

Part of UK Research and Innovation

Frequently Asked Questions

Building Collaboration at the Physics of Life Interface

Call Document: Please ensure that you read the call document carefully ahead of completing your intention to submit and completing your full proposal.

Funding requested: The contribution requested from UKRI must not amount to more than £3 million.

Scope of the call: Proposals submitted to this call must include physics research which is in remit for the EPSRC Biophysics and Soft Matter Physics portfolio, integrated with applications within BBSRC and/or MRC remit. However, UKRI recognises that novelty can be achieved by applying previously uncombined, existing physics techniques into biological and biomedical fields. Therefore proposals employing established physics techniques, where the methodology is either being further developed or is generating further knowledge in physics, are in remit for this call.

International involvement: Investigators must be academic employees (lecturer or equivalent) of an eligible organisation and must be resident in the UK. Resources for international engagement and collaboration are permitted through this call.

Investigators: As stated within the call document, two co-principal investigators must be identified to jointly lead the research programme and between them have the broad expertise in physics research and life sciences research. Applicants are permitted to identify more than two co-principal investigators where the breadth of expertise required cannot be covered by two individuals.

Submissions: Submissions by an individual named as co-investigator on more than one research proposal are permitted providing the bids are not overlapping in content.

Equipment: As stated within the call document, equipment over £10,000 is available through this call. Small items of equipment under £10,000 are eligible. For guidance on the upper limit for equipment requested through this call, please see the EPSRC guidance for equipment on research grants.

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/process/researchgrants/>

Postdoctoral Research Associates (PDRAs): Applicants must request at least two PDRAs in their research proposal but may ask for more than six in the case of shorter-term appointments. The call document has been updated to reflect the removal of the upper limit for PDRAs.

Intention to submit: The intention to submit stage will be used by UKRI to determine demand for the research call, finalise panel members and provide guidance to potential applicants on whether what has been submitted fits the scope of the call. There will be no external peer review at this stage and applicants will not be prevented from submitting a full proposal. Applicants are encouraged to begin completing their full proposal at their earliest convenience and should not wait until they receive feedback from UKRI following their intention to submit.

The estimated value of funding to be requested, which is requested in the intention to submit survey, is an estimate for office use only. Applicants will not be required to submit a full proposal within 10% of this value.

Peer review process: As noted in the call document, this call will operate a single stage peer review process using an expert peer review panel. There will be no postal peer review or sift panel. The expertise of the peer review panel will be selected to reflect the breadth of proposals submitted under the Physics of Life call. The expertise of the panel will therefore be finalised following the intention to submit stage.

Further calls: It is envisaged that a further call will be announced in 2021 for 2022 grant start dates.

EPSRC Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy: Submissions to this call will not count towards the EPSRC Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy since this is a UKRI call.

Contacts: Please note, the EPSRC contact for this call is now Kate Bowman. The office will be closed from Saturday 22 December 2018 and will reopen on Wednesday 2 January 2019.

- Kate Bowman (kate.bowman@epsrc.ukri.org - 01793 444369)