



UK – Chile Call for Proposals

Newton RCUK-CONICYT Broadening Impact Call 2017

Objectives and Scope

The Research Councils UK (RCUK) and National Commission for Scientific Research and Technology (CONICYT) are pleased to invite applications to the Newton RCUK-CONICYT Broadening Impact Call 2017.

This initiative will provide funding for internationally competitive, transformative and high-quality collaborative research projects between UK, Chilean and other Latin American DAC list country researchers which contribute to the economic development and welfare of developing countries in Latin America. Projects can be between 24 to 36 months duration.

We invite proposals which address the **Energy-Food-Water-Environment Nexus**. Recognising the multidisciplinary nature of the thematic areas, the development of interdisciplinary collaborations is particularly welcomed.

This call will form part of the Newton Fund commitment and all proposals must meet Overseas Development Assistance requirements.

In total up to £1 million will be made available on the UK side with up to £500 000 from CONICYT. It is expected that two to three proposals will be funded dependent on quality.

For more information on the funders, please refer to [Annex 1](#).

Background

Securing a sustainable supply of water, energy and food is a key global issue. The 'nexus' is a way of thinking about the interdependencies, tensions and trade-offs between essential ecosystem services such as food, water and energy, in the wider context of land use, environmental change, health and wellbeing, and global supply chains. These different systems are inextricably linked and improvements in one sector can have positive or negative impacts in another. The challenge of delivering efficient use of natural resources means that developing practical new solutions to these challenges is required.

How Latin American countries manage the Energy-Food-Water-Environment nexus will have major consequences for their societies and economies.

Scope

RCUK and CONICYT would welcome proposals which tackle one or more of the following challenges, with interdisciplinary proposals encouraged:

1. Re-envisaging growth for a sustainable future

Research in this thematic area could consider questions around consumption (i.e. sustainable behaviour across supply chains and how behaviours are shaped and mediated differently by various influences as values and belief systems, resource use and efficiency) and governance of sustainable resource use (i.e. the social, policy, governance and political consideration in learning how local, national and international organisations interact and drive societal responses to the nexus issues).

2. Sustainable, resilient and efficient food and non-food production systems

Research in this thematic area could consider issues across farming systems and the food supply chain, health (physical and mental) and well-being, understanding the interactions between genotype, phenotype and the environment in order to enhance crop and livestock production, improve the nutritional profile of food, feed and additives/ingredients, improving efficiencies in food supply chains through the reduction of food losses and wastes, development of new tools, technologies and data analytics is required to accelerate the breeding of crops and livestock, recognising the range and limitations of farming practices in country, and social and agri-ecosystem drivers behind the practices, and using an understanding of ecosystem services and functions to support the move away from unsustainable small-scale farm systems.

3. Processes of natural variability and manmade change work

Research in this thematic area could consider the nexus as part of a whole Earth system, from global to local scale, from millions of years past to the present and into the future and developing whole-system knowledge to inform responsible management of the environment for multiple benefits include climate variability and forecasting extreme weather.

4. Environmental processes (physical, chemical and biological processes that interact in land, water and air) that control resource

Research in this thematic area could consider availability and how individuals can use resources responsibly; developing this knowledge to help use and recycle resources safely and efficiently, to live within the Earth's limits, and to steward natural resources for future generations.

5. Relationship between ecosystem stocks and service flows

Research in this thematic area could consider benefits that are delivered as a result, such that the critical levels of the stocks are understood to allow the identification and so avoidance of the abrupt and damaging change in the delivery of benefits (i.e. tipping points).

Proposals may also include general capacity building to improve Latin American DAC list countries' ability to undertake and disseminate scientific research in the research areas highlighted above, improve technical skills in, for example, instrumentation and data management and be delivered through access to one or more of the UK national facilities such as ISIS, Diamond and the Central Laser Facility or through one of the international facilities where the UK is a shareholder, or various combinations of the above.

Please note that the research under this theme must focus on the interconnected nature of the nexus, and not any single sector in isolation. For example, projects focussing solely on energy technologies will not be considered.

The Newton Fund

The UK contribution will be provided by the Newton Fund. The Newton Fund is an initiative intended to strengthen research and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging knowledge economies. It was launched by the Chancellor in April 2014, and will deliver £735 million of funding up until 2021. For more information, please visit the RCUK Newton Fund page; <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/international/newton/>.

The Fund forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). ODA funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee list. Newton Fund countries represent a sub-set of this list.

Due to Chile's graduation from the DAC list this year, and as a condition of the Newton Fund and ODA requirements, the projects should focus on the application of Chilean and UK expertise **to address wider global development challenges. The outputs of the research must be transferable to other DAC list countries.** All applications under this call must be compliant with the ODA guidelines. <http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/about/what-is-oda/>

While it is not a requirement for applications to involve partners from other Latin American DAC list countries, it is encouraged. **Both UK-Chile bilateral applications and multilateral applications must be able to show how their research is ODA compliant by demonstrating that the primary purpose of their research is the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries outside of Chile.** A list of eligible countries can be found at [Annex 2](#).

Funding Available

RCUK has allocated up to £1 million and CONICYT has allocated approximately £500,000 to this activity. We would expect applications of up to \$150,000,000 CLP (approximately £178,000) on the Chilean side and £400,000- £500,000 fEC on the UK side (i.e. £678,000- in total per project). RCUK and CONICYT will provide 80% of this figure, in line with their usual costing rules. RCUK will provide 100% for exceptions. The size of the grant will vary depending on the needs of each research project and must be fully justified.

RCUK funding will be used to support the UK and Latin American DAC list country components of the partnership and CONICYT funding will support the Chilean component.

RCUK-funded costs of each project will be provided via a grant issued to the Research Organisation of the UK Principal Investigator, and managed by the relevant Research Council, in accordance with their normal research funding guidelines and procedures. Please see the [RCUK grants guide](#).

CONICYT-funded costs of each project will be provided via a grant issued and managed by CONICYT in accordance with its normal guidelines. Please refer to the Chilean call text

available on www.conicyt.cl/fondef

Please liaise closely with prospective partners to ensure that both RCUK and CONICYT-supported elements of the proposal abide by all regulations for both funders.

Eligibility

Please see [Application Guidance](#) for information on eligibility of UK, Chilean and Latin American DAC list country applicants.

How to Apply

Intention to Submit

For this call, you must complete an Intention to Submit form. You should submit the Intention to Submit form **via Smart Survey by 16:00 BST (11:00am CLT) on Friday 18th August 2017**. Please access the Smart Survey form [here](#). **Please note if you do not submit an Intention to Submit form by the deadline you will not be allowed to apply at full stage.**

Please refer to the [Application Guidance](#) for more information on the Intention to Submit.

Submitting your full stage proposal

RCUK are managing this call on behalf of the Research Councils and CONICYT, through the UK Research Councils' grant submission system known as Je-S. Once a research proposal is developed, UK and Chilean applicants must submit **one joint application in English** to the RCUK-CONICYT Broadening Impact Call 2017, via the relevant lead remit council's [Je-S online application system](#). After the application deadline RCUK will share the applications submitted with CONICYT.

The deadline for full stage proposals is **16:00 BST (11:00 am CLT) on Tuesday 3rd October 2017**. The call will close in the J-eS system at 16:00 and it will no longer be possible to submit an application after this time.

Please refer to the application guidance document for a full list of required documents and more information on how to apply.

Key Dates

Call opens in Je-S system	Friday 14 th July 2017
Closing date for intention to submit	16:00 BST (11:00am CLT) Friday 18 th August 2017
Closing date for full stage proposals	16:00 BST (11:00am CLT) Tuesday 3 rd October 2017
RCUK and CONICYT Joint Panel Meeting	Week commencing 5 th March 2018
Decisions announced	By April 2018
Grants commence	By 14 th May 2018

Grant Start Dates

Due to the tight timescales and funding restrictions of the Newton Fund, **UK grants must start by 14th May 2018**. Please refer to the [RCUK terms and conditions](#) for information on what the starting procedure entails; please inform the relevant support staff in your organisation of this

requirement to ensure the project starts on time.

Decision making process

Following submission, proposals will be checked for eligibility by both RCUK and CONICYT. It is at the discretion of either funding agency to reject proposals at any time based on their respective eligibility rules. Any queries should be directed to the relevant funding agency. Peer review will be undertaken on eligible proposals by the funding agencies. RCUK and CONICYT will both select peer reviewers to consider the proposals. UK principal investigators will be sent their peer reviews via the Je-S system and asked to provide a PI response to the reviews within 5 working days. It is their responsibility to ensure the Chilean PI also receives the reviews and can contribute to the response. This should be done by giving the Chilean PI edit rights through the Je-S System. Advice is available within the system [helptext](#)

Proposals will then be assessed by an expert peer review panel, selected jointly by RCUK and CONICYT. Proposals will be considered according to the objectives of this call. The funding recommendations of the joint panel will be subject to approval by RCUK and CONICYT. Final funding decisions will be communicated to applicants by April 2018.

Assessment criteria

To be funded, proposals must be internationally competitive and at a standard equivalent to that normally expected to be supported by each funding organisation. Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria and weighting:

Assessment Criteria	Weighting
Research merit of the proposal	60%
Relevance of the proposal to the strategic objectives of the Newton - Picarte Fund – including potential economic and social development and impact on developing countries.	20%
Strength and appropriateness of proposed partnerships and collaborations	10%
Project management structure and resources, including value for money	10%

Contacts

Any enquiries related to this call should be directed to:

RCUK

Laura Bones

Email: RCUKNewtonFundenquiries@rcuk.ac.uk

Phone: +44 (0)1793 444263

CONICYT

Khaled Awad

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Phone: +56 223654610

Any Je-S related queries should be directed to:

JeShelp@rcuk.ac.uk

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Change log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Laura Bones	14/07/2017	1.0	Initial Version.
Laura Bones	31/07/2017	2.0	Intention to submit deadline updated.

Annex 1

Background of the Funders

RCUK

Research Councils UK are the main UK delivery partner for the Newton Fund and are working strategically with partner countries to develop a series of research activities to address challenges defined by the overarching ambitions of the Fund.

Research Councils UK (RCUK) are responsible for investing public money in research in the UK to advance knowledge and generate new ideas which lead to a productive economy, healthy society and contribute to a sustainable world. Each year the Research Councils invest around £3bn in research covering the full spectrum of academic disciplines from the medical and biological sciences to astronomy, physics, chemistry and engineering, social sciences, environmental sciences and the arts and the humanities. RCUK supports over 50,000 researchers including 19,000 doctoral students, around 14,000 research staff, and 2,000 research fellows in UK universities and in their own Research Institutes.

There are seven Research Councils which make up RCUK. For more information about RCUK, please visit our website at <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/areas/>

CONICYT

The National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) is the main research-funding agency in Chile. CONICYT follows two broad strategic objectives: promoting the training of human capital and strengthening Chile's scientific and technological base. For over 50 years, CONICYT has been present in each of the initiatives that have been launched to support science and technology in Chile, directing its efforts towards the ultimate goal of contributing to the country's economic, social, and cultural progress.

CONICYT provides resources for competitive funding calls; creates opportunities for coordination and networking; designs strategies for and implements public awareness activities; promotes better access to scientific and technological information; and supports the establishment of a regulatory framework for the appropriate development of science, technology, and innovation.

Annex 2

List of Latin American DAC list countries

Argentina
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Colombia
Costa Rica
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Suriname
Venezuela