

Quick Reference

Please note that you must read the full call document for guidance before submitting your proposal

International centre-to-centre research collaborations

Call type: Invitation for proposals

Closing date for full proposals: Tuesday 23 October 2018 at 16:00

Funding Available: Up to £15 million is available from EPSRC for this call. We aim to fund 10-15 research consortia through this activity.

How to apply: Invited full proposals are to be submitted via Je-S.

Assessment Process: Invited full proposals will undergo postal peer review, followed by prioritisation panel, resulting in a rank-ordered list.

Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Call for proposals issued	24 July 2018
Deadline for full proposals	23 October 2018, 16:00
Full proposal panel meeting	February-March 2019
Grant start date	From June 2019

Additional information:

- Only applicants who have been invited forward following a successful outline submission by 1 May 2018 are eligible to apply to this call.
- Full proposals should closely match the original outline proposal in terms of the research proposed and international partners. The overall cost requested from EPSRC cannot be more than 10% above the value of the outline proposal.
- UK applicants may only be named as Investigator (either Principal or Co-Investigator) on one proposal to this call.
- Only one application form should be submitted for each bid. Joint proposals on separate Je-S forms will not be accepted.

Contacts:

- Gavin Salisbury (Gavin.Salisbury@epsrc.ac.uk)
- Queries regarding the submission of proposals through Je-S should be directed to the Je-S helpdesk (01793 444164 - JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk)

International centre-to-centre research collaborations

Call type: Invitation for full proposals

Closing date: Tuesday 23 October 2018 at 16:00

Related themes: All

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Summary

This call is the pilot phase of a new EPSRC funding initiative which aims to provide opportunities for leading UK research groups to work in partnership with the best international researchers.

Up to £15 million is available from EPSRC for this call, and we aim to support 10-15 research consortia for projects of 3-5 years' duration. To be eligible, applicant teams must have submitted an outline proposal to the earlier deadline of 1 May 2018 and been invited forward to submit a full proposal. Please also note that UK applicants may only be named as Investigator (either Principal or Co-Investigator) on one proposal to this call.

Full proposals should closely match the original outline proposal in terms of the research proposed and international partners. In costing the full proposal careful consideration should be given to the value for money of the proposed research. Costs requested may be below those requested at the outline stage if suitable savings can be identified. However, the overall cost requested from EPSRC at the full proposal stage cannot be more than 10% above the value of the outline proposal.

Background

Research is of course an international endeavour and many challenges that we face are global. As well as maintaining the strength of UK research, we want UK researchers to be able to work with the best collaborators around the world. This call is the pilot phase for a new EPSRC funding initiative which aims to provide opportunities for leading UK research groups to work in partnership with the best international researchers. The objectives of this call are:

- i. To enable high-profile, best-with-best international collaborations focused on excellent research with impact
- ii. To contribute to EPSRC strategy by supporting high-quality research collaborations which align with Balancing Capability research area rationales and address Delivery Plan outcomes and ambitions
<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/researchareas/>
<https://epsrc.ukri.org/about/plans/deliveryplan/>
- iii. To further the UK's strategic needs in international science and innovation partnerships.

As noted at the outline stage, research projects funded through this call must be predominantly in EPSRC remit. Full proposals not meeting this requirement in the judgement of EPSRC staff will be rejected without recourse to peer review.

Industry engagement is strongly encouraged where appropriate, subject to standard EPSRC funding rules.

For more information about EPSRC's portfolio and strategies, see our website:
<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/>.

Funding available

Up to £15 million is available from EPSRC for this call. We aim to fund 10-15 research consortia through this activity for projects of 3-5 years' duration. Proposals may consist of a single research project or a suite of related research activities in a defined research topic. In terms of staff resource we expect at least two full-time equivalent postdoctoral research staff to be requested on each proposal. PhD studentships may not be included in the costs sought from EPSRC. We also expect to see a travel budget sufficient to support the collaboration between the centres.

In costing the full proposal careful consideration should be given to the value for money of the proposed research. Costs requested may be below those requested at the outline stage if suitable savings can be identified. However, the overall cost requested from EPSRC at the full proposal stage cannot be more than **10%** above the value of the outline proposal.

Support for the proposed international collaboration is subject to standard EPSRC funding rules. International Co-Investigators may not be requested in this call.

Resources requested may include travel, subsistence and consumables for the UK Investigators and research staff to visit or have extended work placements to a partner's laboratory overseas. Support may also be requested for visits by overseas partners to the UK of up to 12 months per individual; this support may include a contribution to the visitor's salary if necessary to facilitate the visit. 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.

Each proposed overseas partner organisation, which may be a university, public sector research organisation or publicly funded research institute, should be listed in the Je-S form as a Project Partner. A letter of support from each overseas partner organisation is required, and each partner organisation's estimated financial contribution to the research consortium should be given in the form as cash/in-kind contributions as appropriate. No funding from EPSRC is available for the overseas partners other than as described above. If the overseas partners are applying or plan to apply for funding in parallel to enable their participation in the consortium this should be specified in the Justification of Resources. See **How to apply** below.

Further guidance on the types of support that may be sought from EPSRC is given on the EPSRC website (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/>) which should be consulted when preparing all proposals.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The long-term strength of the UK research base depends on harnessing all the available talent and the Research Councils have together developed the ambitious UKRI Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (<https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>). In line with the RCUK Diversity Principles, EPSRC expects that equality and diversity is embedded at all levels and in all aspects of research practice. We are committed to supporting the research community in the diverse ways a research career can be built with our investments. This includes career breaks, support for people with caring responsibilities, flexible working and alternative working patterns. With this in mind, we welcome applications from academics who job share, have a part-time contract, need flexible working arrangements or those currently committed to other longer, large existing grants. Please see our Equality and Diversity webpages <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/equalitydiversity/> for further information. For those applicants with caring responsibilities please also see: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/basics/caringresponsibilities/>.

Equipment

Equipment over £10,000 in value (including VAT) is not available through this call. Smaller items of equipment (individually under £10,000) should be in the Directly Incurred – Other Costs heading.

For more information on equipment funding, please see: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/facilities/equipment/>

Eligibility

Only applicants who have been invited forward following a successful outline submission by 1 May 2018 are eligible to apply to this call. Please also note that UK applicants may only be named as Investigator (either Principal or Co-Investigator) on one proposal to this call.

Standard EPSRC eligibility requirements apply for research organisations in this activity. For information on the eligibility of organisations and individuals to receive EPSRC funding, see the EPSRC Funding Guide: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/fundingguide/>

A list of eligible organisations to apply to EPSRC is provided at:
<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs/>

How to apply

Submitting an application

You should prepare and submit your full proposal using the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>). Although proposals may be multi-institutional, only one application form should be submitted for each bid. Single-form applications are required in order to facilitate integration across the UK research partners. **Joint proposals on separate Je-S forms will not be accepted.**

The lead institution must be based in the UK and must be eligible to hold EPSRC grants.

When adding a new proposal, you should select:

- Council 'EPSRC'
- Document type 'Standard Proposal'
- Scheme 'Standard'
- Call/Type/Mode 'International Centre to Centre (invite only)'.

Note that clicking 'Submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to EPSRC. Please allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the call closing date. EPSRC must receive your application by 16:00 on **Tuesday 23 October 2018**.

Guidance on the types of support that may be sought and advice on the completion of the research proposal forms are given on the EPSRC website at <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/> which should be consulted when preparing all proposals.

Full proposals invited following a successful outline stage must have the 'Related Proposals' field completed in Je-S. Please use the option 'Successful Outline.'

Guidance on writing an application

In addition to the completed Je-S form applications must include the following components:

- **Case for support** (up to ten sides of A4 in total), including:
 - Track record of the applicants (up to two sides of A4). This section should include the track record of the international academic partners.
 - Description of the proposed research (up to six sides of A4). The case for support should describe whole planned research project/programme, including the contribution of the international partners. Clear reference should also be made to the additionality of the proposed partnership, and what this grant would enable which would not otherwise be feasible.
 - Management plan, including risk management strategy (up to two sides of A4).

- **Justification of resources** (JoR; up to **three** sides of A4), to include a detailed description of the international partners' financial contributions to the project. If the international partners are in the process of applying for funding in parallel, and their participation in the project is contingent upon success in that process, then this should be clearly indicated in the JoR. Please include in your JoR the stage reached in that process, if applicable, and estimated date of decision. This date should be no later than three months after the planned start date of the EPSRC award.
- **Pathways to impact statement** (up to two sides of A4)
- **Work plan** (one side of A4)
- **CVs** (up to two sides of A4 for each named researcher, visiting researcher and researcher co-investigator, where applicable)
- **Statement of support from each project partner** (no page limit)
- **Technical assessment** for the use of any major facility - where applicable (no page limit)

The Je-S form should list each international partner organisation as a Project Partner, giving their estimated financial contribution to the research programme as cash/in-kind contributions as appropriate. The named contact on the Je-S form should be the lead Investigator from that research organisation. Proposals with no appropriate international partners listed as Project Partner on the Je-S form will not be considered, even if the partners are cited elsewhere in the documentation.

Applicants should use the Ethical Information section on the Je-S form to demonstrate to peer reviewers that they have fully considered any ethical issues concerning the material they intend to use, the nature and choice, current public perceptions and attitudes towards the subject matter or research area. EPSRC will not fund a project if it believes that there are ethical concerns that have been overlooked or not appropriately accounted for. All relevant parts of the Ethical Information section must be completed. If the research will involve human participation or the use of animals covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 it is recommended that applicants pay particular attention to the guidance highlighted below. EPSRC reserves the right to reject applications prior to peer review if the Ethical Information sections are not completed correctly.

Further guidance on completing the Je-S form can be found at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/GuidanceonCompletingaStandardG/EthicalInformation.htm>. Other relevant guidance includes: EPSRC's policy on animal use in research (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/about/standards/animalresearchpolicy/>) and the Responsible Innovation Framework (<https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/framework/>).

Please note that on submission to EPSRC **all** non-PDF documents uploaded onto Je-S are converted to PDF, the use of non-standard fonts may result in errors or font conversion, which could affect the overall length of the document.

In addition, where non-standard fonts are present, and even though the converted PDF document may look unaffected in the Je-S System, when it is imported into the Research Councils Grants System some information may be removed. We therefore recommend that where a document contains any non-standard fonts (scientific notation, diagrams etc.), the document is converted to PDF prior to attaching it to the proposal.

For advice on writing proposals see:

Assessment

Assessment process

Proposals will undergo postal peer review, followed by a prioritisation panel, resulting in a rank-ordered list.

At the funding prioritisation panel meeting(s) proposals may be grouped by topic and ranked on separate lists, as required. The panels will assess the proposals against the assessment criteria described below.

For applications where overseas partners' participation in the project is dependent on a separate funding application and assessment process, the EPSRC funding will be suspended until the partners' funding is confirmed. This decision point should be no later than three months after the planned start date of the EPSRC grant.

Assessment criteria

Quality (primary criterion)

- Novelty, relationship to the research context, and timeliness of this proposed collaboration
- Ambition, adventure, and transformative aspects identified
- Appropriateness of the proposed methodology

Importance (secondary major criterion)

- UK national importance: contribution to other research areas, societal challenges, and/or emerging industries; evidence of UK strategic need for this international partnership, including but not limited to the contribution to EPSRC's strategy, such as Balancing Capability and Delivery Plan Outcomes

Impact (secondary major criterion)

- Relevance and appropriateness of beneficiaries identified and collaborators proposed, including businesses and charities where appropriate
- Quality of the impact pathways described to facilitate/accelerate impacts of the research

Applicants' ability to deliver the proposed research (secondary major criterion)

- Balance of skills of the proposed project team, including multidisciplinary innovation and entrepreneurship where appropriate
- Track record of UK applicant team working together
- Appropriateness of international partnership

Resources and management (secondary major criterion)

- Effectiveness of the proposed planning and management, including risk management strategy

- Appropriateness of the resources requested

Fit to the call (secondary major criterion)

- Added value of the proposed research partnership; unique features of the joint research team

Feedback

No prioritisation panel feedback will be provided, although the panel outcomes will be published after the meeting on EPSRC Grants on the Web.

Submissions to this call will count towards the Repeatedly Unsuccessful Applicants Policy. Further information about the policy can be found at: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/howtoapply/basics/resubpol/rua/>

Guidance for reviewers

Information about the EPSRC peer review process and guidance for reviewers can be found at: <https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/review/>

Guidance for reviewing standard grants can be found here:

<http://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/assessmentprocess/review/formsandguidancenotes/standardgrants/>

Additional grant conditions (AGCs)

Grants will be subject to the standard UKRI Research Council grant conditions. However, the following additional grant condition will be added to grants funded through this call.

RGAC 1: Withdrawal of Funding

If the overseas partners' funding to collaborate on this grant is either not agreed by the relevant funding agency or is withdrawn after the project has started, the EPSRC reserves the right to terminate the EPSRC grant. This is in line with Research Council Research Grant condition RGC 24.

Key dates

Activity	Date*
Call for proposals issued	24 July 2018
Deadline for full proposals	23 October 2018, 16:00
Full proposal panel meeting	February-March 2019
Grant start date	From June 2019

*We aim to adhere to the key dates as published. However, there may be occasions where the date of the panel meeting has to change due to panel member availability.

Contacts

- Gavin Salisbury (01793 444040 - Gavin.Salisbury@epsrc.ac.uk)
- Sarah King (01793 444415 - Sarah.King@epsrc.ac.uk)

Queries regarding the submission of proposals through Je-S should be directed to the Je-S helpdesk (01793 444164 - JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk)

Please contact your university research office for help and advice on writing your proposal and allow enough time before the closing date for your organisation's submission process.

Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Gavin Salisbury	16/7/18	1.0	N/A

Appendix

Je-S attachments checklist

Attachment Type	Maximum Page length	Mandatory/Optional	Extra Guidance
Case for Support	10 pages	M	Comprising up to two A4 sides for the track record, up to six A4 sides describing the proposed research and its context, and up to two A4 sides for management and risk strategy.
Pathways to Impact	2 pages	M	
Work plan	1 page	M	
Justification for Resources	3 pages	M	
CVs	2 pages each	As required by EPSRC	For named and visiting researchers, and Researcher Co-Investigators only .
Project Partner Letters of Support	No page limits	As required by EPSRC	Must be included from all named project partners. Must be on

			headed paper, and be signed and dated within six months of the proposal submission date.
Letters of Support	No page limits	As required by EPSRC	In exceptional circumstances a maximum of three letters can be submitted.
Technical assessment	No page limit	As required by EPSRC	
Proposal Cover Letter	No page limit	Optional	The cover letter can be used to highlight any important information to EPSRC. This attachment type is not seen by reviewers or panel members.
Other attachment	No page limit	As required, at EPSRC request only	This can be used for a document that does not fit under any of the headings above. This attachment type is not seen by reviewers or panel members.

Please ensure you adhere to the above attachment requirements when submitting your proposal. Any missing, over-length or unnecessary attachments may result in your proposal being rejected.