New Horizons FAQ

Contents

What should be included in the “Ability to Deliver” document? ................................................................. 1
Am I eligible for the New Horizons Call if I hold a fellowship? ................................................................. 1
Should all the usual sections of the Standard Mode application be used to write the Case for Support? .... 2
Are interdisciplinary projects (e.g. Physics and Engineering) within the scope of the call? ......................... 2
Is it possible to include overseas academics in the New Horizons call? If so, are they eligible for funding? .... 2
Is there an expectation that project partners are included in the proposals? If so, how many can I include?. 3
Would the costings for successful projects be excluding indexation? .......................................................... 3
Are there any limitations on what the money can be spent on? ................................................................. 3
Can students be funded through New Horizons? ......................................................................................... 3
The indicative start date is Jan 2021. What flexibility is there in this? .......................................................... 3
Is there a restriction for applying New Horizons call and a UKRI Fellowship in the same year? ................. 3
What formatting should be used? ................................................................................................................. 3
Can Researcher Co-Investigators be included on this call? ..................................................................... 4
Do I need to include letters of support? ....................................................................................................... 4

What should be included in the “Ability to Deliver” document?

The Ability to Deliver document should contain the elements which would usually appear in the track record of a standard proposal. However, the applicant should also highlight why they are the best person to deliver the research and what the value of carrying out the research at their Research Organisation or with any project partners (if included) is. The Ability to Deliver document is not just for the Principle Investigator's track record.

Am I eligible for the New Horizons Call if I hold a fellowship?

Our standard eligibility rules apply: https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/eligibility/investigators/.

If you have a fixed-term appointment, you are eligible providing your contract extends beyond the end date of the proposed research and your host research organisation provides you with the support they would normally offer a permanent employee.

If you hold an early career fellowship and your university gives you the same stature as a permanent academic member of staff, you are eligible. These fellowships include the EPSRC Early Career Fellowship, Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship, RAEng Research Fellowship, RAEng Industrial Fellowship, Royal Society University Research Fellowship and Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship.

If you have an EPSRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Leverhulme EC Fellowship, Ser Cymru Fellowship and Daphne Jackson Trust Fellowship then you are not eligible to apply because investigators must be academic employees (lecturer or equivalent) of an eligible organisation and must be resident in the
UK. Any fellows holding fellowships aimed primarily at the postdoctoral level are not eligible to apply.
Holders of Fellowships under other schemes should contact the EPSRC to establish eligibility. This may be given on an individual case by case basis rather than as blanket eligibility for all fellows under any scheme.
Should all the usual sections of the Standard Mode application be used to write the Case for Support?
The Case for Support should be used to help emphasise the ground-breaking nature of the science. EPSRC is not stipulating which sections should be included in the Case for Support for this opportunity.

Are interdisciplinary projects (e.g. Physics and Engineering) within the scope of the call?
Proposals are welcome from the following EPSRC areas: novel Physical Sciences research aimed at new approaches for understanding fundamental Physics, Chemistry and Materials Science; the creation of new experimental approaches and the discovery of new molecules and materials; or novel advances in Mathematical Sciences research across the breadth of pure and applied mathematics as well as in statistics and operational research.
Multidisciplinary work can be submitted but EPSRC would expect that fundamental Mathematical and/or Physical Sciences make up the majority of the research being proposed. If, on reading the proposal, there is doubt that Physical Sciences or Mathematical Science research areas are the main proportion of the work, the proposal will be rejected.
To help identify which areas would qualify as Physical Sciences and Mathematical Sciences, please look at the following EPSRC contacts pages and the research areas listed within them:
https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/physicalsciences/contacts/
https://epsrc.ukri.org/research/ourportfolio/themes/mathematics/contacts/

Is it possible to include overseas academics in the New Horizons call? If so, are they eligible for funding?
Overseas academics can be included as Collaborators on this grant, but they cannot be Co-Is or PIs.
Support may be requested for visits by scientists and engineers of acknowledged standing from within the UK or abroad to the investigator's organisation. Funding is limited to 12 months per individual. The research organisation should include Estates Costs and Indirect Costs for any Visiting Researcher regardless of whether the support being requested includes a salary contribution or is only Travel and Subsistence.
EPSRC cannot provide any funding for Project Partners, or anyone who is not at one of the UKRI eligible organisations (https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/).
Is there an expectation that project partners are included in the proposals? If so, how many can I include?

There is no expectation to include Project Partners on any type on the grant, or to include Co-Is. They can be added if they will improve the proposal but are not a requirement. There is also no limit on the number of Co-Is, Project Partners or named collaborators.

Would the costings for successful projects be excluding indexation?

The Call follows typical EPSRC funding guidelines: indexation will be added by EPSRC and so costings should exclude this as usual.

Are there any limitations on what the money can be spent on?

Costings should follow EPSRC standard research grant FEC guidelines (https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/applicationprocess/fundingguide/resources/).

Can students be funded through New Horizons?

Students cannot be funded through New Horizons.

The indicative start date is Jan 2021. What flexibility is there in this?

Standard business rules apply, so there can be an extension of the start date. The grants do not need to start in January 2021.

Is there a restriction for applying New Horizons call and a UKRI Fellowship in the same year?

No. Applicants can apply for a New Horizons grant and a Fellowship in the same year. However, the proposals must be different.

What formatting should be used?

In terms of the Case For Support, we do not expect any particular sections: we would want the PI to include all the relevant information required to explain their research and how/why it will meet the criteria included in the call document. The Case for Support should focus on the novelty and excitement of the research idea without the need for a detailed workplan.

We will not dictate the format for this, other than the stipulation that the Case for Support is anonymous and is 4 pages in length maximum. If the PI wishes to include the traditional sections as it will help their proposal, then they can but we do not insist on this.

The layout and formatting follows the usual rules for EPSRC proposals: attachments must be completed in single-spaced typescript in Arial 11 or other sans serif typeface of equivalent size, with margins of at least 2 cm. Arial narrow and Calibri are not allowable font types.
Can Researcher Co-Investigators be included on this call?
Researchers Co-Is are allowed to be included in this grant. However, due to the limitations of the submissions systems, they cannot be included on the Je-S form at this stage. Instead, the Researcher Co-Is should be detailed in the Ability to Deliver document as if they have been included in the form. If your proposal is to be funded, when you resubmit with the costing information, you will be able to include the Researcher Co-I as staff on that Je-S form.

Do I need to include letters of support?
No; you should summarise the contribution in the Ability to Deliver document as they are not needed to be added to this submission.

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