

UK Research and Innovation

UKRI Cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme - round two

Guidance for applicants and research organisations

**April 2025 – version 1.4
Round Two: Full stage**



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 full 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 between stages and rounds.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 ukirm@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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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).
1.4	April 2025 (significant changes only for the full stage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Information on institutional caps only applies to the outline stage, so has been moved to Annexes 2-5. ii) Added additional sections 2.3.4 General use of hyperlinks and 2.3.5 Generative artificial intelligence (AI). iii) Updated section 3.2.3 'Collaborators' (including all sub-sections) to provide more information about project partners and the requirements for full stage applications and awarded projects, including guidance on Intellectual property management with project partners and collaboration agreements. iv) Added paragraph to section 4.1.2.1 Directly Incurred Staff for guidance on the Visiting Researcher role and costs associated with their involvement on grants. v) Updated section 4.1.2.2 Equipment to include equipment cost threshold change from £10,000 to £25,000 (inclusive of VAT) and further clarification on what should be listed under the Directly Incurred – Equipment heading. vi) Guidance added on what visa fees are permitted vii) Further clarifications in section 4.3 on what we will not fund viii) Update to section 5 to provide further guidance on requesting access to facilities at the full stage, including requesting a delay to your start date and /or to exceed the maximum budget for certain UKRI supported facilities. ix) Round 2 outline stage application questions and guidance have been annexed to Annex 7. x) Round 2 full stage application questions and guidance have been added to section 6.2 (mandatory questions) and Annex 8 (optional questions). xi) Updated sections 7.2 Assessment criteria and 7.3 Assessment processes for the full stage of Round 2. Outline stage criteria and processes are provided in Annex 7. xii) Updated banding definitions for Round 2 (Annex 10) xiii) Provided matrix of pre-written statements against each assessment criteria that the panel selected from to provide applicants with more clarity on the panel's decision (Annex 11).



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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 on 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 1,000 outline applications submitted. We will be using what we learn from the pilot scheme to consider CRCRM funding opportunities as part of our future strategy and investment case for interdisciplinary research.

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](#) 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.

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 application 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 (outline stage only)

This only applies to the outline stage of the opportunity, which has now passed. Organisations were given a cap and were asked to prioritise their applications to submit within this allocation limit. For further information on the institutional caps and requirements for organisations to provide a statement about their selection process and associated data, please see [Annexes 2-5](#).

2.2 Resubmissions

If an application was unsuccessful at the outline stage of round one of this scheme, it was permitted to 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 applied 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 was not eligible to resubmit the same application to round two unless it was allowed to resubmit under the invited resubmission policy. To be considered as a new submission, the application needed to 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 (see [‘Submitting your 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](#).

2.3.4 General use of hyperlinks

Applications should be self-contained. You should only use hyperlinks to link directly to reference information. You must not include links to web resources to extend your application. Assessors are not required to access links to conduct assessment or recommend a funding decision.

2.3.5 Generative artificial intelligence (AI)

Use of generative AI tools to prepare funding applications is permitted, however, caution should be applied. For more information see our policy on the [use of generative AI in application and assessment](#).



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 ukriirm@ukri.org for advice.

We 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 organisations at the full stage could be at risk of being rejected or required to change the role of the ineligible organisation to a collaborator (project partner or sub-contractor) if they are not eligible for funding.

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.

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 counts towards that lead organisation's allocation of applications that they are permitted to submit to the outline stage (see [section 2.1.1](#)).

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 an eligible research organisation.

Project leads and project co-leads (UK based) 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, you 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

A research and innovation associate who is not eligible to be project lead or project co-lead can be assigned the role of researcher co-lead if they have made a significant contribution to the design of the project and application.

Other grant roles are eligible to be part of the core team, such as specialists, grant managers and other professional enabling staff, technicians and visiting researchers. For full details of these roles, visit [Eligibility as an individual](#) and [guidance on role eligibility, responsibilities and costings](#).

3.2.2 International researchers

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



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 to the lead research organisation at 80% FEC unless otherwise stated by us. For the outline stage application, you can 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.

Project partner letters are not required on application. If your research project involves an industry or company project partner (by which we mean an enterprise that puts goods or services on a market and whose commercial activities are greater than 20% of their overall annual capacity) applicants will need to answer the question on Intellectual property (IP) management and communication (see question details in [Annex 8](#)).

If awarded, you will need to submit a Letter of Support from your project partner(s) confirming their contributions and agreeing to the IP management arrangements set out in your application before your award can be made. Letters notifying you of the outcome of your application will be sent at the end of November, and if needed will include a request to submit a letter of support.

3.2.3.2 Intellectual property management with project partners

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](#). Ensure you have obtained prior agreement from collaborators that, should you be offered funding, they will support your project.

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

3.2.3.3 Value of in-kind contributions

Companies can provide both cash and in-kind financial contributions to a project. In their letter of support confirming their financial contributions the project partner should detail what the in-kind contributions cover and how the costs have been calculated. In calculating this value the following costs may be included:



- **The salaries of the personnel working directly on the project** - salaries are defined as basic salary excluding benefits packages, pensions, bonuses etc. Outline the total cost and total FTE resourced to the project, however, individual salaries do not need to be disclosed. If there is just one individual assigned to the project include the total amount but not the FTE. You should outline the job titles of members of staff working on the project, their key tasks and responsibilities.
- **Materials consumed in the course of the project** - materials and products should be costed as cost to manufacture, not cost of sale of goods and should not include any costs related to the historical development.
- **Tissue samples** should only include costs of storage, costs of transportation and where applicable compensation reflective of accessing these from an alternative commercial source. They should not include cost recovery related to the historic generation and collection.
- **Capital equipment** purchased or constructed for the project, less its estimated value to the business at the end of the project.
- Access to data should be provided free of charge but **resource required to prepare data** for sharing can be costed.
- **Sub-contract charges and consultancy fees** and cost of equivalent services used exclusively for the research activity, bought from outside sources.
- **Project management costs** such as travel, office space etc. that are in addition to those normally involved.

3.2.3.4 Collaboration agreements

You do not need to submit collaboration agreements as part of your full stage application.

Funded applications that have an industry or company project partner will need to submit a formal collaboration agreement, as per FEC [grant condition](#) RGC 12.1 within six months of the grant start date. UKRI will check compliance with subsidy control requirements under this grant condition. Check if you will need to submit a collaboration agreement by following the flowchart in [Annex 6](#).

Your collaboration agreement must be consistent with your industry partner's Letter of Support and your answer to the Intellectual property management and communication question in your full stage application.

3.2.3.5 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.

3.2.3.6 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

UKRI can offer [disability and accessibility support for UKRI applicants and grant holders](#) during the application and assessment process if required.

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.

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, e.g. Research and Innovation Associate.

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](#).

Support may be requested for visits by individuals of acknowledged standing (Visiting Researchers) from the UK or abroad, limited to 12 months per individual over the lifetime of the award. Visiting Researchers should receive the same salary and conditions as other staff of an equivalent status within the Research Organisation, and costs should be requested as Directly Incurred. Only salary costs for the time spent directly working on the project should be claimed, and requests should exclude contributions from other sources. Reasonable expenses will be paid for travel to and from the UK by Visiting Researchers, but not for their families.

4.1.2.2 Equipment

Individual items of equipment above £25,000 (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 £25,000 (inclusive of VAT) 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 more than £25,000 (inclusive of VAT) must be included under the Directly Incurred 'Equipment' fund type heading (items



under £25,000 should be listed under Other Directly Incurred costs as consumables). If awarded, transfer of funds from equipment costs to another heading is not permitted (see [grant condition](#) RGC 4.4).

Please note the £25,000 includes the sum costs of modular component parts that will form a single piece of equipment, either purchased or leased.

Discrete single items under £25,000 (inclusive of VAT) are considered consumables and should be listed under Directly Incurred – Other. If your proposed work involves building a novel/unique piece of equipment, the consumables can be costed under Directly Incurred Other, even if the total sum of these consumables is over £25,000. You should make it clear in the Resource and cost justification section if this is the case.

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 ukirm@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). Basic laboratory and office consumables would typically be costed as indirect costs, unless required in exceptional quantities.
- 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)
- Visa fees – these can be charged to the grant for all Directly Incurred staff directly employed on the grant for 50% or more of their time. All visa costs, including Immigration Health Surcharge and Certificates of Sponsorship, incurred must be a direct result of the person being employed on the grant for 50% or more of their contracted time and is not extended to family members. All costs must be met within the original grant cash limit.

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 costs over £25,000 (inclusive of VAT) for international project co-leads
- publication costs. See the UKRI [open access policy](#) for further information
- patent costs and other IP costs
- 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 example 5% applied across the grant
- contingency costs for visas for unknown researchers at the point of application
- costs associated with gaining UK citizenship, or indefinite leave to remain

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 should be requested at the outline stage and fully justified. Requests should have been made by emailing ukriirm@ukri.org by the funding opportunity deadline of 19 November 2024 4:00pm UK time. You should therefore have discussed 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

If you are invited to submit a full stage application and you did not contact the facility ahead of the outline stage, or if in the development of your full stage application you have determined that you would like to use a UKRI facility, you should get in touch with them as soon as possible to discuss the possibility of access. However please note that some facilities had deadlines to submit requests to them by the outline stage deadline and therefore may not be able to accept your request.

If in the development of your full stage application the facility has informed you that the timeline of your agreed access has been delayed and as a result your project would no longer be feasible, you can make a request to delay your start date before the full stage deadline (3 July 2025). You should contact the IRM team by emailing ukriirm@ukri.org as soon as possible. In your request you should evidence what the initial discussions or agreements were and when this took place, as well as the changes that would impact your project. We will consider the request and inform you of our decision before the submission deadline. If granted a delay to your start date, you should state this in your full stage application with full justifications in the Facilities section of your application (see question details in [Annex 8](#)).

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 should have contacted the facility to discuss the feasibility of your project and obtain approximate costings in advance of the outline stage application submission.

Requests to exceed the maximum budget should have been made by emailing ukrirm@ukri.org by the outline stage deadline of 19 November 2024 4:00pm UK time.

If in the development of your full stage application the facility has informed you that the cost of your access has increased and as a result your project would no longer be feasible, you can make a request to exceed the maximum budget before the full stage deadline (3 July 2025). You should contact the IRM team by emailing ukrirm@ukri.org as soon as possible. Requests should 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. In your request you should evidence what the initial discussions or agreements were and when this took place, as well as the cost changes that would impact your project. We will consider the request and inform you of our decision before the submission deadline. If granted to exceed the budget, you should fully justify this request in the Facilities section and the additional costs in the Resource and cost justification section of your application (see 'How to apply').

5.2.1 Ship-time and marine facilities

If you intend to apply for NERC's marine facilities, you should have contacted 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 should have completed an online 'SME or autonomous deployment (ADF) application form' available from [Marine Facilities Planning](#). SMEs or ADFs should have been submitted to NERC Marine Planning by the time your outline stage application was 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 have contacted the Antarctic Access Office (afibas@bas.ac.uk) at an early stage, and no later than **25 October 2024** to discuss your fieldwork plans. This allows BAS Operations to provide an early indication as to timelines for support and to advise on any significant costs which may need to be accounted for. If advised to, you should have completed a pre-award operational support planning questionnaire (OSPQ) online, stating your name, institution and project title, by the time of your outline stage application was 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 should have contacted 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 should then have completed a NERC Arctic Research Station application form and returned 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 should have started 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 should have taken 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 closed in the Funding Service for applications. The deadline was 19 November 2024. The application questions and guidance for this stage can be found in [Annex 7](#).



6.2. Full stage application

The full stage is now open in the Funding Service for applications:
<https://funding-service.ukri.org/OPP912/apply/951>

The deadline is 3 July 2025 at 4:00 pm UK time.

6.2.1 Application questions

The full stage application includes the following sections. Core assessment questions are asterisked and mandatory questions are provided beneath the table. Please note that all sections of the application are assessed by the panel. For all other optional questions see [Annex 8](#), which is also published on the Funding Finder page for this opportunity.

Section in the Funding Service	Mandatory or optional	Format / word count
1. Application details, including Title and Summary	Mandatory	550 words for Summary
2. Core team	Mandatory	Table
3. Outline stage application reference	Mandatory	1 word (APPxxxxx)
4. Fit to Opportunity*	Mandatory	300 words
5. Vision*	Mandatory	500 words
6. Approach*	Mandatory	3,000 words
7. Applicant and team capability to deliver*	Mandatory	2,500 words
8. Ethics and responsible research and innovation*	Mandatory	500 words
9. Genetic and biological risk	Optional	700 words
10. Research involving the use of animals	Optional	PDF attachment
11. Conducting research with animals overseas	Optional	700 words
12. Research involving human participation	Optional	700 words
13. Research involving human tissues or biological samples	Optional	700 words
14. Resource and cost justification*	Mandatory	2,000 words
15. Project Partners	Optional	Table
16. Intellectual property (IP) management and communication	Optional	800 words
17. Trusted Research and Innovation	Mandatory	100 words
18. Data management and sharing	Mandatory	1,500 words
19. Facilities	Optional	300 words
20. Clinical research using NHS resources	Optional	250 words



6.2.2 Mandatory questions

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

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))
- specialist
- grant manager
- professional enabling staff
- research and innovation associate
- technician
- visiting researcher
- researcher co-lead (RcL)

Only list one individual as project lead.

UKRI has introduced a new addition to the 'Specialist' role type. Public contributors such as people with lived experience can now be added to an application. Find out more about [UKRI's core team roles in funding applications](#).



3. Outline stage application reference

Word limit: 1

What was the application reference number for your round two outline stage application?

To help us link this application to your outline stage application, submitted in November 2024, please provide the Funding Service application number in the format APPXXXXX.

4. Fit to opportunity

Word limit: 300

Describe the interdisciplinary nature of your proposed research

[What the assessors are looking for in your response](#)

You should explain:

- how your 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 you have co-created or co-designed the project with input from all the disciplines needed for the 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 the Fit to opportunity 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. How your project fits to the scheme objectives should also be reflected throughout your Vision and Approach sections. You should clearly articulate the research areas that the proposed work involves and why this could not be funded by a single council. We have provided an additional 50 words to this section from the outline stage to allow you to expand on your outline submission.

5. Vision

Word limit: 500

What are you hoping to achieve with your proposed work?



What the assessors are looking for in your response

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, 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

Within the 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 Vision section

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.

References may be included within this section.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

6. Approach

Word limit: 3,000

How are you going to deliver your proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how you have designed your approach so that it:

- is effective and appropriate to achieve your objectives
- is feasible, and comprehensively identifies any risks to delivery and how they will be managed



- uses a clearly written and transparent methodology (if applicable)
- summarises the previous work and describes how this will be built upon and progressed (if applicable)
- will maximise translation of outputs into outcomes and impacts
- describes how your, and if applicable your team's, research environment (in terms of the place and relevance to the project) will contribute to the success of the work
- demonstrates how potential challenges in conducting interdisciplinary research will be managed.

Within the Approach section, we also expect you to:

- clearly articulate how you will address the challenges that the integration of these disciplines could face
- clearly articulate the methods you will be using, particularly where new methods are being developed
- further describe how the co-creation and co-design led to your approach and how the co-delivery will ensure the success of the project
- outline a strategy that demonstrates integration of the disciplines required for the successful co-delivery of the research, including new approaches, new methods or new ways of working and describes how the reciprocal benefits will be realised for all the disciplines involved (this should be set out clearly as a separate section within the Approach and we suggest using approximately 500 words)

Guidance for the Approach section

If your application requires the use of a typesetting software such as LaTeX that is currently not compatible with the Funding Service platform, please contact the IRM team for further instructions at ukirm@ukri.org

References may be included within this section.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

7. Applicant and team capability to deliver

Word limit: 2,500

Why are you the right individual or team to successfully deliver the proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

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

- the relevant experience (appropriate to career stage) to deliver the proposed work
- the right balance of skills and expertise to cover the proposed work
- the appropriate leadership and management skills to deliver the work and your approach to develop others
- contributed to developing a positive research environment and wider community



You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

The word limit for this section is 2,500 words: 2,000 words to be used for R4RI modules (including references) and, if necessary, a further 500 words for Additions.

Use the Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) format to 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. You can include individuals' specific achievements but only choose past contributions that best evidence their ability to deliver this work.

Complete this section using the R4RI module headings listed. Use each heading once and include a response for the whole team, see the [UKRI guidance on R4RI](#). You should consider how to balance your answer, and emphasise where appropriate the key skills each team member brings:

- contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge
- the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships
- contributions to the wider research and innovation community
- contributions to broader research or innovation users and audiences and towards wider societal benefit

Additions

Provide any further details relevant to your application. This section is optional and can be up to 500 words. You should not use it to describe additional skills, experiences, or outputs, but you can use it to describe any factors that provide context for the rest of your R4RI (for example, details of career breaks if you wish to disclose them).

Complete this as a narrative. Do not format it like a CV.

References may be included within this section.

[The roles in funding applications policy](#) has descriptions of the different project roles.

8. Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

Word limit: 500

What are the ethical or RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work?

If you do not think that the proposed work raises any ethical or RRI issues, explain why.

[What the assessors are looking for in your response](#)

Demonstrate that you have identified and evaluated:

- the relevant ethical or responsible research and innovation considerations
- how you will manage these considerations



You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

For optional ethics questions 9 to 13, see [Annex 8](#).

14. Resources and cost justification

Word limit: 2,000

What will you need to deliver your proposed work and how much will it cost?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Justify the application's more costly resources, in particular:

- project staff
- significant travel for field work or collaboration (but not regular travel between collaborating organisations or to conferences)
- any equipment that will cost more than £10,000
- any consumables beyond typical requirements, or that are required in exceptional quantities
- all facilities and infrastructure costs
- all resources that have been costed as 'Exceptions'

Assessors are not looking for detailed costs or a line-by-line breakdown of all project resources. Overall, they want you to demonstrate how the resources you anticipate needing for your proposed work:

- are comprehensive, appropriate, and justified
- represent the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcomes
- maximise potential outcomes and impacts

Guidance

- The word count for this section is 2000 words: 1,000 words to be used for Resources and cost justification and, if necessary, a further 1000 words to justify equipment over £138K.

For optional questions 15 and 16 on Project Partners and Intellectual property (IP) management and communication, see [Annex 8](#).

17. Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I)

Word limit: 100

Does the proposed work involve international collaboration in a sensitive research or technology area?



What the assessors are looking for in your response

Demonstrate how your proposed international collaboration relates to Trusted Research and Innovation, including:

- list the countries your international project co-leads, project partners and visiting researchers, or other collaborators are based in
- if international collaboration is involved, explain whether this project is relevant to one or more of the [17 areas](#) of the UK National Security and Investment (NSI) Act
- if one or more of the [17 areas](#) of the UK National Security and Investment (NSI) Act are involved list the areas

If your proposed work does not involve international collaboration, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

We may contact you following submission of your application to provide additional information about how your proposed project will comply with our approach and expectation towards TR&I, identifying potential risks and the relevant controls you will put in place to help manage these risks.

18. Data management and sharing

Word limit: 1,500

How will you manage and share data collected or acquired through the proposed research?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Provide a data management plan that clearly details how you will comply with UKRI's published [data sharing policy](#), which includes detailed guidance notes.

For optional questions 19 (Facilities) and 20 (Clinical research using NHS resources) see [Annex 8](#).

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](#).

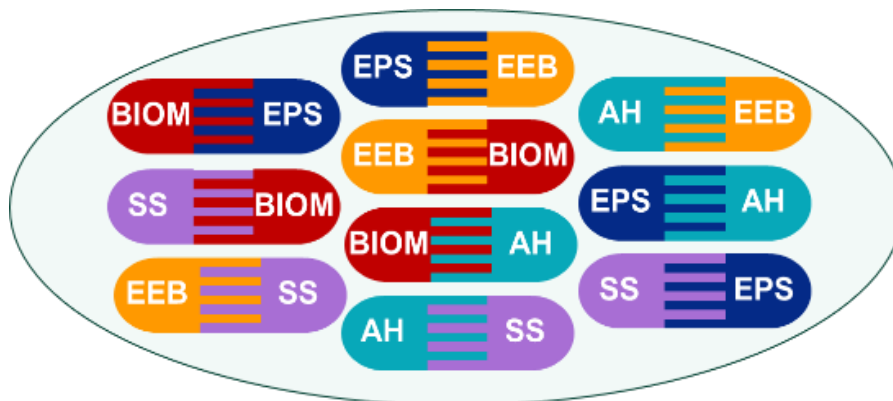
7.1 Interdisciplinary panels

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 assessment criteria at the outline stage, see [Annex 7](#).

The Interdisciplinary Assessment College will assess full stage 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

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

Approach

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

- is effective and appropriate to achieve their objectives
- is feasible, and comprehensively identifies any risks to delivery and how they will be managed
- uses a clear written and transparent methodology (if applicable)
- summarises the previous work and describes how this will be built upon and progressed (if applicable)
- will maximise translation of outputs into outcomes and impacts
- describes how their, and if applicable their team's, research environment (in terms of the place and relevance to the project) will contribute the success of the work
- demonstrates how potential challenges in conducting interdisciplinary research will be addressed



Applicant and team capability to deliver

To what extent have the applicants, and if relevant their team, demonstrated that they have:

- the relevant experience (appropriate to career stage) to deliver the proposed work
- the right balance of skills and expertise to cover the proposed work
- the appropriate leadership and management skills to deliver the work and their approach to develop others
- contributed to developing a positive research environment and wider community

Ethics and responsible research and innovation

To what extent has the applicant demonstrated that they have identified and evaluated:

- the relevant ethical or responsible research and innovation considerations
- how they will manage these considerations

Resources and cost justification

For Resources and cost justification, to what extent has the applicant demonstrated that the resources needed for the proposed work:

- are comprehensive, appropriate, and justified
- represent the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcomes
- maximise potential outcomes and impacts

Find details of assessment questions under [section 6.2.1 Application questions](#).

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

7.3 Assessment process

For the outline stage assessment process, see Annex 7.

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

7.3.1 UKRI checks

Checks will be carried out by UKRI staff to ensure that your submission is meeting the requirements of application. Eligibility checks will be done for all collaborating organisations. If your application does not meet the requirements of the application or eligibility for UKRI funding, your application may be rejected at this stage.



7.3.2 Assessment phase

Your application will be assigned to an interdisciplinary panel based on the areas of research that you are proposing. Your application will be assigned to three college members with appropriate and relevant expertise and experience in the interdisciplinary research proposed to assess it. Where possible, these will be the same college members that assessed your application at the outline stage. Your application will also be read by at least 2 additional college members who may also comment on your application at the panel meeting. They may be a generalist representative of the panel your application is assigned to. Please ensure that your application is accessible to non-technical experts that might not have in depth knowledge of your specific areas of research.

College members will use the evidence provided to discuss your application via online discussion boards and compile some initial feedback and questions seeking further clarification for the project lead to respond to ahead of the panel meeting. This will be agreed between the three assigned panel members and the Chair before being sent to the Project Lead.

7.3.3 Project lead response

One set of feedback and questions compiled by the three panel members who have assessed your application will be shared with project leads to provide a response ahead of the panel meetings. You will receive an email from the Funding Service confirming when the feedback is available (due 22 September 2025).

You are invited to provide a 1500-word response via the Funding Service before the final assessment of your application. Please address any feedback comments and / or questions raised by the panel and provide clarifications where they have been asked for. Your response should be clearly presented and your answers to the questions should follow the same structure as laid out in the comments from the panel. Your response should be concise and relate directly to the points raised. Your response is an important part of the process that the panel members use as part of the final assessment.

The deadline for the response will be 6 October 2025. We are not able to offer extensions past this date.

7.3.4 Panel assessment

Following the Project lead response, 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 proposed work and how best it meets the scheme's objectives, scoring it against the assessment criteria (see Annex 10 for the scoring system). Once all applications have been scored the panel will make recommendations on which applications should be prioritised for funding by grouping applications of equal standing into bands (see Annex 10 for the banding definitions). Roving college members (Rovers) from our Chair Pool observe at least three panels to ensure consistency in 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.

7.3.5 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 can be assigned to Band A* - see Annex 10 for banding definitions), 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
1 January 2026	Earliest start date
1 July 2026	Latest start date

Annex 2

Institutional caps for lead organisations (outline stage only)

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 administered in a timely and effective manner, we introduced institutional caps for round two.

The allocation numbers are 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 3](#) 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 round two. If your organisation is not listed in the table, please contact the team at ukirm@ukri.org to confirm your eligibility.

Inclusive selection process statement and supporting data (outline stage only)

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 outline stage submissions to round two of the UKRI cross research council responsive mode scheme, lead organisations had to 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. Guidance on what should be considered for their inclusive selection processes is in [Annex 4](#).

Lead organisations were asked to 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 5](#).

Lead organisations were 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 ukirm@ukri.org by the outline stage deadline (**19 November 2024, at 4.00 pm UK time**). Research offices were advised to consider how they will be selecting applications early and it is the lead organisation’s responsibility to ensure that applicants and research support staff had 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 would be rejected prior to outline panel assessment.

Annex 3

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 4

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

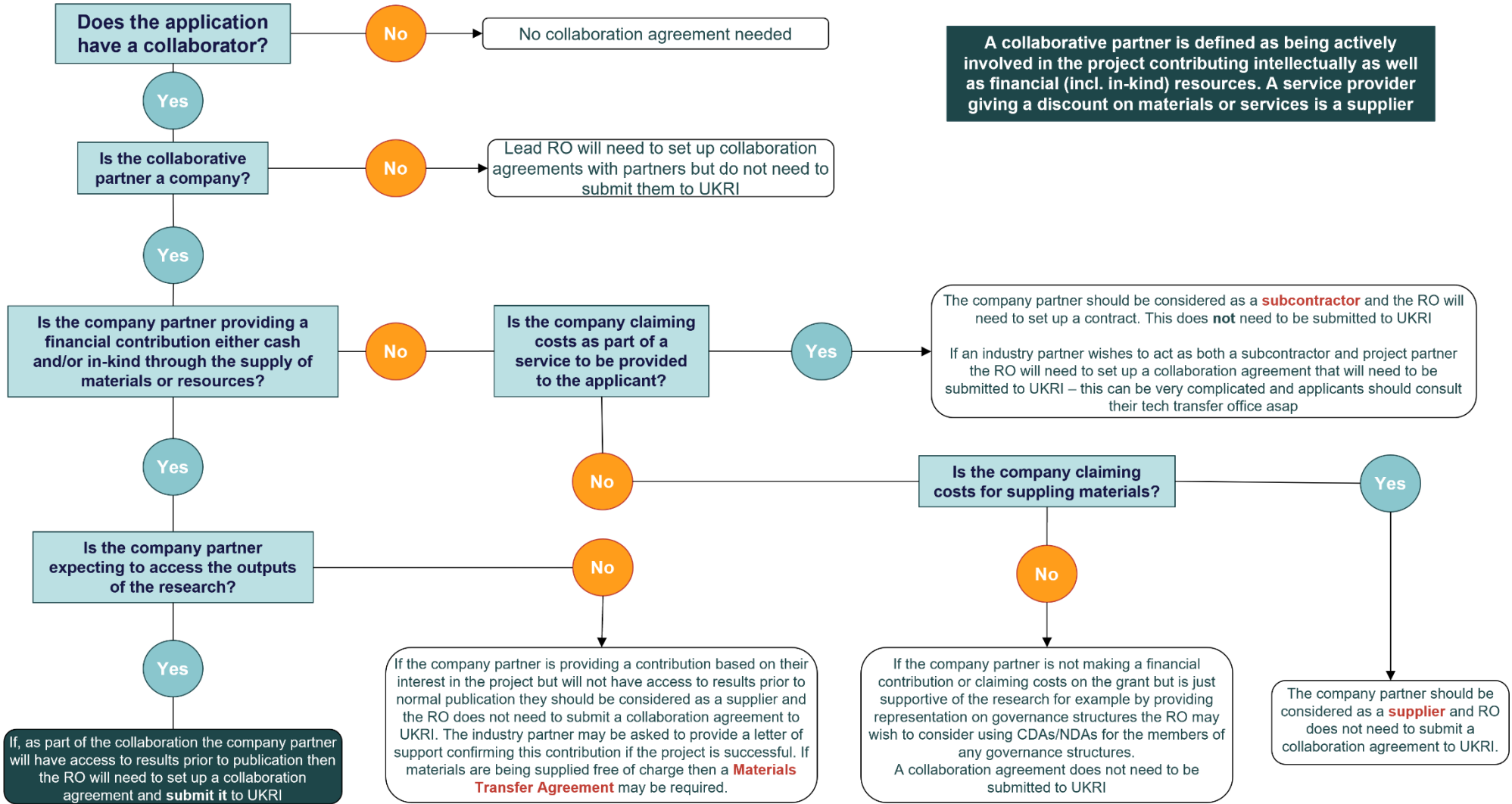
- How did these processes enable diversity and inclusion of applicants and applications in the selection of potential and final applications? Does the approach taken align with your organisation's equality diversity and inclusion policies?
- What steps were taken to mitigate unconscious bias in the selection 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?

Annex 5

Question		Data Collected - Applicants			
		Sex and Gender		Ethnicity	Disability
Number of project leads	who expressed interest in applying to R2 of the CRCRM scheme	Sex	Female Male Unknown/ Not disclosed	Arab Asian, or Asian British Black Mixed or multiple ethnic groups White Any other ethnic background Unknown/Not Disclosed	Yes No Unknown/ Not Disclosed
	selected to submit applications to R2 of the CRCRM scheme	Gender	Man Woman Non-Binary Other Unknown/Not Disclosed		
Benchmark data of researcher population at submitting Research Organisation		Gender identity same as sex registered at birth	Yes No Unknown/ Not Disclosed		
Number of project co-leads from your organisation	involved in applications considered for R2 of the CRCRM scheme.				
	involved in applications selected to submit to R2 of the CRCRM scheme				
Number of applications	considered for R2 of the CRCRM scheme	Single gender teams, led by	a man a woman a non-binary person a person with other gender Unknown/Not Disclosed		
	selected to submit applications to R2 of the CRCRM scheme	Mixed gender teams, led by			
	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	Interdisciplinary interface	EPS-EEB BIOM-EPS EPS-SS SS-BIOM EEB-SS EEB-BIOM BIOM-AH AH-SS AH-EEB EPS-AH		

Annex 6

When is submission of a collaboration agreement required for successful grants?



A collaborative partner is defined as being actively involved in the project contributing intellectually as well as financial (incl. in-kind) resources. A service provider giving a discount on materials or services is a supplier

Annex 7

Outline stage application questions, criteria and assessment process

Outline stage 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.

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

Clearly describe your proposed work in terms of:

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

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](#).

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 9](#)), 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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

Assessment criteria at the outline stage

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

Assessment process at the outline stage

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.

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.

The three panel members assessing your application will submit a pre-panel score to UKRI. With the volume of applications we receive, it is not possible for the panels to discuss every application at the panel meeting. To allow panel members sufficient time on the day, the discussions will be limited to those applications that have the potential to proceed to the next stage based on their pre-panel scores. The panel will discuss applications that received consistently high scores and those with divergent scores (by which we mean a difference in scores of at least 3) with at least one competitive score. UKRI will sift out any applications that receive consistently low pre-panel scores and were agreed not be discussed further at the meeting by the panel.

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 (see [Annex 10](#) for the scoring system). 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 grouping applications of equal standing into bands (see [Annex 10](#) for banding definitions).

Applications that are not discussed remain unbanded. There may be applications that had divergent pre-panel scores that when discussed by the panel received a final score by consensus that is lower than those applications that were unbanded. In the panel banding process, unbanded applications may have had an average pre-panel score within the range of applications that were allocated to Band C, but these applications are highly unlikely to be invited through to full stage.

Roving college members (Rovers) from our Chair Pool observe at least three panels to ensure consistency in the assessment process. 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, subject to Project Board approval.

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.

4. Feedback

The outcomes from the outline stage will include the banding and banding descriptions. For round 2 outline applicants also received a set of pre-written statements against each assessment criteria selected by the panel to provide more clarity on the panel's decision ([Annex 11](#)), including those that were unbanded. We will provide applicants with an overview of common themes regarding successful and unsuccessful applications at this stage.

Annex 8

Full stage application - optional questions

Optional ethics questions

9. Genetic and biological risk

Word limit: 700

Does your proposed research involve any genetic or biological risk?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

In respect of animals, plants or microbes, are you proposing to:

- use genetic modification as an experimental tool, like studying gene function in a genetically modified organism
- release genetically modified organisms
- ultimately develop commercial and industrial genetically modified outcomes

If yes, provide the name of any required approving body and state if approval is already in place. If it is not, provide an indicative timeframe for obtaining the required approval.

Identify the organism or organisms as a plant, animal or microbe and specify the species and which of the three categories the research relates to.

Identify the genetic and biological risks resulting from the proposed research, their implications, and any mitigation you plan on taking. Assessors will want to know you have considered the risks and their implications to justify that any identified risks do not outweigh any benefits of the proposed research.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

10. Research involving the use of animals

Word limit: 10

Does your proposed research involve the use of vertebrate animals or other organisms covered by the Animals Scientific Procedures Act?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you are proposing research that requires using animals, download and complete the [Animals Scientific Procedures Act template \(DOCX, 74KB\)](#), which contains all the questions relating to research using vertebrate animals or other Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 regulated organisms.

Save it as a PDF. The Funding Service will provide document upload details when you apply.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

11. Conducting research with animals overseas

Word limit: 700

Will any of the proposed animal research be conducted overseas?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you are proposing to conduct overseas research, it must be conducted in accordance with welfare standards consistent with those in the UK, as in [Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#). Ensure all named applicants in the UK and overseas are aware of this requirement.

If your application proposes animal research to be conducted overseas, you must provide a statement in the text box. Depending on the species involved, you may also need to upload a completed template for each species listed.

Statement

Provide a statement to confirm that:

- all named applicants are aware of the requirements and have agreed to abide by them
- this overseas research will be conducted in accordance with welfare standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation
- the expectation set out in Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research will be applied and maintained
- appropriate national and institutional approvals are in place

Templates

Overseas studies proposing to use non-human primates, cats, dogs, equines or pigs will be assessed during [NC3Rs review](#) of research applications. Provide the required information by completing the template from the question 'Research involving the use of animals'.

For studies involving other species, such as:

- rodents
- rabbits
- sheep
- goats
- pigs
- cattle
- *xenopus laevis* and *xenopus tropicalis*
- zebrafish

Select, download, and complete the relevant Word checklist or checklists by [exploring NC3Rs checklist for the use of animals overseas](#).

Save your completed template as a PDF and upload to the Funding Service. If you use more than one checklist template, save it as a single PDF.

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

If conducting research with animals overseas does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

12. Research involving human participation

Word limit: 700

Will the project involve the use of human subjects or their personal information?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you are proposing research that requires the involvement of human subjects, provide the name of any required approving body and whether approval is already in place.

Justify the number and the diversity of the participants involved, as well as any procedures.

Provide details of any areas of substantial or moderate severity of impact.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

13. Research involving human tissues or biological samples

Word limit: 700

Does your proposed research involve the use of human tissues, or biological samples?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you are proposing work that involves human tissues or biological samples, provide the name of any required approving body and whether approval is already in place.

Justify the use of human tissue or biological samples specifying the nature and quantity of the material to be used and its source.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Optional Project partner questions

15. 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. Project partners may be in industry, academia, third sector or government organisations in the UK or overseas, including partners based in the EU.

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 indirect) 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.

Guidance

If your research project involves an industry or company project partner you will need to answer question 9 Intellectual property (IP) management and communication. By 'industry or company' we mean an enterprise that puts goods or services on a market and whose commercial activities are greater than 20% of their overall annual capacity.

16. Intellectual property (IP) management and communication (optional)

Word limit: 800

If your research project involves an industry or company project partner, applicants will need to submit a formal collaboration agreement if an award is made. In order to ensure that the necessary discussions have been initiated prior to any collaboration, and that the nature of the collaboration is compliant with UKRI guidelines for subsidy control you need to answer this question. Your answer should include information on the nature, goals and conditions of the collaboration and any restrictions or rights to the project results that could be claimed by the project partner.

By 'industry or company' we mean an enterprise that puts goods or services on a market and whose commercial activities are greater than 20% of their overall annual capacity.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

How will the IP be managed with your industry or company project partners?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

In your answer you should outline the pre-existing IP ('background IP') that each project partner, including the academic partner, will bring to the research project. You should also outline the IP that is expected to be developed during the project ('foreground IP') and briefly outline how it will be managed, including:

- the terms under which project partners may access background IP
- which project partners will own the foreground IP
- what rights project partners will have to use academically-generated foreground IP during and after the research project, for internal research and development or for commercial purposes
- any rights of the academic partner to commercialise the foreground IP (including foreground IP generated by project partners)
- any restrictions to dissemination of the project results, including the rights of the project partner to review, approve or delay publications (including the time period associated with such rights) or request or require the removal of any information

You should also declare any conflicts of interest held by the applicants in relation to the project partners and describe how they will be managed.

If your project is successful, your project partner(s) will be required to submit a letter of support confirming any financial cash or in-kind contributions and their agreement to the IP management arrangements outlined in your project.

Other optional questions

19. Facilities

Word limit: 300

Does your proposed research require the support and use of a facility?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you will need to use a facility, follow your proposed facility's normal access request procedures. Ensure you have prior agreement so that if you are offered funding, they will support the use of their facility on your project.

For each requested facility you will need to provide the:

- name of facility, copied and pasted from the [facility information list \(DOCX, 42KB\)](#)
- proposed usage or costs, or costs per unit where indicated on the facility information list
- confirmation you have their agreement where required
- indicate if you need to request a delay to your start date or exceed to maximum grant budget in order to gain access to a facility

Facilities should only be named if they are on the facility information list above. If you will not need to use a facility, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

20. Clinical research using NHS resources

Word count: 250

Are you applying to do clinical research in the UK?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Researchers applying to do clinical research in the NHS, public health or social care usually need to complete a Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT).

We request the SoECAT because we want to know that you have taken the appropriate steps to request National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) support and for the full costs of your research to be attributed, calculated and paid.

We want to see the expected total resources required for your project to consider if these are appropriate.

Enter 'Yes' and complete and upload a SoECAT if you are applying for clinical research and:

- you will carry out your research in the UK
- your research will use NHS resources
- the research requires approval by Health Research Authority (England) or its equivalents in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales
- you will need support from the NIHR Research Delivery Network, this may include studies in a social care or public health setting

It is important to complete a SoECAT to be eligible for NIHR support. You must complete a SoECAT even if you do not think your clinical research will involve excess treatment costs (ETCs).

[Explore MRC guidance on who needs to complete a SoECAT.](#)

How to complete a SoECAT

[Explore NIHR SoECAT guidance.](#)

These are the steps you need to take:

1. Contact an attributing the costs of health and social care research and development (AcoRD) specialist as early as possible in the application process.
2. Complete an online SoECAT. Excel versions of the form have been discontinued. If you do not have an account for NIHR's Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS) you will need create and activate one. [See the NIHR user guide for instructions.](#)
3. Request authorisation of your SoECAT.
4. Once authorised extract the 'study information' and the 'summary' page from the 'Funder Export', combine them as a single PDF and upload it to your application.



Applications that require a SoECAT but have not attached the SoECAT funder export study information and summary may be rejected.

Ensure the AcoRD specialist name and date are included within the uploaded summary page. The SoECAT is invalid without this information.

Contact ukrirm@ukri.org if you have questions about the UKRI aspects of this process or have concerns that your SoECAT may not be authorised in time for the application closing date.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Annex 9

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.

<p><u>Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS)</u> Includes the remits of EPSRC and STFC</p>
<p><u>Earth, Environment and Biological Sciences (EEB)</u> 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.</p>
<p><u>Biomedical and Health (BIOM)</u> 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.</p>
<p><u>Arts and Humanities (AH)</u> Will be the majority of AHRC remit areas but will also include some areas relevant to ESRC</p>
<p><u>Social sciences (SS)</u> Will be the majority of ESRC remit areas but will also include some areas relevant to AHRC</p>
<p>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/</p>

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.

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

Earth, Environment and Biological Sciences (EEB)

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, Pollinators, 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

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

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 10

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*	<p><i>Full stage only</i></p> <p>These applications are judged to be of the <u>highest standards</u> and very strongly align with the CRCRM scheme objectives. They are <u>outstanding or exceptional</u> and <u>can be clearly distinguished from the other applications</u>.</p> <p>They are a top priority for the panel for funding.</p>
A	<p>These applications are judged to be of the <u>highest standards</u> and strongly align with the CRCRM scheme objectives.</p> <p>They are a priority for funding/ inviting through to full stage.</p>
B	<p>These applications are <u>of a high standard</u> and have good alignment with the CRCRM scheme objectives.</p> <p>They should be considered for funding/ inviting through to full stage, but are not prioritised.</p>
C	<p>These applications are <u>of a reasonable standard</u> and have some alignment with the CRCRM scheme objectives.</p> <p>They are fundable/ could be invited to the full stage but are the lowest priority.</p>
D	<p>These applications are of <u>low quality</u> and have limited alignment with the CRCRM scheme objectives.</p> <p>They are not recommended for funding/inviting through to full stage.</p>
Unbanded	<p><i>Outline stage only</i></p> <p>These applications received consistently low scores by the panel members and were agreed not be discussed further at the meeting by the panel.</p>

Annex 11

Round 2 outline applicants will have received a set of pre-written statements against each assessment criteria selected by the panel to provide more clarity on the panel's decision. After an application has been discussed and scored the Deputy Chair will select relevant statements from the table below provided to the panel that reflect the assessment of the application and to provide further clarity to the applicant on the outcome of their application. For unbanded applications that received consistently low scores by the panel members and were not discussed at the meeting by the panel, the Deputy Chair selected the statements based on the comments submitted by the three assessing panel members.

Assessment Criteria		For each Criteria choose 1 of the following:	Then choose the appropriate supporting statements for Fit to Scheme and Vision:	
Fit to Scheme	1	The proposal demonstrated clear fit to scheme with good integration, co-creation and reciprocal benefits.		
	2	The proposal showed some level of fit to scheme.	If selected #2 or #3 choose all that apply from #4-7	4 The proposal did not fully evidence how disciplines would be integrated
	3	The proposal showed a low level of fit to scheme and therefore did not meet this criterion.		5 The proposal did not fully evidence how the project was co-created . 6 The proposal did not fully evidence what the reciprocal benefits would be for the disciplines involved. 7 The outlined proposal was not considered to meet the scope of the call by covering the remit of a 2nd council by at least 10% .
Vision	8	The outlined proposal was considered to have exceeded the quality threshold required by the assessment process in terms of importance and the potential to advance current understanding, generate new knowledge, thinking or discovery beyond the field or area.	Choose 1 of the following if applicable:	11 The outlined proposal was considered very timely given current trends, context and needs.
	9	The outlined proposal was considered to have met the quality threshold required by the assessment process in terms of importance and the potential to advance current understanding, generate new knowledge, thinking or discovery beyond the field or area.		12 The outlined proposal was considered to be fairly timely given current trends, context and needs. 13 The outlined proposal was not considered to be timely given current trends, context and needs.
	10	The outlined proposal was considered to have not met the quality threshold required by the assessment process in terms of importance and its potential to advance current understanding, generate new knowledge, thinking or discovery beyond the field or area.	then Choose 1 of the following if applicable:	14 The outlined proposal was considered to have the potential to impact world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment. 15 The outlined proposal requires further clarity on how it could impact world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment. 16 The outlined proposal demonstrated limited potential to impact world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment.
Approach	17	The outlined approach is effective and appropriate to achieve the objectives.		
	18	There were some minor concerns about the effectiveness and appropriateness of the outlined project approach in achieving the objectives.		
	19	There were some significant concerns about the effectiveness and appropriateness of the outlined approach in achieving the objectives or the outlined approach was not clear in how it would achieve the objectives.		
Team Capability	20	The proposed team was considered to have high degree of the relevant experience and skills to develop and deliver the proposed research programme.		
	21	The proposed team was considered to have the relevant experience and skills to develop and deliver the proposed research programme.		
	22	There were some concerns about the relevant experience and skills of the proposed team needed to develop and deliver the outlined proposed research programme or the application was considered to be missing a particular area(s) of expertise.		