



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

International Centre to Centre Research Collaborations Call Webinar

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Please make sure that
you read the call
document



Call Background

- EPSRC International Strategy
- Delivery Plan 2019 – Promoting Excellence in Research
- International Centre to Centre Research Collaborations Call
- Pilot Call



Call Objectives

This call is the second round 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.

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 our research area strategies and address the priorities related to Delivery Plan objectives
- iii. To further the UK's strategic needs in international science and innovation partnerships.



Call – Key Information

- Budget: £15 million, supporting 10-15 research consortia through this activity, with projects (3-5 years) to start from summer 2021 onwards.
- Academics partners can be based in any country outside the UK.
- Partnerships may be proposed to work with one or more overseas research organisations in one or more countries.
- Topic of research is open, subject to being majority in EPSRC remit.
- New international collaborations *or* building on existing relationships.
- Industry engagement is strongly encouraged where appropriate.

Key Dates



- October – Outline panel meeting
- October – Invitation to submit full proposal

- May 2021 – Full proposal panel meeting



Eligibility

- Standard EPSRC eligibility requirements apply to this activity for individual UK investigators and research organisations.
- UK applicants may only be named as Investigator (either Principal or Co-Investigator) on one proposal to this call.
- Additional restrictions apply in terms of research consortium eligibility.



Consortia Eligibility

- Applicant teams (consortia) must hold:
 - One strategic research grant from EPSRC (criterion A)
- OR
- A portfolio of EPSRC grants of at least £3 million (criterion B)
 - (with exceptions for some of the fundamental areas of research within EPSRC's remit)
- Grants must have end dates after 8 September 2020.
- Must also satisfy the **general eligibility requirements**.



Consortia Eligibility – Criterion A

- A) The applicant consortium must hold at least one current EPSRC strategic research grants.

- List of what is an EPSRC strategic research grant is available in the call document
- Principal Investigator (PI) must be named as an Investigator on the centre-to-centre proposal but does not need to be the PI.
- We expect the majority of the applicant team to be Investigators on the existing strategic research grant(s), but not necessarily all the Investigators.

In cases where an investment on the list above consists of more than one large-scale grant (>£2 million) with different PIs and distinct objectives, the group of investigators on each separate grant may submit a proposal to this call if desired.

Smaller component grants (less than £2M) of a larger centre or similar investment do not qualify under this criterion but may be included in the qualifying portfolio under criterion B below.



Consortia Eligibility – Criterion B

- B) Applicant consortia must collectively hold a research portfolio of at least £3 million of current EPSRC research grants.
 - Not every proposed Investigator is required to hold a current EPSRC grant, but we expect the majority of the applicant team to be Investigators on one or more of the existing grants cited.
 - Any individual grant may only be cited against one proposal through this call. Linked grants (parent and child grants) which make up a single research project count as one grant.
- Exceptions:
- In some fundamental areas of research within EPSRC's remit grant values are typically significantly lower and grants are comprised of smaller teams.
 - EPSRC will consider exceptions where consortia have a significant EPSRC grants portfolio for their area
 - Evidence of prior collaboration (e.g. through joint publications) will be required.
 - Consortia working in these areas must confirm eligibility with the EPSRC prior to outline submission by emailing the EPSRC International Team (see Contacts section for details).



Consortia Eligibility – General Requirements

- A track record of the core applicant team working together is required and will be assessed at both outline and full proposal stages. See Assessment criteria below.
- There are a number of grant types that will not qualify to satisfy either criteria, see the call document for details.
- We particularly welcome applications from diverse research consortia and the inclusion of early career researchers.
- Applicant teams may be based in a single discipline or multi-disciplinary, as long as they satisfy one of the criteria above.
- We are open to proposals in any area of research predominantly in EPSRC's remit.

Current International Centre to Centre grant holders are only eligible to apply through this call where the research challenges to be addressed are significantly different to their current grant. As such it is expected that they will satisfy the eligibility criteria based on a different grant or set of grants and be working with different international partners.



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Funding

- Proposals may consist of a single research project or a suite of related research activities in a defined research topic.
- Two full-time equivalent postdoctoral research staff to be requested on each proposal.
- Additional costs associated with international collaboration
 - travel, subsistence and consumables
 - for resources to enable different approaches
- PhD studentships may not be included in the costs sought from EPSRC.
- Support may also be requested for visits by overseas partners to the UK of up to 12 months per individual.
- International Co-Investigators may not be requested in this call.



Other Considerations

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Responsible Innovation
- Guidance on Journal-based Metrics
- Equipment

Submission

- Proposals can be multi-institutional, however only one application form should be submitted for each bid.
- Submissions should be made using the Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System. Please ensure sufficient time to:
 - create Je-S accounts for Investigators who do not currently have one.
 - 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 08 September 2020**.



Submission Documentation

Outline applications must include the following components:

- A. Case for support (up to six sides of A4 in total), including:
 - a) Track record of the applicants (up to two sides of A4).
 - b) Description of the proposed research (up to four sides of A4).
- B. Justification of resources (up to two sides of A4) – including a short description of the international partner’s planned financial contribution.
- C. Proposal cover letter (up to two sides of A4), including:
 - a) Details on which eligibility criterion is fulfilled, using table format.
 - b) If the overseas partners are applying for or plan to apply for funding in parallel to enable their participation in the consortium.



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If this information is not provided the outline will be rejected without consideration by the shortlisting panel.

Submission Documentation

- The Je-S form should list each overseas partner organisation as a Project Partner. Outlines with no appropriate overseas partner listed as Project Partner will not be considered.
- Applicants should use the Ethical Information section on the Je-S form.



Assessment Process

- Two-stage process
 - Outlines will be considered by a peer review panel;
 - Invited full proposals will undergo postal peer review, followed by a prioritisation panel, resulting in a rank-ordered list.



Assessment Criteria

Outline stage

A. Fit to the Call (primary)

B. Quality (primary)

C. Importance (secondary major)

D. Applicant and Partnership (secondary)

E. Resources and Management (secondary)

- a) Added value to the UK research base of the proposed research partnership;
- b) Unique features of the joint research team;
- c) Timeliness of proposed partnership;
- d) Track record of UK applicant team working together

We reserve the right to apply additional shortlisting criteria in the event of the call being so substantially oversubscribed as to be unmanageable as initially planned.

Assessment Criteria

Full proposal stage

- A. Quality (primary)
- B. Importance (secondary major)
- C. Applicant and Partnership (secondary)
- D. Resources and Management (secondary)
- E. Fit to the Call (secondary)



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Thank you

- Another question? – please get in touch International@epsrc.ukri.org



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