

EPSRC International Centre to Centre Research Collaborations Webinar

Webinar Date/Time: Tuesday 25 June 2024, 1100 UK Time

Webinar Recording: https://youtu.be/mpJhXk_uW9o

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Please contact the EPSRC International Team via international@epsrc.ukri.org if you would like a clarification on any of the answers provided in this document.

	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Eligibility Requirements		
1	I note that "a track record of the core team working together is required". What if the proposed team within an application is designed to bring new people together? 2018	We define a centre as a group of researchers who have a track record of working together with a view to achieving a particular aim collectively and for that to be the basis of the proposed research project. We expect there to be evidence of prior collaboration between applicants, for example, joint publications.
2	Is there an expectation that all UK applicant researchers have a track record of research collaboration with each other and with all international researchers involved in an application. Or is the expectation that there have been previous research interactions amongst the applicants more generally? Is the scheme designed to bring new people together?	We welcome the inclusion of early career researchers in applicant consortia and diverse research consortia, as long as one of the eligibility criteria A or B are satisfied by the team overall. For Criterion B in particular, not every proposed project lead is required to hold a current EPSRC grant, but we expect the majority of the applicant team to be project leads or project co-leads on one or more of the existing grants cited. We are willing to consider exceptions to these track record expectations under criterion B, for cases where consortia have a significant EPSRC grant portfolio in their area and can provide evidence of prior collaboration (for example, joint publications). In these cases, applicants must confirm eligibility with EPSRC prior to outline submission by emailing the EPSRC international team [international@epsrc.ukri.org]. The track record of the UK team working together will be assessed under the fit to opportunity assessment criterion. Within the Applicant and Team Capability to Deliver assessment

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3	If a co-applicant is in the first year of their first lectureship: Do they need to have an established track record of collaboration with all other UK applicants?	criterion, we request you to provide evidence of how you, and if relevant, your team, have relevant research experience and skills to develop and deliver the proposed transdisciplinary research programme, and planned to identify and embed additional expertise where gaps in the team exist.
4	If new collaborations are eligible, how does that meet the need to show prior collaboration, e.g. joint publications?	Applicants do not need to have a track record of collaborative work with the international partner to be eligible for this opportunity. We are open to proposals to either develop new international collaborators or to build on existing relationships.
5	Can members of UK team be working with each other for the first time?	
6	Is prior collaboration required with other UK participants within criterion B or with the international partners?	
7	What the maximum number of UK universities that we can allow?	There are no requirements on the maximum or minimum number of project leads or project co-leads that we would expect to see involved in these applications. UK project leads and project co-leads can be from a single institution or multiple institutions. Please note that UK applicants may only be named as project lead or project co-lead on one application to this funding opportunity. Applicants should bear in mind the track record requirements and practicalities around the amount of funding available.
8	Does the project lead of a Centre to Centre application need to be a project lead or project co-lead on any of the criteria B grants?	<p>Not every proposed project lead is required to hold a current EPSRC grant, but we expect the majority of the applicant team to be project leads or project co-leads on one or more of the existing grants cited</p> <p>For Criterion B, applicant consortia must collectively hold a research portfolio of at least £3 million of current EPSRC research grants. Each of these grants must have an end date after 9 June 2024 (meaning on or after 10 June 2024) to be eligible. If an offer letter for a grant has been issued on or after 10 June 2024, it can be included in this portfolio even if the project has not yet started.</p> <p>Grants can only be included in the centre to centre consortium's portfolio if the project lead of the grant is involved in the consortium. We particularly welcome applications from diverse research consortia and the inclusion of early career researchers.</p>

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		<p>There are no requirements on the minimum or maximum number of grants that can be listed in order to establish eligibility in this criterion. The qualifying amount for the cost of the grant is EPSRC's contribution, rather than the full economic cost.</p> <p>We are aware that grant values are typically significantly smaller for some of the fundamental areas of EPSRC's remit. For example, mathematical sciences.</p> <p>As such, we are willing to consider exceptions to criterion B, where consortia have a significant EPSRC grant portfolio in their area and you can provide evidence of prior collaboration (for example, joint publications). Consortia working in these areas must confirm eligibility with EPSRC prior to outline submission by emailing the EPSRC international team [email: international@epsrc.ukri.org].</p>
9	<p>Can you tell a bit more about the point in the funding opportunity that states 50% of the PIs need to hold grants.</p> <p>Do you consider only the UK applicants or all partners including the international collaborators?</p>	<p>In addition to general EPSRC eligibility requirements, applicant consortia must satisfy one of the following requirements (Criterion A or B, see funding opportunity for more details https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/international-centre-to-centre-research-collaborations-outlines/) to be eligible to apply. Applicant consortia only need to satisfy one of the criteria. You can satisfy both, but this is not a requirement. We particularly welcome applications from diverse research consortia and the inclusion of early career researchers.</p> <p>Criterion A:</p> <p>The applicant consortium must hold at least one of the current EPSRC strategic research grants as listed below. A grant with an end date on or after 10 June 2024 will be eligible. A grant with an end date up to or on 9 June 2024 will be ineligible.</p> <p>In order to satisfy the eligibility criterion, the project lead of the centre to centre application must be the project lead or project co-lead on the existing strategic grant which is used to satisfy Criterion A.</p> <p>We expect at least 50% of the core team (for example, project leads or project co-leads – see the 'How to apply' section on the funding opportunity page for a further definition and role types within a core team) within the centre to centre consortium to be project leads or project co-leads on the existing grant. However, there is no requirement to include all members of the core team involved in the existing strategic grant in the application for this funding opportunity.</p> <p>The list of strategic research investments considered to satisfy this criterion is available on https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/international-centre-to-centre-research-collaborations-outlines/</p>

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		<p>Criterion B: Applicant consortia must collectively hold a research portfolio of at least £3 million of current EPSRC research grants. Each of these grants must have an end date after 9 June 2024 (meaning on or after 10 June 2024) to be eligible. If an offer letter for a grant has been issued on or after 10 June 2024, it can be included in this portfolio even if the project has not yet started.</p> <p>Grants can only be included in the Centre to Centre consortium's portfolio if the project lead of the grant is involved in the consortium. Not every proposed project lead is required to hold a current EPSRC grant, but we expect the majority of the applicant team to be project leads or project co-leads on one or more of the existing grants cited. There are no requirements on the minimum or maximum number of grants that can be listed in order to establish eligibility in Criterion B. The qualifying amount for the cost of the grant is EPSRC's contribution, rather than the full economic cost.</p>
10	If there is no joint previous publication record of team members, but they still belong to a very coherent common area of research and know each other's research well (e.g. through attendance at common conferences), can this be used for demonstrating eligibility?	<p>No, there must be a tangible output which evidences your collaboration. A conference abstract where you are co-authors counts as evidence. Informal interactions do not. Reviewers will be asked to assess collaboration evidence at Full Stage.</p> <p>However: if collaboration is defined differently in your discipline, please contact us via international@epsrc.ukri.org, and we can confirm whether your style of collaboration will enable you to be eligible for this funding opportunity.</p>
11	Where UK early career researchers are involved in a bid, do they need to have a collaborative research track record like the more senior applicants?	We welcome the inclusion of early career researchers in applicant consortia and diverse research consortia, as long as one of the eligibility criteria A or B are satisfied by the team overall.
	EDI	
12	Criteria A or even B suggests that those who already received a large portfolio of grants from UKRI, will receive this C2C grant - supporting rich to become rich (unless I misunderstood it). Where does the	<p>We have performed a full equality impact assessment, which can be found on the funding page. Since round 3, we have made changes to the eligibility requirements compared to previous rounds of this opportunity to widen the eligibility pool.</p> <p>Eligibility is now centred around the UK team as a collective, rather than the track record of the PI holding existing large grants. Providing the requirement for at least 50% of the investigators</p>

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	<p>EDI principle on the funder side stand here if you could clarify this to us, please?</p>	<p>within the centre-to-centre consortium to be investigators on the existing grant or grants is met, any additional researchers including ECRs can be included on the centre-to-centre proposal. We recognise that the Centre-to-Centre funding opportunity inherently requires a certain amount of experience within the project team, so in order to specifically increase opportunities for early career researchers, we have also recently run an early career researcher international collaboration grant funding opportunity. This was a pilot, which we expect to run again the future.</p> <p>We also request EDI plans to be submitted as part of the full application, and encourage those in the core team to start to think about the plan at the Outline Stage. We encourage all applicants to follow the principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and the Technician Commitment.</p>
	<p>Application Process</p>	
13	<p>I am from Malaysia and interested to apply for this grant. Can you advise on how to go about it.</p>	<p>More details about how to apply and who is eligible to apply for a Centre to Centre grant are available on the funding opportunity webpage (https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/international-centre-to-centre-research-collaborations-outlines/). You can apply if you are resident in the UK and meet a set of conditions and two additional criteria (more information on the funding opportunity webpage). Standard EPSRC eligibility criteria also apply.</p>
	<p>Funding/Costs</p>	
14	<p>Can UK members time on the project be included as staff costs?</p>	<p>Assuming this question refers to the staff costs of the project lead, project co-lead and any research assistants and associated staff in the core team – yes.</p>
15	<p>Do capital equipment grants include strategic equipment grants or are they different?</p>	<p>The grants which are eligible to be included as strategic research investments are listed on the funding opportunity page. Some overlap with equipment grants. We recommend you to view this list to identify the specific grant you would like to know about. If you have questions about the eligibility of a specific grant, please email us.</p>
16	<p>Hosting visiting researchers for 12 months. This is a great idea, and could the proposal outline a process for finding these during the grant or they need to be identified at proposal stage?</p>	<p>If the specific visiting researcher has not been identified yet, details can be included in the Applicant and Team Capability to Deliver section of your application.</p>

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17	<p>You mentioned the UK costs don't cover consumables for the international collaborator, so should they have their own funding or own grant application to cover their contribution?</p> <p>Will the international co-leads be listed but not receive remuneration?</p>	<p>International collaborators should be listed as project partners or visiting researchers – not project co-lead (international) – unless they are based in Norway. Under the UKRI and Research Council of Norway Money Follows Cooperation agreement a project co-lead (international) (previously co-investigator) can be based in a Norwegian institution.</p> <p>In general, project partner contributions must be in-kind or cash contributions. However, project partners can receive small amounts of funding from the grant, such as for travel and subsistence to attend project meetings. Extended visits should be listed as visiting researchers.</p> <p>Visiting researcher support may be requested for visits by overseas collaborators to the UK for up to 12 months per individual. The application may include estates and indirect costs for any visiting researcher, regardless of whether the support being requested includes a salary contribution or is only travel and subsistence.</p>
International Collaborations/Partners		
18	<p>Is there a preference for connecting with countries outside the EU, or low or middle income country countries? Are there any limits on which countries can be partnered with?</p>	<p>The core aim of this scheme is to enable world-leading partnerships by providing opportunities for leading UK research groups to work in partnership with the best international researchers for their research in any part of the world. Partners may be in a low- or middle-income country. However, we do not require compliance with Official Development Assistance (ODA) criteria for this funding opportunity.</p>
19	<p>Is there a limit on the number of international centres that can be included? Are two institutions from outside UK also allowed? Also, can two institutions from UK apply for this grant?</p>	<p>There is no limit on the number of international institutions or countries that projects can work with.</p>
20	<p>Will different researchers from the same UK organisation apply for collaboration with different international partners?</p>	<p>We do not hold this information. The core aim of this scheme is to enable world-leading partnerships by providing opportunities for leading UK research groups to work in partnership with the best international researchers for their research in any part of the world.</p>
21	<p>In terms of international partner, do we have to have an existing collaboration with a partner</p>	<p>Applicants do not need to have a track record of collaborative work with the international partner to be eligible for this call.</p>

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	overseas, or is a new partnership formation is acceptable?	
EPSRC Strategic Grants		
22	Is the ICT Future Communications Systems Platforms an eligible investment?	Yes – this is detailed on the funding opportunity webpage under Criterion A: https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/international-centre-to-centre-research-collaborations-outlines/
23	ICT Future Communications Systems Platforms: which specific platform do you refer to? Do you refer to the three EPSRC Communication hubs?	It refers to these specific EPSRC investments, announced in March 2023: https://www.ukri.org/news/6m-boost-for-the-communications-technologies-of-tomorrow/ .
24	Can a non-EPSRC grant in an appropriate remit area count towards exception? I am thinking particularly of an STFC grant that we have.	STFC grants cannot be included in the £3m grant portfolio. A £3m grant portfolio must be made up of EPSRC grant funding.
25	Are the TAS nodes projects considered as part of the strategic grants?	Yes, the UKRI Trustworthy Autonomous Systems (TAS) Hub is a strategic research grant listed under Criterion A.
26	Is there a link which details the EPSRC strategic grant list?	Yes – this is detailed on the funding opportunity webpage. https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/international-centre-to-centre-research-collaborations-outlines/
27	Is the prosperity partnerships: early-stage collaborations (pilot) categorised in criteria A?	Yes, the Prosperity Partnerships: Early-Stage Collaborations (Pilot) scheme is included in Criteria A.
General Questions		
28	Is there a fixed start date for successful bids?	

	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
29	What is the likely start date? I need this to start to pull costs together	We do not know this information at the time of document publication (July 2024), however the full application launch date and associated assessment processes will take place in 2025. Please keep a look out on the funding opportunity page - more details will be released there.
30	Is there an interview in the final stage of the application?	No. Full Stage Application assessment involves postal peer review and a moderation (prioritisation) panel.
31	Did I understand correctly that in addition to the project lead and co-lead, the UK team must include two full time PDRAs?	<p>Two full-time equivalent postdoctoral research staff should be requested on each proposal. Named postdoctoral researchers are allowed in a Centre to Centre application.</p> <p>If appropriate for the proposed project's direction and objectives, you can request postdoctoral researcher positions that do not necessarily span the full length of the project or include part-time positions ie. any combination of PDRA time that is equivalent to at least a minimum of two full time PDRAs is permitted in a Centre to Centre application.</p> <p>We do not expect applicants to include short-term postdoctoral researcher positions.</p>
32	Can Conferences/workshops be funded?	<p>Eligibility of conferences and workshop costs are the same as they would be for the EPSRC Standard Responsive Mode funding opportunity. We recommend to view the specifics of our indirect costs and direct costs on the EPSRC and UKRI website.</p> <p>We generally allow these as long as the costs are fully justified, and that they are organised by the UK grant staff (or the UK partner collaborator) and as long as they take place within the lifetime of the grant.</p>
33	If we are unsuccessful, can we apply again using the same strategic research grant?	Yes you can, however please note the list of grants listed under Criterion A may change in future Centre to Centre funding opportunities, and note the EPSRC policy on resubmissions. https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/unsuccessful-applicants-and-resubmissions/epsrc-policy-on-resubmissions/
34	How can we get the list of the UK applicants?	Previously funded Centre to Centre grants can be found on: https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/ and https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/epsrccdatateam/viz/EPsrcFundingApplicationOutcomes/MeetingList
35	Does this funding call allow PhD funding? It would be a great way to facilitate a closer working dynamic across countries.	PhD studentships and funding associated with PhD studentships may not be included in the costs sought from EPSRC for this funding opportunity.

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36	I've tried to find previous Centre to Centre grants on EPSRC Grants on the Web but it doesn't seem to find them and often seems to crash	<p>These are available here:</p> <p>2020 Full Proposals: https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewPanelROL.aspx?PanelId=1-98PGBB&RankingListId=1-98PGEO</p> <p>2019 Full Proposals: https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOViewPanelROL.aspx?PanelId=1-660RRW&RankingListId=1-660RW2</p> <p>To find the list of previous panels (2018 – 2023), please visit https://gow.epsrc.ukri.org/NGBOFindPanels.aspx and enter “Centre to Centre” in the panel name field between 1 April 2018 and 2 July 2024.</p> <p>Data are also available on https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/epsrcdatateam/viz/EPsrcFundingApplicationOutcomes/MeetingList .</p>
37	Does holding an EPSRC Standard Grant beyond June 2024 fulfil Criterion A?	<p>The applicant consortium must hold at least one of the current EPSRC strategic research grants as listed on the funding opportunity webpage. This does not include the EPSRC Standard Mode grants. A strategic research grant with an end date on or after 10 June 2024 will be eligible. A strategic research grant with an end date up to or on 9 June 2024 will be ineligible.</p> <p>In order to satisfy the eligibility criterion, the project lead of the centre to centre application must be the project lead or project co-lead on the existing strategic investment. Smaller component grants (less than £2 million) of a larger centre or similar investment do not qualify under this criterion but may be included in the qualifying portfolio under criterion B. Under criterion B, applicant consortia must collectively hold a research portfolio of at least £3 million of current EPSRC research grants. Each of these grants must have an end date after 9 June 2024 (meaning on or after 10 June 2024) to be eligible. If an offer letter for a grant has been issued on or after 10 June 2024, it can be included in this portfolio even if the project has not yet started. Please see the funding opportunity webpage for more details.</p>
38	Can the funds be requested for buyout of teaching time for the UK-based participants, allowing them to spend extended periods up to 90	No, this is not possible under this funding opportunity.

	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	days at partner's institution during teaching period?	
39	What are the available UK contacts which can be shared for us from other countries who are keen on this research funding?	The UK's Science and Innovation Network (SIN) can be contacted via SIN.info@fcdo.gov.uk .
40	Is there any max amount that can be requested as part of caring needs? Do you need a detailed breakdown during the outline proposal stage?	No there is no limit on funds which can be requested for caring responsibilities. For the outline stage, a brief justification for the UK resources should be given. A short description should be provided of types of costs that the international partner's planned financial contribution will cover (for example, staff costs, travel, laboratory access). Please provide the approximate total values in GBP (£) for the expected directly incurred, directly allocated, indirect costs and exceptions.