplines, with the disciplines involved being changed or transformed by working together
- projects that catalyse new interdisciplinary research through co-creation and design
- ideas with no clear 'lead' UKRI research council for responsive mode funding, including applications that significantly span two or more research council remits

We are not seeking:

- applications where there is a clear alternative research council responsive mode scheme (see below) including interdisciplinary research that fits within a single research council remit
- projects where the programme of work appears siloed and where interdisciplinary research outcomes are limited, for example, where work packages are discreet and discipline specific rather than integrating disciplinary knowledge
- projects where there is an imbalance of the intellectual content, and some disciplines appear 'bolted' on

For further information about the scheme, please see the scheme webpage.

1.3 Interdisciplinary research

For the purposes of this scheme, we are using the following definition of interdisciplinary from the REF 2021 Interdisciplinary Advisory Panel final report:

"Interdisciplinary research is understood to achieve outcomes (including new approaches) that could not be achieved within the framework of a single discipline. Interdisciplinary research features significant interaction between two or more disciplines and / or moves beyond established disciplinary foundations in applying or integrating research approaches from other disciplines."

Multidisciplinary research is not within the scope of this scheme. Transdisciplinary research is not within scope on its own but interdisciplinary research could also be considered transdisciplinary if it involves non-academic stakeholders. We have defined these terms as follows:

- multidisciplinary research is where researchers work independently within their disciplines and there is little or no integration of disciplines. Work packages are discrete and discipline specific rather than integrating disciplinary knowledge and can result in distinct outputs. Some disciplines are not included from the start and are not involved in the project framing or the research design. In cases like this there are clear asymmetries of leadership within the project due to the project objectives. In these cases, the project is considered as multidisciplinary

- transdisciplinary research has various definitions but is often defined as research that transgresses boundaries between disciplinary knowledge or integrates different bodies of knowledge and actively co-creates knowledge between academic and societal partners such as policy makers or business

1.4 Existing UKRI funding mechanisms for interdisciplinary research

The existing research council responsive mode schemes remain open for a wide range of interdisciplinary research applications, both within council boundaries and across council boundaries through the Cross-Council Remit Agreement. Further information about these existing schemes and research councils' remits can be found on the 'if your research spans different disciplines' UKRI webpages.

You should consider carefully the degree to which your proposal meets the criteria set out for this scheme, or whether it could be accommodated through existing council-led responsive mode funding opportunities and submitted to a 'lead council' through the Cross-Council Remit Agreement. Interdisciplinary research applications that fall within a single research council boundary are ineligible for this scheme.

A small proportion of applications might be suitable for both this funding opportunity and existing responsive mode schemes via the Cross-Council Remit Agreement. You must determine which scheme to make your submission to. Duplicate applications are not permitted.

1.5 Funding available

We will invest a total of £65 million funding across two rounds of the UKRI cross research council responsive mode scheme. We anticipate making around 36 awards in each round. Academic-based applications are costed on the basis of Full Economic Costs (FEC). The FEC of your project can be between £200,000 and £1.2 million, for up to two years. Exceptions to the £1.2 million cap will be allowed to enable use of specific UKRI facilities and should be requested at the outline stage and fully justified (see section 5.1 for further details).

UKRI will fund 80% of the FEC (for exceptions see section 4: Costs we fund).

1.6 Application stages

Applications to this scheme comprise of two stages:

- submission of an outline stage application
- invited submission of a full stage application

The timetable for both stages of round two is provided in Annex 1.

The purpose of the outline stage is to identify and prioritise high potential ideas to progress to the full stage. Your application will be assessed against the scheme objectives and assessment criteria outlined in the funding opportunity when published. A more detailed assessment of your proposal will be undertaken at the full stage.

Full stage applications will not be accepted from any applicant who has not been invited to make a full application following the outline stage of this funding opportunity.

1.6.1 Changes between outline and full stage applications

Project co-leads or collaborators can be changed or added between the outline and full application stage with reasonable justification, however, please note that this funding opportunity is looking for co-creation and design of the proposal from all disciplines involved, and while project co-leads can be added at the full stage, we encourage collaboration at project inception. If the project lead changes since submission of the outline stage application, please contact us, so that we can confirm eligibility to proceed with your full stage application.

2. Planning your application

2.1 Responsibilities of lead organisations

It is the responsibility of the lead organisations (organisation of the project lead) to ensure that all applicants are eligible for the scheme, following the eligibility rules for both UK and international applicants (section 3.2). Lead organisations should support applicants with their applications to ensure they are meeting the scheme objectives. Lead organisations should also support applicants with the submission of their application via the UKRI Funding Service, ensuring that approved applications are submitted to UKRI by the deadline. Late submissions, including the return of applications for amendment, are not permitted in the Funding Service, unless there were exceptional circumstances preventing the submission of the application.

By submission of an application, the lead organisation indicates:

- its formal acceptance of the application
- acceptance of the UKRI grant terms and conditions and any award-specific terms and conditions as specified on the award letter
- the eligibility of the applicants and collaborating organisations
- the approval of the salaries and resources sought

2.1.1 Institutional caps for lead organisations

The UKRI cross research council responsive mode scheme is highly competitive, with nearly 1,000 applications submitted in round one. An increase in submissions in round two would exceed the assessment capacity of the Interdisciplinary Assessment College.

To avoid this, and ensure that applications are assessed and administrated in a timely and effective manner, we have introduced institutional caps for round two. Organisations will be given a cap and are asked to prioritise their applications to submit within this allocation limit. The allocation numbers have been calculated based on submissions to the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) with the number of CRCRM applications permitted related to the FTE staff numbers included within each organisation’s REF submission (see table below). This aligns with approach taken by the Future Leaders Fellowship scheme.

Organisation caps apply to applications being led by their organisation; they do not constrain the ability of their staff to be involved in applications as project co-leads being led by other organisations.

REF Group	Number of FTE Staff submitted to the REF 2021	Number of ROs	Number of applications permitted for R2	Total applications	Cumulative applications
1	>2000	5	20	100	100
2	1400-1999	8	16	128	228
3	1000 - 1399	9	12	108	336
4	600-999	19	7	133	469
5	400-599	21	5	105	574
6	200-399	31	3	93	667
7	<200	77	2	154	**821**

The table in Annex 2 includes all research organisations that submitted to the REF 2021 and to round one of the CRCRM scheme. Eligible organisations who did not submit to the REF, including NHS bodies, public sector research establishments and independent research organisations, are permitted to submit a maximum of 2 applications to this funding opportunity. If your organisation is not listed in the table, please contact the team at ukrirm@ukri.org to confirm your eligibility.

2.1.2 Inclusive selection process statement and supporting data

The UKRI cross research council responsive mode scheme supports the ambitions set out in both UKRI strategy and the Government's People and Culture strategy to create an open and inclusive research and innovation culture that attracts a diversity of people to enhance UK research and innovation capabilities and boost productivity and growth. Solving the most complex research and innovation challenges requires a diversity of approaches, skills, and perspectives as this supports collaborative and creative problem-solving, fostering novel ideas and innovations. Research and Innovation outputs and impacts are strengthened when people with different expertise, experiences, approaches and ways of thinking work together.

UKRI recently commissioned the Careers Research and Advisory Centre (CRAC) to review the preparation and selection processes which have been undertaken in research and innovation organisations who have submitted applications to the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF) scheme, a pan-UKRI scheme which has also introduced institutional caps per round. The review makes several recommendations which UKRI responded to in this report.

Following the recommendations of the report, the FLF scheme, and now the CRCRM scheme, are collecting data on how lead organisations select applications for submission. As Higher Education Institutions have a responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to advance equality of opportunity, the collection and reporting of data at a scheme level will provide lead organisations with evidence to demonstrate compliance with this duty alongside providing insights into how effective their selection policies and procedures are. Data collection is an early and vital step in the process of designing

initiatives to tackle issues related to inequality, checking that an initiative is having the desired effects and making changes to an initiative, if required.

As part of the selection process for submissions to round two of the UKRI cross research council responsive mode scheme, lead organisations must provide a statement describing the inclusive process they used to identify and select the applications for submission. It should not include personal details of potential applicants nor any details that may enable them to be identified. The statement should be no more than 1000 words. Please refer to Annex 3 for guidance on what to consider.

Lead organisations must also provide anonymised information on the number of prospective applications with details of the sex and gender, ethnicity and disability of the applicants and the broad interdisciplinary group of the application subject area (see section 7.1 for details on how the scheme groups applications into “interface panels”). A summary of the data requested is provided in Annex 4.

Lead organisations are required to complete both the statement form and data tables in the Excel template provided in the Additional Section of the funding opportunity, and submit it to the Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode (IRM) team at ukrirm@ukri.org by the deadline (**19 November 2024, at 4.00 pm UK time**). Research offices should consider how they will be selecting applications early and it is the lead organisation’s responsibility to ensure that applicants and research support staff have adequate time to work on their submissions.

Information provided will not be used in the assessment or outcome of this funding opportunity. Applications submitted by lead organisations that have not reported on this process will be rejected prior to panel assessment.

2.2 Resubmissions

If an application was unsuccessful at the outline stage of round one of this scheme, it can be resubmitted to round two subject to the selection of the application by the lead organisation for submission within the institutional cap on the number of applications.

For this scheme the same resubmission rules apply for applications that have been previously submitted to research council responsive mode opportunities. If your application has been unsuccessful after peer review assessment at full stage, you cannot resubmit your application to this scheme.

This means, if the application was invited through to the full stage of round one but was unsuccessful after panel assessment, it will not be eligible to resubmit the same application to round two unless you have been allowed to resubmit under the invited resubmission policy. To be considered as a new submission, the application should overall represent a substantially different package of work, such as a different research idea, with different aims and objectives.

2.3 Responsibilities of applicants

2.3.1. Application submission

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure you apply to the correct funding opportunity and to submit your application with adequate time to allow your research organisation to complete the necessary checks and complete the final submission to us by 4 pm on the advertised closing date.

Late submissions, including the return of applications for amendment, are not permitted in the Funding Service, unless there were exceptional circumstances preventing the submission of the application.

2.3.2 Conditions of awarded grants

If successful in securing an award from the CRCRM scheme, the UKRI terms and conditions for research grants apply. Scheme specific terms and conditions also apply, which will be included in the offer letter for successful applicants. This includes engagement with UKRI on the evaluation of the pilot scheme, including any third-party provider commissioned by UKRI for this activity. Successful applicants will also be requested to attend three UKRI scheme events during the duration of the grant (see section 4.1.2.3).

We encourage applicants to hold discussions with their organisations early on to discuss eligibility and contracts in the event of the award. UKRI are unable to contribute to support discussions between applicants and organisations in regards to their contract of employment which includes salary and benefits.

We expect all funded researchers to adopt the highest achievable standards in the conduct of their research. This means exhibiting impeccable research integrity and following the principles of good research practice. The Good research resource hub on the UKRI website brings together policies, standards and guidance to support researchers and organisations.

As part of this, you must declare any private, personal or commercial interests relating to an application for funding to the research councils at application submission by contacting support@funding-service.ukri.org. Refer to our guidance for examples of conflicts of interest and to UKRI declarations of interest policy and guidance.

2.3.3 Data management

We expect you to make your research data openly available with as few restrictions as possible in a timely and responsible manner. Guidance is available at Making your research data open.

You should:

- determine if, how and where your data should be shared based on good practice for the type(s) of research data that will be generated
- refer to the research council research data sharing policy(s) and guidance most applicable to the type(s) of research data that will be generated from your research. These policies include best practice and preferred repositories for some types of data, for example the ESRC-supported UK Data Service and the NERC-supported Environmental Data Service

Our guidance on best practice in the management of research data, also provides general guidance about sharing and managing your research data in line with our common principles. UKRI's Good Research Resource Hub includes some external resources that you may also find helpful when deciding how to share and manage your research data.

We support costs associated with research data management and sharing. You should ensure costs for these activities are included in your funding application.

If you are considering using NERC's Environmental Data Service, costs for this will need to be included in your full stage application. You should contact data@nerc.ukri.org for further information.

There is no fee to use the ESRC-supported UK Data Service but you should include costs in your full stage application relating to preparing data for deposit. Further information about UK Data Service and research data management is available via the UK Data Service website.

Some additional information on research data costs is provided in the guidance on best practice in the management of research data.

3. Who can apply

3.1 Organisation eligibility

Research grants are open to UK organisations normally eligible for funding from the UKRI research councils, including:

- UK higher education providers
- research council institutes
- UKRI approved independent research organisations (IROs)
- public sector research establishments (PSREs)

For full details, visit Eligibility of your organisation. If you are unsure, please contact the Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode (IRM) team at ukrirm@ukri.org for advice.

3.1.1 Organisations not eligible to apply

The following organisations are not eligible to apply to this scheme:

- research and technology organisations unless they are listed as eligible
- non-academic organisations, such as businesses, charities or other third-sector organisations that are not UKRI approved IROs or PSREs. These organisations can contribute as project partners (for more information see section 3.2.3).

Current co-funding arrangements via international lead agency agreements with individual research councils, do not apply to this pilot funding opportunity.
We will make minimal checks on eligibility at the outline submission stage of this scheme (lead organisation only). It is the responsibility of the UK lead research organisation to check eligibility of all collaborating organisations (UK and international) and the eligibility of individuals for their proposed roles. Applications submitted with ineligible applicants could be at risk of being rejected at the full stage.

3.2 Person eligibility and grant roles

You can apply as an individual or team, from a single organisation or across a number of organisations. For teams with multiple organisations involved, the organisation of the project lead should submit the application, and it will count towards that lead organisation's allocation of applications that they are permitted to submit (see section 2.1.1).

UKRI has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the new UKRI Funding Service.

For full details, visit Eligibility as an individual. For a full description of all grant roles see the guidance on role eligibility, responsibilities and costings.

You may be involved in any number of applications provided you have the capacity to meet these commitments. You may be the project lead on only one application to this round of the pilot scheme.

3.2.1 UK Project lead and Project co-lead eligibility

The project lead is the individual responsible for the intellectual leadership of the project and its overall management. If intellectual leadership is shared, the project lead is the individual who will be the main contact for UKRI.

The project co-lead (UK) assists the project lead in the management and leadership of the project and may deputise or take over the leadership of the project if required. There may be a number of project co-leads supporting the project lead. To be a project co-lead, you must be affiliated with one of the research organisations submitting the application.

You must meet all the following essential requirements:

- usually have at least a postgraduate degree, although we expect most applicants to have a PhD or equivalent

- be a researcher based in the UK and employed by an eligible research organisation. The exceptions to this are if your project will involve long periods in another country, uou are located at an eligible international research organisation (for example, CERN or a Medical Research Council Overseas Unit), or you will be moving to the UK to take up an already agreed contract at an eligible organisation (the contract must not be dependent on the outcome of the application) and will remain resident in the UK for the duration of the proposed project

- a contract of employment at lecturer level or equivalent that either extends to beyond the duration of the proposed grant (or, if not employed by the submitting organisation, a formal non-salaried arrangement that extends to beyond the duration of the proposed grant), or an assurance from the submitting organisation that, if the proposal is successful, a pre-existing contract of employment (or pre-existing formal commitment to provide support if not employed at the organisation) at lecturer level or equivalent will be extended beyond the end date of the grant

Researcher co-leads are also permitted as part of the core team if they have made a significant contribution to the design of the project and application.

3.2.2 International applicants

This funding opportunity is primarily to support interdisciplinary ideas emerging from the UK research community, but in specific circumstances we will allow international project co-leads.

A project co-lead (international) is an individual employed by a research organisation (RO) in an overseas country, who would otherwise fit the normal definition for a project co-lead. That is, they are a member of the project leadership and management team. However, a project co-lead (international) cannot take over the leadership of a project as they do not meet the residency criteria for a project lead.

To be a project co-lead (international):

- you would be expected to make a significant intellectual contribution to the design and conduct of the project
- your contribution and added value to the research collaboration should be clearly explained and justified in the application

3.2.2.1 International research organisations

International research organisations can receive funding for an international project co-lead. The UK research organisation which hosts the project lead will be responsible for the due diligence and confirming that the international research organisation and project co-lead meets the eligibility criteria.

The international research organisation would be expected to meet the general equivalent eligibility requirements for being eligible to receive UKRI funding taking into account the national context of the international research organisation.

This means the international RO should meet the relevant equivalent criteria specified in the guidance applicable for:

- registered Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- research institutes receiving long term investments through relevant national funders
- independent research organisations with existing in-house capacity to carry out and lead research, including but not limited to approved charitable or non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

Organisations must be non-profit making and must be able to demonstrate:

- they have satisfactory controls in place to manage research funding
- an independent capability to undertake and lead research programmes

To demonstrate this, organisations need to confirm that they have:

- a sufficient high-quality current research capacity. This requires:
    - a minimum of ten researchers with PhDs (or equivalent experience)
    - a track record of staff, while employed at the organisation, leading or co-leading innovative research projects in the previous five years, including directing other postdoctoral researchers and/or research students. This should include evidence of the size and complexity of the projects and details of how they were managed and coordinated
- sufficient financial support for research at the organisational level to ensure the availability of essential infrastructure and the long-term sustainability of research activity
- importance and relevance of the research capability to the funding opportunity being applied for
- evidence of the organisation having a strong track record of maximising the wider impact and value of its research

Any funding received by an Independent Research Organisation must NOT be utilised in relation to:

- A company with which it is “Connected”
- A company which it “Controls”
  or
- A company, partnership or enterprise to which it is entitled to the beneficial ownership of more than 50% of the issued share capital of a company or share of the profits of a partnership or enterprise or the legal power to direct or cause the direction of the general management of the company, partnership or enterprise. Where the operation or purpose of that company, partnership or enterprise is, or is intended to realise a profit for the benefit of shareholders or other investors in the company, partnership or enterprise

For further information, please refer to the UKRI project co-lead (international) policy and guidance.

3.2.2.2 Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I)

UKRI is committed in ensuring that effective international collaboration in research and innovation takes place with integrity and within strong ethical frameworks. Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I) is a UKRI work programme designed to help protect all those working in our thriving and collaborative international sector by enabling partnerships to be as open as possible, and as secure as necessary. Our TR&I Principles set out UKRI's expectations of organisations funded by UKRI in relation to due diligence for international collaboration.

As such, applicants for UKRI funding may be asked to demonstrate how their proposed projects will comply with our approach and expectation towards TR&I, identifying potential risks and the relevant controls you will put in place to help proportionately reduce these risks.
Further guidance and information about TR&I – including where applicants can find additional support – can be found on UKRI's website.

3.2.3 Collaborators

3.2.3.1 Project partners

A project partner is defined as a third-party person or organisation (including international or non-academic collaborations) who provides specific contributions to the team and project.

Organisations that are applicants on the project, including any named applicants' organisations, cannot also be a project partner. UKRI Head Office staff acting in their capacity as a UKRI employee are not eligible to be project partners.

Project partners are expected to provide contributions to the delivery of the project, either in cash or in kind, and should not therefore be seeking to claim funds from UKRI. However, where there are specific circumstances where project partners require funding for minor directly incurred costs such as travel and subsistence, this will usually be paid at 80% FEC unless otherwise stated by us. For the outline stage application, you can a use a notional amount or £0 when asked for the monetary value of the project partner contributions. These costs will need to be outlined and fully justified in your full application and will be subject to peer review.

3.2.3.2 Project subcontractor

A project subcontractor is defined as a third-party individual who is not employed as staff on the grant, who is subcontracted by a participating organisation to deliver a specific piece of work. Subcontractors will be allowed in line with UKRI terms and conditions for research grants.

3.2.3.3 Collaborators entitlement to project outputs and intellectual property

Entitlement to the outputs of a project or intellectual property will be determined between the parties involved, however any access to project outputs or intellectual property must be

in line with any relevant Subsidy Control regulation. Under UKRI terms and conditions for research grants you must ensure at all times that the grant funding awarded to you is compliant with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

Any entitlements will need to be set out in a formal collaboration agreement if a grant is awarded, as per FEC Grant condition RGC 12.1. Ensure you have obtained prior agreement from project partners that, should you be offered funding, they will support your project.

The guidance in the MRC Industry Collaboration Framework can be used as a basis for discussions with your collaborators and support the development of your collaboration and provides some additional guidance on subsidy control. The guidance will help you decide whether your collaborators are project partners, sub-contractors or suppliers. It facilitates collaborations by supporting academic and industry partners to work out and clearly specify arrangements before a project starts. You should ensure you have had the necessary discussions with any project partners that will form the basis for the collaboration agreement prior to submitting your applications including:

- relative responsibilities
- intellectual property rights
- financial contributions
- access to data, materials and equipment

3.2.3.4 Dual roles

An organisation or individual can act as both a project partner and subcontractor, however this must be fully justified and will be subject to peer review. This enables the organisation/individual to receive recognition as a project partner for the elements of their contribution to the project that is in an integral or meaningful capacity, which they wouldn't be eligible for if they were included only as a subcontractor. As a rule, we would expect project partner costs to be minor, but where the project needs work to be undertaken that is more significant and includes costs other than travel and subsistence, then the organisation/individual to be contracted may need to be included as both a project partner and a subcontractor.

As a subcontractor a company would be able to claim costs but not have access to any IP arising from the research, while a project partner would be contributing to the project both intellectually and financially (through cash or in-kind resources) and would potentially have some rights to any IP developed and early access to results. Therefore, where a collaborating organisation has a dual role, to avoid conflicts of interest, the work packages should be discreet and the outputs from them can be separated. Separate agreements will need to be put in place by the research organisations to cover the dual roles on the grant.

We advise applicants to speak to their organisation's tech transfer office or equivalent department (i.e. the department who would be responsible for drafting and signing the collaboration agreement and/or subcontracting agreement if funded) as soon as possible, who will be able to advise on how to manage partnerships.

3.2.4. Who is not eligible to apply

Doctoral students are not eligible for this scheme and funds are not available for PhD studentships.

3.3 Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all funding applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances.

This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns

Find out more about equality, diversity and inclusion at UKRI.

3.3.1 Supporting skills and talent

We encourage you to follow the principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and the Technician Commitment.

3.3.2 Research disruption due to COVID-19

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major interruptions and disruptions across our communities. We are committed to ensuring that individual applicants and their wider team, including partners and networks, are not penalised for any disruption to their career, such as:

- breaks and delays
- disruptive working patterns and conditions
- the loss of ongoing work
- role changes that may have been caused by the pandemic

Panel members will be advised to consider the unequal impacts that COVID-19 related disruption might have had on the capability to deliver and career development of those individuals included in the application. They will be asked to consider the capability of the applicant and their wider team to deliver the research they are proposing.
Where disruptions have occurred, you can highlight this within your application if you wish, but there is no requirement to detail the specific circumstances that caused the disruption.

3.3.3 Additional disability and accessibility adjustments

UKRI can offer disability and accessibility support for UKRI applicants and grant holders during the application and assessment process if required.

4. Costs we fund

Applications should be costed based on the full economic costs (FEC) necessary to deliver the research. If a grant is awarded, we will typically fund 80% of the FEC (with some exceptions), and the organisations must agree to find the balance of FEC from other resources.

Universities and other higher education organisations must use transparent approach to costing (TRAC) to calculate the cost of the project's activities. TRAC has been validated by UKRI and is subject to ongoing review. Other research organisations, research institutes and public sector research establishments can use dispensation rates or can calculate their own rates for validation by UKRI funding assurance.

Indexation must not be included as this is calculated once the grant has been awarded and accepted.

All costs requested should be justified within the resource and cost justification section of your application.

Further guidance on UKRI FEC costings can be found in the UKRI Terms and Conditions 'Costings information'.

4.1 Costs for UK project leads and UK project co-leads

4.1.1 Directly allocated costs

Directly allocated costs are resources used by a project that are shared by other activities. They are charged to projects based on estimates rather than actual costs and do not represent actual costs on a project-by project basis.

Directly allocated costs are funded at 80% FEC, and include:

- Staff
- Estates
- Other Directly Allocated costs

4.1.1.1 Staff

If an applicant's time is shared across other activities and therefore being charged to the grant based on estimates, you should include it as a directly allocated cost. If their time is instead actual, auditable, and verifiable you should include it as a directly incurred staff cost. See guidance on cost headings to use for each role.
Applications need to show the costs of time to be charged to the project by project leads and co-leads. This will be derived from hours on the project and relevant salary rate, which could be based on an average or pool rate. The applicant's proposed time commitment for the project, but not their salary itself, must be justified.

4.1.1.2 Estates

Estate costs provide a share of the cost of providing the physical infrastructure for research. These costs may include building and premises costs, basic services and utilities and any clerical staff and equipment maintenance or operational costs that are not included under other cost headings.

Your research organisation will calculate these costs using TRAC, so they will vary between organisations. A single figure will be required for your application. Information about the calculation of, or justification of, estates costs is not required. We will not question the estates costs requested. However, we will take into account the full cost of the proposed research in any assessment of its value for money.

Visit roles in funding applications to find out which project team roles attract estates costs in addition to salary costs.

Where any named individual will be working away from the research organisation on long-term secondment for over six months during the project, estates costs should not be charged for the period of secondment. No reductions should be made for shorter-term absences.
Where the level of staff effort to be awarded is different to that requested, the research organisation must recalculate the estates and indirect costs within 10 working days, using the same costing basis and TRAC rates in force at time of application.

4.1.1.3 Other Directly Allocated

These comprise all other direct costs calculated based on estimates, which are not included in the research organisation's estates or indirect cost rates.
Items that can be included under this heading are:

- charge-out costs for use of major facilities
- charge-out costs for use of existing equipment
- charge-out costs for 'pool staff', departmental technical and administrative services
- animal costs

Charge-out costs will vary by research organisation. We will take this into consideration during the assessment process.

4.1.2 Directly incurred costs

4.1.2.1 Staff

This includes the payroll costs of all staff where the individual's cost to the project is based on actual rather than estimated amounts of time to be spent on the project, usually traced throughout the project using timesheets.

They may already be employed by one of the organisations that will be involved during the course of the project if the application is successful, but they can also be contracted in

after project funds have been awarded. See guidance on cost headings to use for each role.

4.1.2.2 Equipment

Individual items of equipment above £10,000 (inclusive of VAT) can be included if both of the following apply:

- the equipment is essential to the proposed research
- no appropriate alternative provision can be accessed

UKRI will fund up to 80% of the cost of equipment.

Equipment costing more than £10,000 should be subject to external competition to ensure best value for money. UKRI will meet the costs of new equipment, the costs of equipment repair and major spares, the costs of external maintenance agreements and the cost of equipment relocation and installation, where required by the proposed research. If applicable the research organisation should make its own arrangements for applying for exemption from import duty.

Requirements at the full stage

For a full stage application, single items of equipment costing between £10,000 (inclusive of VAT) and £138,000 (inclusive of VAT) must be included under the Directly Incurred 'Equipment' fund type heading (items under £10k should be listed under Other Directly Incurred costs as consumables). Please note the £10,000 includes all component parts of the equipment requested, either purchased or leased.

This is an opportunity for research projects; applications focused on capital requests for research infrastructures are not eligible. Therefore, if you wish to request funding for equipment over £138,000 you will need to inform us by sending an email to ukrirm@ukri.org before submitting your application.

For any single items of equipment costing over £138,000 (inclusive of VAT), they must be included under the 'Equipment' fund type heading and the strategic need for the equipment should be included within the resources and cost justification section. An additional 1,000 words will be allowed for this.

4.1.2.3 Travel and subsistence

Funds for travel and subsistence for the applicant and any staff working on the project, including any overseas costs, can be requested on the grant.

All travel must occur between the start and end date of the award and must be costed by the most suitable and economical means, at current prices and with no allowance for inflation. Subsistence rates, both UK and overseas, must be those applicable within the research organisation(s).
UKRI will hold three events within the duration of the grants awarded. It will be a condition of the grant that all grants are represented by at least 1 person at each event and up to

three members of the team will be invited to attend. Costs associated with attendance at these events should be met from within the grant award (for round one, £2000 will be added by UKRI to each award). Applicants should therefore factor in any associated travel, subsistence, and childcare costs into their application. Where events run for more than 1 day UKRI will provide accommodation at the venue. It is expected that annual events will take place at a variety of UK locations.

4.1.2.4 Other Directly Incurred costs

Other costs directly attributed to the project may include, but is not limited to:

- consumables (including individual items of equipment below £10,000)
- recruitment and advertising costs for staff directly employed on the project
- costs associated with research data management and sharing (see section 2.3.2)
- access to research facilities and services (see section 5 for further guidance)
- sub-contractor fees
- consultancy fees
- additional childcare, beyond that required to meet the normal contracted requirements of your role, and that are directly related to the project, may be requested if the institutional policy is to reimburse them. However childcare costs associated with normal working patterns may not be sought.
- Animal costs
- NHS costs
- training needs
- costs associated with reasonable adjustments where they increase as a direct result of working on the project (see section 3.3.3 for a link to further guidance).

4.1.3 Indirect costs

These include non-specific costs charged across all projects based on estimates that are not otherwise included as Directly Allocated costs. They include the costs of the Research Organisation's management and administration services, such as personnel, finance, library and some departmental services.

Like estates, the research organisation will calculate indirect costs and a single figure is required for the application. Visit roles in funding applications to find out which project team roles attract indirect costs in addition to salary costs.

4.1.4 Exceptions

These are Directly Incurred costs that UKRI will fund at 100%, subject to actual expenditure incurred, or items that are outside FEC costs incurred by the Project co-lead (international), including salary, where applicable (see section 4.2).

4.1.4.1 Social surveys

Any social surveys which are sub-contracted to a third party (such as a specialist survey company) will be funded as exceptions at 100% FEC, regardless of value, and should be included under the equipment subheading. Surveys completed using the in-house

resources of a project co-lead's UK research organisation are not eligible as exceptions and should instead be included under the directly incurred heading.

Project co-leads (international) may claim in-house survey costs as exceptions under the subheading, 'other'.
Additional justification is required for subcontracted surveys above £10,000, which are subject to normal competitive purchasing principles.

4.2. Costs for international project co-leads

For international project co-Lead costs, UKRI will award funding to the UK lead organisation, this organisation will then be responsible for distributing funds to the international research organisation. Justified costs will be funded at 100% and should be included under Exceptions. Estate and indirect costs are not eligible. The total costs claimed for international project co-lead contribution to a project must not exceed 30% of the overall cost of the project, calculated at 100% full economic cost.
These costs can cover:

- directly incurred costs, such as travel and subsistence
- research assistants (for example salary costs)
- salary costs, only where these costs are fully justified and it can be demonstrated that the funding of salaries by grants is the standard practice of the international research organisation, and these costs cannot be covered through other sources

International project co-leads will need to be individuals from an established international research organisation who would otherwise fit the normal definition for a project lead (see section 3.2.2).

4.3 What we will not fund

The costs listed below are not permitted and you should not include them in your application:

- fees or stipends associated with master's and PhD studentships
- estate and indirect costs for international project co-leads
- equipment over £10,000 (inclusive of VAT) for international project co-leads
- publication costs. See the UKRI open access policy for further information
- basic computing equipment for directly allocated staff already employed by the organisation (unless justified where a higher specification is required for the completion of specific grant related activities such as data modelling or enhanced graphics
- contingency costs for visas for unknown researchers at the point of application

5. Access to UKRI supported facilities and services

Applicants to this scheme can request access to UKRI supported facilities and services (listed here).

The following rules apply when requesting access to a UKRI facility for this scheme:

- costs will be funded from the grant at 80% FEC;
- research organisations will be responsible for the remaining 20% i.e. facilities will be reimbursed at 100% FEC by the host organisation
- you will need to check you are eligible to access the facility
- you should have discussed your research proposal with the facility or service you want to use before you submitted your outline funding application
- you should make sure that you are aware of the access procedures, resource availability and timelines at an early stage in developing your proposal. You may need to apply directly to the facility or service as well as including it in your funding application
- you will need to provide confirmation that you can use the facility or service, which may include a technical assessment form or quote, if your application is successful
- exceptionally applicants may request a delay to the grant start date to allow access to a UKRI supported facility, of up to 12 months from the date of the award letter. This will need to be requested at the outline stage and fully justified. Requests should be made by emailing ukrirm@ukri.org by the funding opportunity deadline of 19 November 2024 4:00pm UK time. You should therefore discuss your requests with the facilities before the outline stage deadline to get an understanding of the facility access timelines and the estimated delay to the start date

5.1 EPSRC-supported facilities

Please refer to the UKRI-supported facilities webinar recording and associated slides for information on which EPSRC-supported facilities are eligible for this funding opportunity (slides 46-51). Links to these can be found under the “Opportunities, support and resources available” section of our scheme pages.

5.2 Exceptions for access to NERC large research infrastructure facilities

We recognise that having to include the high cost of some NERC large research infrastructure facilities within the £1.2 million (100% FEC) grant maximum may inhibit applications, as these facilities are normally available to environmental sciences through separate NERC budgets. For the following NERC facilities, we will allow you to exceed the maximum budget limit to up to £250,000 (100% FEC):

- ship-time and marine facilities
- polar research facilities
- Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements (FAAM)

If your proposed research requires access to these facilities, you will need to contact the facility to discuss the feasibility of your project and obtain approximate costings in advance of the outline stage application submission. Please use the guidance below for who to contact.

Requests to exceed the maximum budget should be made by emailing ukrirm@ukri.org by the opportunity deadline of 19 November 2024 4:00pm UK time. You will need to provide an estimate of any additional costs that exceed the £1.2 million budget limit or any potential delay to the start date to access these facilities and justify this. Final costings and approvals can be determined at the full stage if invited to submit.

5.2.1 Ship-time and marine facilities

If you intend to apply for NERC's marine facilities, you must contact marineplanning@nerc.ukri.org to discuss ship-time and equipment needs before the outline stage submission, including the feasibility of scheduling and approximate cost of your proposed request.

If advised to, you must then complete an online 'SME or autonomous deployment (ADF) application form' available from Marine Facilities Planning. SMEs or ADFs must be submitted to NERC Marine Planning by the time your outline stage application is submitted (19 November 2024). If approved and your application is invited to submit to the full stage, include the SME or ADF number on the 'facilities' section of your application.

5.2.2 Polar research facilities

5.2.2.1 British Antarctic Survey (BAS) Antarctic Logistic Support

If you are looking to make use of British Antarctic Survey Antarctic or sub-Antarctic logistics support then you should contact the Antarctic Access Office (afibas@bas.ac.uk) at an early stage, and no later than **25 October 2024** to discuss their fieldwork plans. This is to allow BAS Operations to provide an early indication as to timelines for support and to advise on any significant costs wish may need to be accounted for. If advised to, you must then complete a pre-award operational support planning questionnaire (OSPQ) online, stating your name, institution and project title, by the time of your outline stage application is submitted (**19 November 2024**).

You should also be aware of the NERC update on polar research planning.

5.2.2.2 NERC Arctic Research Station

If you are requesting access to the NERC UK Arctic Research Station you must contact the Station Manager (arctic@bas.ac.uk) as early as possible and no later than eight weeks before the outline stage submission deadline (19 November 2024) to discuss the support required and approximate costs. You will then need to complete a NERC Arctic Research Station application form and return it to the Station Manager for review before the outline stage submission deadline to ensure your project can be supported. You can find out more about what the Station can offer on the NERC UK Arctic Research Station website or contact arctic@bas.ac.uk.

5.2.3 Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements (FAAM)

To apply to use the FAAM Airborne Laboratory (see NERC Research Grants - FAAM), you will need to start the process by contacting the FAAM Operations Manager at least six

months before the funding opportunity closing date, and at least 18 months before the proposed start of flying. Early contact allows the FAAM team to share information on timetabling, technical details and costs. You will need to take the availability of FAAM into account in your research plans within your application, including any requests to exceed the maximum budget limit as part of the outline stage.

After initial discussions, you should submit a full FAAM Project Proposal Form. Your proposal will allow the FAAM team to further evaluate and document the project feasibility and costs, in a process which takes at least four weeks. The resulting FAAM Technical Assessment (and cost estimate), signed by the Head of FAAM, should be used to complete your full stage application.

6. How to apply

We are running both stages of this funding opportunity on the new UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service, so please ensure that your organisation is registered. You cannot apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

Watch our research office webinars about the new UKRI Funding Service.

For more guidance on the UKRI Funding Service, see:

- how applicants use the UKRI Funding Service
- how research offices use the UKRI Funding Service
- how reviewers use the UKRI Funding Service

6.1 Outline stage application

The outline stage is now open in the Funding Service for applications: https://funding-service.ukri.org/OPP697/apply/761

The deadline is **19 November 2024 at 4:00 pm UK time.**

6.1.1 Application questions

The following sections indicate what you need to include in your outline application. Apart from the Outline Vision and Approach (PDF attachment), each section will require direct input of your answer into the Funding Service.

6.1.1.1 Summary

Word limit: 550

In plain English, provide a summary we can use to identify the most suitable experts to assess your application.

We usually make this summary publicly available on external-facing websites, therefore do not include any confidential or sensitive information.

Make it suitable for a variety of readers, for example:

- opinion-formers
- policymakers
- the public
- the wider research community

Guidance for writing a summary:

Clearly describe your proposed work in terms of:

- context
- the challenge the project addresses
- aims and objectives
- potential applications and benefits

6.1.1.2 Core team

List the key members of your team and assign them roles from the following:

- project lead (PL)
- project co-lead (UK) (PcL)
- project co-lead (international) (PcL (I))
- researcher co-lead (RcL)
- specialist
- grant manager
- professional enabling staff
- research and innovation associate
- technician
- visiting researcher

Only list one individual as project lead.

Find out more about UKRI's core team roles in funding applications.

6.1.1.3 Classification of your proposed research

Word limit: 100

Which areas of research does your proposed work include?

These may include research areas, concepts, approaches, techniques, or technologies that will be explored.

To help UKRI identify panel members to assess your application, please enter a minimum of 2 and no more than 10 keywords from the list provided (see Annex 5), separated by semi-colons.

Please ensure that you use the precise codes and wording of the research areas as provided in the list (we suggest you use the copy and paste functions). You are permitted one free text keyword or phrase, reserved only for where your proposed research is not represented by the research areas provided. Please use the code FREE as a pre-fix if you include a free text keyword. Please put this keyword or phrase at the end of your list.

6.1.1.4 Application history

Word limit: 30

Did you submit a version of this application to the outline stage of round one of this scheme: UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme: round one?

Please respond “Yes” or “No”.

If your response is “Yes”, please provide the Je-S grant reference(s) of your round one outline stage application, in the following format: MR/YXXXXXX/X

As Project Lead for this application, please indicate what your role was on the previous application.

6.1.1.5 Fit to opportunity

Word limit: 250

Describe the interdisciplinary nature of your proposed research

You should explain:

- how your research could only be achieved through interdisciplinary research, compared to a multidisciplinary approach
- how the different disciplines will be integrated in the research application
- demonstrate the potential for reciprocal research benefits for the disciplines involved
- how you have co-created or co-designed the project with input from all the disciplines needed for successful delivery of the project

Within the Fit to opportunity section we also expect you to:

- clearly demonstrate that the research involves disciplines from more than one research council and explores new types of, and approaches to, interdisciplinary research not routinely funded through existing UKRI responsive mode schemes. Work that is within a single discipline or disciplines that fall within a single research council are ineligible for this scheme

Guidance for this section:
You should refer to the “What we are looking for” section of this funding opportunity for guidance on the scope, the scheme’s objectives and how we define interdisciplinary research.

6.1.1.6 Outline Vision and Approach

Create a document that includes your responses to all criteria. The document should not be more than two sides of A4, single spaced in paper in 11-point Arial (or equivalent sans serif font) with margins of at least 2cm. You may include images, graphs, tables.
For the file name, use the unique Funding Service number the system gives you when you create an application, followed by the words 'Outline Vision and Approach'.
Save this document as a single PDF file, no bigger than 8MB. Unless specifically requested, please do not include any sensitive personal data within the attachment.

If the attachment does not meet these requirements, the application will be rejected.

The Funding Service will provide document upload details when you apply.

What are you hoping to achieve with and how will you deliver your proposed work?

For the Outline Vision, explain how your proposed work:

- is of excellent quality and importance beyond the field(s) or area(s)
- has the potential to advance current understanding, generates new knowledge, thinking or discovery beyond the field or area
- is timely given current trends, context and needs
- impacts world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment

Within the Outline Vision section, we also expect you to:

- explain how your proposed work is of excellent quality and importance beyond established disciplinary thinking.
- demonstrate how the interdisciplinary approach will advance current understanding and generate new knowledge, thinking, concepts, techniques, methods or technologies or discoveries
- demonstrate that the proposed work has the potential for delivering ground-breaking and transformative outcomes that could only be achieved through interdisciplinary research

Guidance for the Outline Vision section:

This section should be up to half a page in length. Impact can be defined as the long-term intended or unintended effect research and innovation has on society, economy and the environment; to individuals, organisations, and the wider global population. ESRC have developed a toolkit that defines different types of impact, including academic impact, that may support you in considering the impact of your proposed research.

For the Outline Approach, explain how you have designed your work so that it:

- is effective and appropriate to achieve your objectives

Within the Outline Approach section, we also expect you to:

- clearly articulate how you will address the challenges that the integration of the disciplines could face
- clearly articulate the methods you will be using, particularly where new methods are being developed or where existing methodologies are being integrated

Guidance for the Outline Approach section:

This section should be up to one and a half pages in length. The high-level objectives for the proposed research must be included in this section with an explanation of how these will be approached. The level of detail required at the outline stage should be sufficient for the assessors to understand your project's goals, gauge their broad feasibility, and judge their potential outcomes, as well as contributions of the team and their available resources to achieving them. You may indicate background information, technical detail or relevant preliminary work to help support your objectives, but extensive explanation of these is not expected at the outline stage. It is expected that the high-level objectives will appear largely unchanged if you are invited to the full stage.

References may be included within this section.

6.1.1.7 Outline Applicant and team capability to deliver

Word limit: 250

How will the application team deliver the proposed research programme?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Evidence of how you, and if relevant your team, have:

- relevant experience and skills to develop and deliver the proposed research programme

Within this section we also expect you to:

- consider if the team represents the right set of skills and mix of perspectives to approach the proposed work

The core leadership team should consist of the project lead and the project co-leads identified on the outline application. We expect the full team of project leads and co-project leads to be established as part of the outline application and involved in the co-creation of the project. There may be exceptional circumstances where team members may need to change between outline and full stage, for example, a change in circumstances for a team member meaning they are no longer able to be part of the project. Further guidance will be given for full stage applications on addressing these changes. Showcase the range of relevant skills you and, if relevant, your team (project and project co-leads, researchers,

technicians, specialists, partners and so on) have and how this will help deliver the proposed work.

UKRI has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the Funding Service.

For full details, see Eligibility as an individual.

Guidance for this section:

In this section you should focus on describing the relevant skills of the team to deliver the work, including experience of the methods, approaches or technologies you are using. It does not require information on publication record, positions held or any other elements of a track record.
A strength of an interdisciplinary approach is that research challenges are tackled through a diversity of perspectives. We encourage applicants to consider all aspects of equality, diversity and inclusion in developing their research ideas and teams to ensure that the outcomes of research funded through this scheme can be maximized and are as broadly applicable as possible.

6.1.1.8 Project partners

Add details about any project partners' contributions. If there are no project partners, you can indicate this on the Funding Service.

A project partner is a collaborating organisation who will have an integral role in the proposed research. This may include direct (cash) or indirect (in-kind) contributions such as expertise, staff time or use of facilities.

Add the following project partner details:

- the organisation name and address (searchable via a drop-down list or enter the organisation's details manually, as applicable)
- the project partner contact name and email address
- the type of contribution (direct or in-direct) and its monetary value

If a detail is entered incorrectly and you have saved the entry, remove the specific project partner record and re-add it with the correct information.

For audit purposes, UKRI requires formal collaboration agreements to be put in place if an award is made.

6.2. Full stage application

The full stage application questions and assessment criteria will follow the same format as the full stage of round one.

The main full stage application sections will include, but not be limited to:

- a summary
- core team member details
- vision and approach
- applicant and team capability to deliver
- ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)
- resources and cost justification

However, please note that UKRI reserves the right to modify the application and assessment process outlined in the pre-announcement as the Funding Service enhances its functionality and reflecting on the evaluation of round one of the scheme.

Further details will be available when the full stage funding opportunity opens, due on **4 April 2025.**

7. How we will assess your application

Applications will be assessed by the Interdisciplinary Assessment College (IAC).

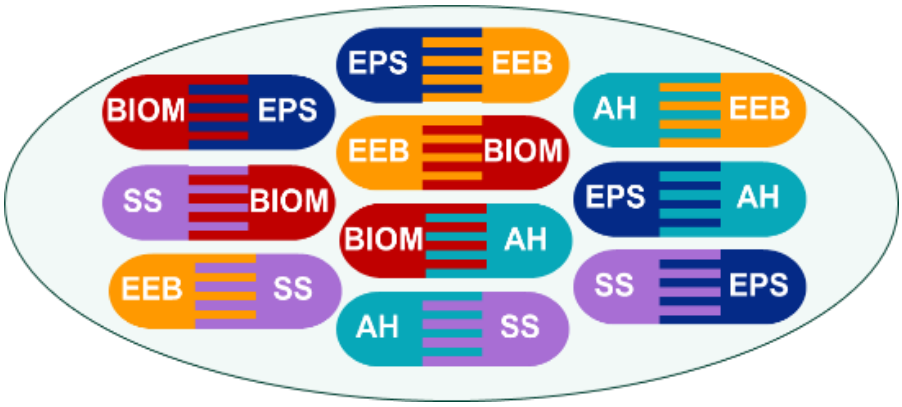
The IAC members have expertise and experience in interdisciplinary working and are trained specifically for this funding opportunity. Further details about the IAC are available on the CRCRM scheme webpages.

7.1 Interdisciplinary panels

Applications will be grouped into interdisciplinary panels that will work flexibly between rounds. Members of the IAC will be assigned to one panel for each round based on matching their expertise with the applications submitted. One Chair and one Deputy Chair will be selected for each panel taking into account availability and balancing the expertise, genders and research organisations of the Chairs. Roving panel members will be selected from the Chair pool to observe 3 panels.

The panels are based on 10 interdisciplinary clusters formed by the interfaces between 5 research domains:

Research Domain	Council relevance
Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS)	Includes the remits of EPSRC and STFC
Earth, Environment and Biological Sciences (EEB)	Includes the remits of NERC and some of BBSRC research areas of plant sciences, agriculture, aquaculture and animal research, as well as biotechnologies and tools that are relevant to these research areas would be included in this research domain. Some research areas funded through EPSRC energy, circular economy and advanced materials themes could also fit under this research domain.
Biomedical and Health (BIOM)	Includes the remits of MRC and some of BBSRC research areas relating to human health including biotechnologies and tools that are relevant to these research areas would be included in this research domain. Some research areas funded through EPSRC healthcare technologies and advanced materials themes could also fit under this research domain.
Arts and Humanities (AH)	Will be the majority of AHRC remit areas but will also include some areas relevant to ESRC.
Social sciences (SS)	Will be the majority of ESRC remit areas but will also include some areas relevant to AHRC.
Overlap between AHRC and ESRC remit areas can be found here: https://www.ukri.org/publications/research-overlapping-social-sciences-and-arts-and-humanities-joint-ahrc-and-esrc-statement/	



More than one panel per interface may be required if high numbers of applications are submitted relevant to one interface.

7.2 Assessment criteria for the outline stage

The Interdisciplinary Assessment College will assess applications based on:

Fit to opportunity

To what extent have the applicants explained:

- how their proposed work could only be achieved through interdisciplinary research, compared to a multidisciplinary approach
- how the different disciplines will be integrated in the research programme
- the potential for reciprocal research benefits for the disciplines involved
- how they have co-created /co-designed the project with input from all the disciplines needed for successful delivery of the project

Outline Vision

To what extent have the applicants explained how their proposed work:

- is of excellent quality and importance beyond the field(s) or areas(s)
- has the potential to advance current understanding, or generate new knowledge, thinking or discovery beyond the field or area
- is timely given current trends, context, and needs
- impacts world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment

Outline Approach

To what extent have the applicants demonstrated that they designed their approach so that it:

- is effective and appropriate to achieve their objectives

Outline Applicant and team capability to deliver

To what extent have the applicants demonstrated:

- that the team have the relevant experience and skills to develop and deliver the proposed work

Find details of assessment questions under section 6.1.1 Application questions.

We reserve the right to modify the assessment process as needed.

Details of the full stage application questions and criteria will be published when the full stage opens on 4 April 2025, but will be similar to the full stage of round one.

7.3 Outline stage assessment process

7.3.1 UKRI checks

Initial remit checks will be carried out by UKRI staff from across the research councils to ensure that the proposed research meets the requirement of spanning at least two research council remits. Applications will be considered out of scope where all the research areas outlined in an application fall within the remit of a single council or that the level of a second council remit is so low (i.e. < 10%) that the primary council would not consult another research council for joint assessment and award. UKRI will reject applications at this stage if they do not meet this objective of the scheme.

Minimal eligibility checks will only be done at the outline stage (lead organisation only). Full eligibility checks will be done for full applications. You should ensure that you adhere to the eligibility rules (see section 3). Applications submitted with ineligible applicants could be at risk of being rejected at the full stage.

7.3.2 Panel assignment and assessment phase

Your application will be assigned to an interdisciplinary panel (see section 7.1) based on the areas of research that you are proposing. Your application will be assessed by IAC members with appropriate and relevant expertise. The IAC members work flexibly across the panels and the panel membership will vary each round depending on the applications that are submitted.

Your application will be assigned to three college members for assessment, based on their appropriate expertise and experience in the interdisciplinary research areas, concepts, approaches, techniques, or technologies proposed. Your application may also be assessed by a generalist representative of the interdisciplinary panel your application is assigned to (see section 7.1 on interdisciplinary panels). Please ensure that your application is accessible to non-technical experts that might not have in depth knowledge of your specific areas of research.

7.3.3 Panel assessment

Following the assessment phase, college members who have assessed applications and Chairs will meet in panels to discuss the applications. They will use the evidence provided to assess the quality of your application and score it against the assessment criteria. Once all the applications have been scored the panel will make recommendations on which applications should be prioritised to be invited through to full stage by putting applications into four bands (see Annex 6 for banding definitions). External rovers from our IAC Chair Pool observe the assessment process and provide feedback to UKRI on the panels. Using this information UKRI will make the final decisions on applications to be invited through to full stage. UKRI will invite a maximum of 180 outline applications through to full stage.

Panel Chairs report back to UKRI on the outcomes of the panel assessments and Rovers report back on their observations. UKRI will make the final decision on which applications to invite to the full stage, across the panels.

The UKRI Project Board may use this stage to balance the portfolio and diversity of applications taken through to the full stage.

7.3.4 Feedback

The outcomes from the outline stage will include the banding and banding descriptions. We will provide applicants with an overview of common themes regarding successful and unsuccessful applications at this stage. The outline assessment process for round two is still to be finalised and it may be possible to provide some additional individual feedback.

7.4 Full stage assessment process

We will assess your full stage application using the following process.

7.4.1 Assessment phase

We will invite three members from the Interdisciplinary Assessment College to assess your application independently, against the specified criteria for this funding opportunity. Where possible, these will be the same college members that assessed your application at the outline stage. College members then will discuss your application and compile feedback for the project lead to respond to.

7.4.2 Project lead response

Feedback from the assessment phase will be shared with project leads to provide a response ahead of the panel meetings.

7.4.3 Panel assessment

Following the assessment phase and receipt of project lead responses, college members who have assessed applications and Chairs will meet in panels to discuss the applications. They will use the evidence provided in the applications and the project lead response, to assess the quality of your application and score it against the assessment criteria. Once all applications have been scored the panel will make recommendations on which applications should be prioritised for funding. External rovers from our IAC Chair Pool observe the assessment process.

Panel Chairs report back to UKRI on the outcomes of the panel assessments and Rovers report back on their observations. UKRI will make the final funding decision for applications across the panels.

7.4.4 Feedback

Written feedback will be provided with the outcome of your application. Panels will also provide an overview of common themes for strengths and weaknesses in applications that can be shared with the research community.

8. Allocation of funding

Through the panel assessment and scoring of applications, highly meritorious applications will be distinguished from those not suitable for funding. Each panel will also prioritise their recommendations for funding. Recommendations will be moderated via a tensioning process attended by UKRI, the panel Chairs and the Rovers.

As stated in the Review of peer review report, there is “increasingly overwhelming evidence that while peer/panel review reliably identifies the very highest quality applications, as well as the ’tail’ of unsuitable low-quality ones, it tends towards arbitrary decision-making in the ‘upper-midfield’ of the quality spectrum”.

There will be a high level of diversity in the range of research being assessed across the panels which makes traditional prioritisation approaches more challenging. This is a pilot scheme looking at new approaches to assessing and awarding research funding. Therefore, a randomised allocation process will be used by UKRI to select successful applications from those recommended by the panels as highly meritorious after the tensioning process. The use of a partial randomised process has been shown to help counteract potential bias, both against underrepresented groups, but also against high risk ideas. Adopting this approach will ensure peer review is at the heart of decision-making, while recognising the challenge in tensioning the diverse range of ideas expected to be submitted to the scheme.

During the prioritisation of applications the panels will have the opportunity to select the very highest quality applications and those that they consider to be the top priority for funding, and recommend they are excluded from the randomisation process (up to 10% of the applications in the panel), because of the strength of endorsement from the peer review process.

UKRI will make the final decision on which applications are successful based on the recommendations across all 10 panels. Based on round one, we expect that the award rate at full stage will be a minimum of 20%.

9. Scheme evaluation

This is a pilot scheme and we will be evaluating our approach and processes in supporting interdisciplinary research, and the extent to which (and how) we have met the aims, objectives, ambitions and intended outcomes of the CRCRM scheme. You may be contacted for feedback as part of this evaluation process.

Annex 1

Cross Research Council Responsive Mode round two timetable

4 July 2024 10:00am UK time	Webinar introducing UKRI facilities
2 September 2024 9:00am UK time	Opening date for outline stage applications:
5 September 2024 10:00am to 11:30am UK time	Opportunity webinar 1
11 September 2024 2:00pm to 3:30pm UK time	Opportunity webinar 2 (same as webinar 1)
19 November 2024 4:00pm UK time	Closing date for outline stage applications
10 to 14 March 2025	Outline stage panel meetings
4 April 2025	Opening date for full stage applications
24 April 2025 10:00am to 11:00am UK time	Full stage application technical webinar 1
28 April 2025 2:00pm to 3:00pm UK time	Full stage application technical webinar 2 (same content as webinar 1)
3 July 2025 4:00pm UK time	Closing date for full stage applications
22 September to 6 October 2025	Project Lead response stage
3 to 7 November 2025	Full stage panel meetings
End of November 2025	Successful applications announced

Annex 2

Table of maximum number of outline applications research organisations are permitted to submit to the UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme – round two

Research Organisation	Maximum number of applications to R2
Abertay University	2
Aberystwyth University / Prifysgol Aberystwyth	3
AECC University College	2
Anglia Ruskin University Higher Education Corporation	3
Arts University Bournemouth, the	2
Aston University	5
Bangor University / Prifysgol Bangor	3
Bath Spa University	2
Birkbeck College	5
Birmingham City University	3
Bishop Grosseteste University	2
Bournemouth University	5
British Geological Survey	2
Brunel University London	7
Buckinghamshire New University	2
Canterbury Christ Church University	3
Cardiff Metropolitan University / Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd	2
Cardiff University / Prifysgol Caerdydd	16
City, University of London	5
Courtauld Institute of Art	2
Coventry University	5
Cranfield University	3
De Montfort University	5
Edge Hill University	3
Edinburgh Napier University	3
Falmouth University	2
Glasgow Caledonian University	3
Glasgow School of Art	2
Goldsmiths' College	5
Guildhall School of Music & Drama	2
Harper Adams University	2
Hartpury University	2

Heriot-Watt University	5
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	16
Institute of Cancer Research: Royal Cancer Hospital (The)	2
Institute of Development Studies	2
Institute of Zoology	2
King's College London	16
Kingston University	3
Leeds Arts University	2
Leeds Beckett University	3
Leeds Trinity University	2
Liverpool Hope University	2
Liverpool John Moores University	5
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine	2
London Business School	2
London Metropolitan University	2
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	5
London South Bank University	2
Loughborough University	7
Manchester Metropolitan University	7
Marine Biological Association	2
Middlesex University	5
National Oceanography Centre	2
NERC British Antarctic Survey	2
Newman University	2
Norwich University of the Arts	2
Nottingham Trent University	3
Oxford Brookes University	3
Plymouth Marine Laboratory	2
Quadram Institute Bioscience	2
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	2
Queen Mary University of London	12
Queen's University of Belfast	7
Ravensbourne University London	2
Robert Gordon University	2
Roehampton University	3
Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance	2
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew	2
Royal College of Art(The)	2
Royal College of Music	2
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	2
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	5
Royal Northern College of Music	2

Royal Veterinary College	2
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS University of London)	3
Scottish Association For Marine Science	2
Sheffield Hallam University	5
Solent University, Southampton	2
SRUC	2
St Mary's University, Twickenham	2
St. George's Hospital Medical School	2
Staffordshire University	2
Stranmillis University College	2
Swansea University / Prifysgol Abertawe	5
Teesside University	3
The London School of Economics and Political Science	7
The Metanoia Institute	2
The Natural History Museum	2
The Open University	7
The Royal Academy of Music	2
The Royal Agricultural University	2
The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama	2
The Royal Veterinary College	2
The University of Bath	7
The University of Birmingham	16
The University of Bolton	2
The University of Bradford	3
The University of Chichester	2
The University of Cumbria	2
The University of East Anglia	7
The University of Essex	7
The University of Huddersfield	5
The University of Hull	3
The University of Kent	7
The University of Lancaster	7
The University of Leeds	16
The University of Leicester	7
The University of Liverpool	12
The University of Manchester	20
The University of Reading	7
The University of Sheffield	16
The University of Surrey	7
The University of Warwick	12
The University of West London	2
The University of Westminster	3

Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	2
UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology	2
University College London	20
University College of Osteopathy (The)	2
University for the Creative Arts	2
University of Aberdeen	7
University of Bedfordshire	2
University of Brighton	3
University of Bristol	16
University of Cambridge	20
University of Central Lancashire	5
University of Chester	3
University of Derby	3
University of Dundee	5
University of Durham	12
University of East London	3
University of Edinburgh	20
University of Exeter	12
University of Glasgow	12
University of Gloucestershire	2
University of Greenwich	3
University of Hertfordshire	3
University of Keele	3
University of Lincoln	3
University of London	2
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	12
University of Northampton, The	2
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	12
University of Nottingham, The	16
University of Oxford	20
University of Plymouth	5
University of Portsmouth	5
University of Salford, The	3
University of South Wales / Prifysgol De Cymru	2
University of Southampton	12
University of St Andrews	7
University of St Mark & St John	2
University of Stirling	5
University of Strathclyde	7
University of Suffolk	2
University of Sunderland	2
University of Sussex	7

University of the Arts, London	2
University of the Highlands and Islands	2
University of the West of England, Bristol	3
University of the West of Scotland	3
University of Ulster	5
University of Wales Trinity Saint David / Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant	2
University of Winchester	2
University of Wolverhampton	3
University of Worcester	2
University of York	7
Wrexham Glyndŵr University / Prifysgol Glyndŵr Wrecsam	2
York St John University	2

Annex 3

Inclusive selection process statement guidance

As part of the selection process for submissions to round two of the UKRI cross research council responsive mode scheme, lead organisations must provide a statement describing the inclusive process they used to identify and select the applications for submission. It should not include personal details of potential applicants nor any details that may enable them to be identified. The statement should be no more than 1000 words.

As guidance, it is suggested that lead organisations consider the following points in designing and describing their inclusive selection process:

Scheme promotion and support for applicants

- How was the opportunity to apply to the CRCRM scheme promoted within your organisation?
- What processes were there to support the development of teams and bring about suitable collaborations?
- How were applicants supported through any internal selection processes?

Application selection processes

- What processes were used to identify potential applications?
- What processes were used to agree final applications? Was the balance of applications across disciplinary areas factored into decision making and if so, what was the approach used and why?
- Who within the university was responsible for the sifting process and what considerations were given to the implications of who was making the decisions i.e., school/departmental level or at a university/research organisation level?

Diversity in the selection of applications

- How did these processes enable diversity and inclusion of applicants and applications in the selection of potential and final applications? Does the approach taken align with your organisation's equality diversity and inclusion policies?
- What steps were taken to mitigate unconscious bias in the selection process?
- How diverse was the membership of any selection panels used in your process?
- Were applicants on submitted applications broadly representative of the researcher population at your organisation?
- Have you identified any barriers to implementing an inclusive selection process and/or tried things which haven't worked/have learnt lessons from which might be useful to share?

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Annex 4

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2" rowspan="2">Question</th><th colspan="4">Data Collected - Applicants</th></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">Sex and Gender</th><th>Ethnicity</th><th>Disability</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Number of project leads</td><td>who expressed interest in applying to R2 of the CRCRM scheme</td><td rowspan="3">Sex</td><td rowspan="3">Female
Male
Unknown/ Not disclosed</td><td rowspan="5">Arab
Asian, or Asian British
Black
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
White
Any other ethnic background
Unknown/Not Disclosed</td><td rowspan="5">Yes
No
Unknown/ Not Disclosed</td></tr>
<tr><td>selected to submit applications to R2 of the CRCRM scheme</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Benchmark data of researcher population at submitting Research Organisation</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Number of project co-leads from your organisation</td><td>involved in applications considered for R2 of the CRCRM scheme.</td><td rowspan="2">Gender</td><td rowspan="2">Man
Woman
Non-Binary
Other
Unknown/Not Disclosed</td></tr>
<tr><td>involved in applications selected to submit to R2 of the CRCRM scheme</td><td>Gender identity same as sex registered at birth</td><td>Yes
No
Unknown/ Not Disclosed</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Number of applications</td><td>considered for R2 of the CRCRM scheme</td><td colspan="2">Single gender teams, led by</td><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">a man
a woman
a non-binary person
a person with other gender
Unknown/Not Disclosed</td></tr>
<tr><td>selected to submit applications to R2 of the CRCRM scheme</td><td colspan="2">Mixed gender teams, led by</td></tr>
<tr><td>that were interested in applying to R2 of the CRCRM scheme but the 2 year time limit and/or £1.2m funding cap would not support their application</td><td colspan="2">Interdisciplinary interface</td><td colspan="2">EPS-EEB
BIOM-EPS
EPS-SS
SS-BIOM
EEB-SS
EEB-BIOM
BIOM-AH
AH-SS
AH-EEB
EPS-AH</td></tr>
</table>

Annex 5

List of Standardised Keywords for CRCRM round two

This is a list of standardised keywords and phrases for UKRI research areas to help us identify the most appropriate panel members to assess and introduce applications at the panel meetings.

Applicants will also be presented with the same list to select areas their proposed work involves which will allow us to be more efficient in matching panel members to applications. In the survey these will appear as drop-down boxes, and you can start typing in the code to select the correct keyword or phrase. We ask you to select up to 10 keywords or phrases. You are permitted one free text keyword or phrase, reserved only for where you feel your experience is not represented by the keywords provided.
The keywords and phrases are sorted into each of the 5 research domains and then alphabetically. There are some keywords and phrases that can be applied to more than one research domain – these are highlighted in italics.

Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Includes the remits of EPSRC and STFC
Earth, Environment and Biological Sciences (EEB) Includes the remits of NERC and some of BBSRC research areas of plant sciences, agriculture, aquaculture and animal research, as well as biotechnologies and tools that are relevant these research areas would be included in this research domain. Some research areas funded through EPSRC energy, circular economy and advanced materials themes could also fit under this research domain.
Biomedical and Health (BIOM) Includes the remits of MRC and some of BBSRC research areas relating to human health including biotechnologies and tools that are relevant these research areas would be included in this research domain. Some research areas funded through EPSRC healthcare technologies and advanced materials themes could also fit under this research domain.
Arts and Humanities (AH) Will be the majority of AHRC remit areas but will also include some areas relevant to ESRC
Social sciences (SS) Will be the majority of ESRC remit areas but will also include some areas relevant to AHRC
Overlap between AHRC and ESRC remit areas can be found here: https://www.ukri.org/publications/research-overlapping-social-sciences-and-arts-and-humanities-joint-ahrc-and-esrc-statement/

For the research professionals and technicians who support academic researchers in their interdisciplinary research projects there are a set of more high level keywords and phrases where IAC members support broad research areas and the granular keywords and phrases under each of the research domains may not be appropriate.

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Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS)

EPS001 2D Materials
EPS002 Accelerator Science
EPS003 Analytical Chemistry
EPS004 Applied Mathematics
EPS005 Artificial Intelligence Technologies
EPS006 Assistive Technology, Rehabilitation and Musculoskeletal Biomechanics
EPS007 Astronomy
EPS008 Astronomy extragalactic
EPS009 Astronomy near universe
EPS010 Astronomy near universe exoplanet / solar
EPS011 Audio, Vision and Senses
EPS012 Bioenergy
EPS013 Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering
EPS014 Biophysics
EPS015 Built Environment, Infrastructure and Urban Systems
EPS016 Carbon Capture and Storage
EPS017 Catalysis and Synthetic Chemistry
EPS018 Chemical Biology
EPS019 Chemical Engineering
EPS020 Civil and Structural Engineering
EPS021 Clean Air
EPS022 Clinical Technologies (excluding imaging)
EPS023 Communication Systems
EPS024 Computational, Theoretical and Physical Chemistry
EPS025 Control Engineering and Robotics
EPS026 Cosmology
EPS027 Cyber Security
EPS028 Dark Matter
EPS029 Data Science
EPS030 Design
EPS031 Design Processes
EPS032 Digital Chemistry and Materials
EPS033 Digital Resilience
EPS034 Digital Twinning
EPS035 Electronics and Devices
EPS036 End Use Energy Demand (Energy Efficiency)
EPS037 Energy Networks
EPS038 Energy Storage
EPS039 Engineering Biology
EPS040 Engineering Design
EPS041 Engineering Sensors and Systems
EPS042 Experimental and Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics
EPS043 Fluid Dynamics and Aerodynamics
EPS044 Fuel Cell Technology

EPS045 Functional Materials and Molecules
EPS046 Fundamental Particles
EPS047 Fundamentals of Compute
EPS048 Gamma Ray
EPS049 Gluon
EPS050 Gravitational Wave
EPS051 Gravity
EPS052 Greenhouse Gas Removal from the Atmosphere
EPS053 Hadronic Physics
EPS054 Hydrogen and Alternative Energy Vectors
EPS055 Lepton
EPS056 Management and Business Studies
EPS057 Manufacturing Technologies
EPS058 Marine Wave and Tidal
EPS059 Materials Engineering
EPS060 Materials For Energy Applications
EPS061 Mathematical Analysis
EPS062 Mathematical Biology
EPS063 Mathematical Physics
EPS064 Mechanical Engineering
EPS065 Medical Imaging (inc medical image and vision computing)
EPS066 Neutrino, Neutrino Science
EPS067 Nuclear Astrophysics
EPS068 Nuclear Fission
EPS069 Nuclear Fusion
EPS070 Nuclear Physics
EPS071 Nuclear Structure
EPS072 Numerical Analysis
EPS073 Operational Research
EPS074 Optical and Laser Physics
EPS075 Particle Acceleration
EPS076 Particle Astrophysics Experiment
EPS077 Particle Astrophysics Theory
EPS078 Particle Physics
EPS079 People and Interactivity
EPS080 Physical Sciences
EPS081 Physics and Chemistry of Earth Materials
EPS082 Power Electronics
EPS083 Pure Mathematics
EPS084 Quantum Devices, Components and Systems
EPS085 Quantum Science and Ultracold Matter
EPS086 Quantum Technologies for Fundamental Physics
EPS087 Quark
EPS088 Soft matter physics
EPS089 Solar and planetary science
EPS090 Solar Technology

EPS091 Statistics and Applied Probability
EPS092 Theory
EPS093 UK Climate Resilience
EPS094 Water Engineering
EPS095 Whole Energy Systems
EPS096 Wind Power

EEB001 Agriculture and Aquaculture
EEB002 Animal Health, Disease
EEB003 Animal Physiology
EEB004 Animal Welfare
EEB005 Antarctic Polar Science
EEB006 Antimicrobial Resistance
EEB007 Arctic Polar Science
EEB008 Atmospheric Kinetics
EEB009 Atmospheric Physics and Chemistry
EEB010 Behavioural Ecology
EEB011 Biochemistry
EEB012 Biodiversity
EEB013 Bioenergy
EEB014 Biogeochemical cycles
EEB015 Bioimaging
EEB016 Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering
EEB017 Biophysics
EEB018 Biotechnology
EEB019 Boundary Layer Meteorology
EEB020 Cell Biology
EEB021 Chemical Biology
EEB022 Clean Air
EEB023 Climate and Climate Change
EEB024 Community Ecology
EEB025 Computational Biology
EEB026 Conservation Ecology
EEB027 Crop Science
EEB028 Data Science
EEB029 Developmental Biology
EEB030 Digital approaches to environmental science
EEB031 Earth Engineering
EEB032 Earth Observation
EEB033 Earth Resources
EEB034 Earth Sciences
EEB035 Earth Surface Processes
EEB036 Ecology, Biodiversity and Systematics
EEB037 Ecosystem - Scale Processes and Land Use
EEB038 Ecotoxicology
EEB039 Engineering Biology
EEB040 Environment and health
EEB041 Environmental Biotechnology
EEB042 Environmental Genomics
EEB043 Environmental Informatics
EEB044 Environmental Microbiology

EEB045 Environmental Physiology
EEB046 Environmental Risks and Hazards
EEB047 Enzymology, Biocatalysis
EEB048 Evolutionary Biology
EEB049 Food Safety
EEB050 Food, Nutrition and Health
EEB051 Freshwater
EEB052 Genetics and Genomics (including Epigenetics)
EEB053 Geohazards
EEB054 Geosciences
EEB055 Glacial and Cryospheric Systems
EEB056 Greenhouse Gas Removal from the Atmosphere
EEB057 Hydrogeology
EEB058 Hydrological Processes
EEB059 Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing
EEB060 Land - Atmosphere Interactions
EEB061 Land - Ocean Interactions
EEB062 Large Scale Atmospheric Dynamics and Transport
EEB063 Mantle and Core Processes
EEB064 Marine Environments
EEB065 Mathematical Biology
EEB066 Microbiology
EEB067 Molecular Biology
EEB068 Natural Resource Management
EEB069 Ocean - Atmosphere Interactions
EEB070 Ocean Circulation
EEB071 One Health Approaches to Zoonoses
EEB072 Palaeobiology
EEB073 Palaeoenvironments
EEB074 Physics and Chemistry of Earth Materials
EEB075 Planetary Science
EEB076 Planetary Surfaces and Geology
EEB077 Plant and Crop Science
EEB078 Plant Pathogens, Pests and Entomology
EEB079 Polar Sciences
EEB080 Pollution
EEB081 Population Ecology
EEB082 Population Genetics and Evolution
EEB083 Proteomics
EEB083 Quaternary Science
EEB084 Radiative Processes and Effects
EEB085 Regional Impact from Science of the Environment
EEB086 Regional Weather and Extreme Events
EEB087 Science Based Archaeology
EEB088 Sediments and Sedimentary Processes
EEB089 Soil Science

EEB090 Stratospheric Processes
EEB091 Structural Biology
EEB092 Sustainable Management of UK Marine Resources
EEB093 Synthetic Biology
EEB094 Systematics and Taxonomy
EEB095 Technology for Environmental Applications
EEB096 Tectonic Processes
EEB097 Terrestrial and Freshwater Environments
EEB098 Three Rs (Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animal Use in Research)
EEB099 Tools and Technologies Underpinning Biology
EEB100 Tropospheric Processes
EEB101 UK Climate Resilience
EEB102 Understanding the Effectiveness of Natural Flood Management
EEB103 Upper Atmosphere Processes and Geospace
EEB104 Volcanic Processes
EEB105 Water in the Atmosphere
EEB106 Water Quality
EEB107 Wild Species (only Agricultural Pests, Polinators, or as General Models of Biological Processes)

Biomedical and Health (BIOM)

BIOM001 Addictions and Substance Misuse
BIOM002 Adolescent health
BIOM003 Advanced Therapies
BIOM004 Ageing
BIOM005 Antimicrobial Resistance
BIOM006 Assistive Technology, Rehabilitation and Musculoskeletal Biomechanics
BIOM007 Bacterial disease and host response to bacterial pathogens
BIOM008 Biochemistry
BIOM009 Bioimaging
BIOM010 Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering
BIOM011 Biomedical Data Science
BIOM012 Biophysics
BIOM013 Biotechnology
BIOM014 Cancer
BIOM015 Cardiovascular
BIOM016 Cell Biology
BIOM017 Cell Therapies
BIOM018 Chemical Biology
BIOM019 Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases
BIOM020 Clinical Sciences
BIOM021 Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience
BIOM022 Computational Biology
BIOM023 Data Science
BIOM024 Dentistry and orofacial medicine
BIOM025 Dermatology
BIOM026 Developmental Biology
BIOM027 Disease Prevention
BIOM028 Endocrinology
BIOM029 Engineering Biology
BIOM030 Environment and health
BIOM031 Enzymology, Biocatalysis
BIOM032 Epidemic Preparedness
BIOM033 Epidemiology
BIOM034 Evolutionary Biology
BIOM035 Experimental Medicine
BIOM036 Food, Nutrition and Health
BIOM037 Fungal disease and host response to fungal pathogens
BIOM038 Gastroenterology
BIOM039 Gene Therapies
BIOM040 Genetics and Genomics (including Epigenetics)
BIOM041 Global Health Research
BIOM042 Haematology
BIOM043 Health Data Science
BIOM044 Health Inequalities

BIOM045 Health Intervention Development
BIOM046 Hepatic function and disease
BIOM047 Human Health and Basic Biology (not Human Disease, Healthcare, or Other Medical Research)
BIOM048 Human psychology and behavioural science
BIOM049 Immune disease and immunology
BIOM050 Implementation Science
BIOM051 Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing
BIOM052 Inflammation
BIOM053 Lifestyle, Socio-Economic and Behavioural Impacts on Health
BIOM054 Longitudinal population studies
BIOM055 Maternal health including pregnancy and childbirth
BIOM056 Mathematical Biology
BIOM057 Medical Bioinformatics
BIOM058 Medical Devices
BIOM059 Medical Imaging (inc medical image and vision computing)
BIOM060 Mental Health
BIOM061 Metabolism and metabolic diseases
BIOM062 Methodology Development
BIOM063 Microbiology
BIOM064 Molecular Biology
BIOM065 Motor neurone disease
BIOM066 Multimorbidity
BIOM067 Musculoskeletal
BIOM068 Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome
BIOM069 Neurobiology and neurophysiology
BIOM070 Neurodegeneration
BIOM071 Neurodevelopmental Disorders
BIOM072 Neurology
BIOM073 Obesity
BIOM074 One Health Approaches to Zoonoses
BIOM075 Paediatrics, neonatal and child health
BIOM076 Pain, fatigue and sleep
BIOM077 Parasitic disease and host response to parasitic pathogens
BIOM078 Pharmaceuticals
BIOM079 Pharmacology
BIOM080 Population Health Science
BIOM081 Proteomics
BIOM081 Public Health Science
BIOM082 Radiation Biology
BIOM083 Rare diseases
BIOM084 Renal function and disease
BIOM085 Reproductive Health
BIOM086 Respiratory
BIOM087 Response to COVID-19
BIOM088 Sensory Neuroscience (including Vision and Hearing)

BIOM089 Spinal cord injury and repair
BIOM090 Stem Cells and Regenerative Biology
BIOM091 Stroke
BIOM092 Structural Biology
BIOM093 Synthetic Biology
BIOM094 Systems Biology
BIOM095 Three Rs (Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animal Use in Research)
BIOM096 Tools and Technologies Underpinning Biology
BIOM097 Toxicology
BIOM098 Trauma, Acute Medicine and Surgery
BIOM099 Vaccinology
BIOM100 Viral disease and host response to viral pathogens

UK Research and Innovation

Arts and Humanities (AH)

AH001 Ancient History
AH002 Archaeology of Literate Societies
AH003 Community Art
AH004 Criminology and socio-legal studies
AH005 Dance
AH006 Design
AH007 Design Processes
AH008 Development Studies
AH009 Digital Art
AH010 Drama and Theatre Studies
AH011 Early Modern and Renaissance Literature
AH012 Early Modern History
AH013 Economic and social history
AH014 Education
AH015 Fine Art, History Theory and Practice
AH016 Heritage Management
AH017 Information and Knowledge Management
AH018 Landscape & Environmental Archaeology
AH019 Legal Theory
AH020 Linguistics
AH021 Media
AH022 Media & Communication Studies
AH023 Middle Ages History
AH024 Modern and Contemporary English
AH025 Modern History
AH026 Modern Languages
AH027 Old and Middle English Literature
AH028 Policy Arts Management & Creative Studies
AH029 Practice Based
AH030 Prehistoric Archaeology
AH031 Socio Legal Studies

Social sciences (SS)

SS001 Built Environment, Infrastructure and Urban Systems
SS002 Climate and Climate Change
SS003 Criminology and socio-legal studies
SS004 Demography
SS005 Development Studies
SS006 Economic and social history
SS007 Education
SS008 Environment and health
SS009 Epidemic Preparedness
SS010 Global Health Research
SS011 Health Data Science
SS012 Health Inequalities
SS013 Human geography
SS014 Human psychology and behavioural science
SS015 Lifestyle, Socio-Economic and Behavioural Impacts on Health
SS016 Linguistics
SS017 Longitudinal population studies
SS018 Macroeconomics
SS019 Management and Business Studies
SS020 Maternal health including pregnancy and childbirth
SS021 Mental Health
SS022 Microeconomics
SS023 Neurodegeneration
SS024 Obesity
SS025 Paediatrics, neonatal and child health
SS026 Politics and international relations
SS027 Politics and international relations
SS028 Population geography
SS029 Population Health Science
SS030 Practice Based
SS031 Psychology
SS032 Psychology
SS033 Public Health Science
SS034 Regional Impact from Science of the Environment
SS035 Reproductive Health
SS036 Science and Technology Studies
SS037 Sensory Neuroscience (including Vision and Hearing)
SS038 Social and behavioural experiments, interventions and practice
SS039 Social and behavioural theory
SS040 Social anthropology
SS041 Social policy and social work
SS042 Socio Legal Studies
SS043 Sociology including Social and behavioural surveying and data collection and Social and behavioural theory
SS044 UK Climate Resilience

UK Research and Innovation

Research management (RM)

RM001 Agriculture, Food and Veterinary Sciences
RM002 Arts: Design, Architecture, Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies
RM003 Biological Sciences
RM004 Chemistry
RM005 Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences
RM006 Economics and Politics
RM007 Humanities: History, Philosophy, Theology, Languages, Literature, Culture and media studies, Law, Archaeology and Anthropology
RM008 Maths, Engineering, Physics and Computer Sciences
RM009 Medicine and medical sciences
RM010 Social sciences: sociology, education, demography and human geography
RM011 Generalist – all research areas
RM012 General research support: Research Development and ideation, building collaborations and research culture
RM013 Interdisciplinary research support: Facilitating IDR research ideas and discipline integration, assessment and funding of IDR

Annex 6

Assessment panel scoring system

Score	Score definitions
10	The application is **exceptional**; it **very strongly** meets all of the assessment criteria to the highest standard. The panel agrees that it is difficult to articulate how the application could be improved.
9	The application is **outstanding**; it **very strongly** meets all of the assessment criteria.
8	The application is **excellent**; it **strongly** meets all of the assessment criteria.
7	The application is **very good**; it meets the assessment criteria well but with **some minor weaknesses/limitations.**
6	The application is **good**; it meets the assessment criteria well but with **some clear weaknesses/limitations**.
5	The application is **adequate**; it meets the assessment criteria but with **clear weaknesses/limitations**.
4	The application is **weak**; it meets the assessment criteria but with **significant weaknesses/limitations**.
3	The application is **poor**; it meets the assessment criteria but has **major weaknesses/limitations**.
2	The application is **unsatisfactory**; it **does not meet one or more of the assessment criteria**.
1	The application is **unsatisfactory**; it **does not meet any of the assessment criteria.**

Round 2 banding definitions

Band	Possible action
A*	***Full stage only*** These applications are judged to be of the highest standards and obvious added value from a CRCRM award. They are outstanding or exceptional and can be clearly distinguished from the other applications. **They are a top priority for the panel for funding.**
A	These applications show evidence of the highest standards and clear added value from a CRCRM award. **They are a priority for funding/ inviting through to full stage.**
B	These applications are of a high standard and good evidence of added value from a CRCRM award. **They should be considered for funding/ inviting through to full stage, but are not prioritised.**
C	These applications are not of the highest standard and with limited added value from a CRCRM award. **They are fundable/ could be invited to the full stage but are the lowest priority for funding/invitation.**
D	These applications are of low quality with very limited or no added value from a CRCRM award. **They are not recommended for funding/inviting through to full stage**.