Education Research Programme 2022 (ERP 2022) Call

Additional information for applicants

Is this call to fund research with a focus on UK's compulsory education?

Yes. The call is for proposals whose findings are relevant to primary and secondary education and explore uses of technology or the role of the teacher in those contexts.

Is comparative research funded through this call restricted to cross-national comparisons?

No. Although we welcome comparative research across the different UK nation/jurisdictions, with or without an international dimension, we also welcome projects that will focus on relevant regional differences within England or one of the devolved administrations (Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland).

I understand that projects should find new ways of working collaboratively with practitioners, policy makers and other stakeholders. What partnerships are eligible for this call?

We encourage partnership approaches to exploring substantive issues in teaching and learning and the uses of technology in school. Research partnerships can take a variety of forms and involve pupils and parents as well as teachers and other stakeholders in different ways and in line with the research questions and design.

Can I directly approach the Research Programme Director, as named in the call, to discuss my proposal or those of my department/research group and seek advice?

No. All queries about this call should come to the relevant ESRC mailbox esrceducationresearchpriority@esrc.ukri.org. The commissioning team will strive to answer your questions promptly and will consult with the Research Programme Director if necessary.

Can I submit my proposal to both the ERP 2022 Call and the ESRC's open scheme?

No, applicants cannot submit the same proposal to different ESRC Calls.

If you do not think that your proposal falls easily within the themes covered by the ERP Call, we would advise that you submit your application for funding via the ESRC research grant route. It should be noted that the funding decisions made within the open scheme do not consider whether there are other UKRI Calls open on the same theme(s) as a proposal; proposals are judged solely on their own merit.

I am not sure that my proposal falls within the two priority themes outlined on the UKRI Funding Finder Call specification, can I still apply to the Call?

Proposals that do not clearly address at least one of the two themes, "teaching and learning, focusing on the role of teachers" and "the uses of technology in teaching and learning", covered by the ERP Call are not eligible for funding and will be rejected.

Proposals should explain how the research relates to one or both priority themes.

If you think that your proposal might fall within the themes but are unsure, please email the ERP commissioning team for advice: esrceducationresearchpriority@esrc.ukri.org

Applicants should note that our standard resubmissions policy applies for this Call.

I have a question about whether my organisation / a Principal Investigator (PI) / a Co-Investigators (Co-I) / Project Partner is eligible for funding?

For all questions of eligibility, please refer to the ESRC Funding Guide and to the 'before you apply' section on the UKRI website in the first instance.

If you are still unsure after that, please email the ERP commissioning team for advice: esrceducationresearchpriority@esrc.ukri.org

Can my proposal have two named Principal Investigators to share the project's leadership role?

An application can only have one named Principal Investigator on our system. This does not mean that the project cannot be co-led by a PI and a Co-I in practice: and this is the case for many of our investments.

If your research project is to be a co-led venture, we would suggest making this clear in your application and outlining how this will work in practice. For example, what will be the division of responsibilities? How will you ensure coordination and communication between the co-leads?

As an early career researcher, can I be the named Principal Investigator on the project?

Yes, we welcome applications from early career researchers who are based at eligible UK institutions.

I would like to include an international comparative dimension within my proposal. Is this eligible under the Call?

Proposals can include an international dimension, as long as the primary focus of the research is on the UK, and the research findings are directly relevant and applicable to the UK context.

Can I include PhD studentships as part of my application?

PhD studentships are not eligible for ESRC funding under this Call. They can, however, be included in a proposal as part of an RO's or a project partner's contribution.

Can I include PhD students as members of my research team?

Yes, the project team can include PhD students (for example, as research assistants or research support staff) as long as the ESRC's 80% contribution does not fund their doctoral studies. Please note that ESRC-funded students cannot be included in project teams.

I am currently a PI on a UKRI COVID-19 Rapid Response project which ends in 2022. Can I hold an ERP grant as PI given that these projects must start in December 2022?

If you fulfil the standard ESRC eligibility criteria, being a PI on another UKRI project does not preclude you from being a PI on a ERP grant.

Applicants should note however, that the guidelines stipulate that "All applicants and named research staff must be able to meet the time commitment to the project as stated in the proposal. Where research staff are to be employed on a grant it is assumed as part of the proposal that they or any replacement will not exceed 100% of their time. Proposals which may result in over-commitment of time, for any applicant across all of their projects, will not be approved. Applicants have a duty to report immediately in writing to ESRC if at any time this regulation is likely to be breached."

Can my proposal include non-academic Co-Investigators, for example from government departments, businesses, NGO's, and civil society?

Yes, you can include Co-Investigators from an established UK business, third sector or government body. There is no requirement for the UK business, third sector or government Co-Investigator to hold a PhD or equivalent qualification. On receipt of the application, eligibility of business, third sector or government body will not normally need to be checked if it is reasonably clear that they are appropriate to conduct the work. Where there is doubt checks will be carried out.

For full details about eligible costs, please refer to our policy on the inclusion of UK business, third sector or government body co-investigators on ESRC proposals.

Can my proposal include non-academic international Co-Investigators?

No. All international Co-Investigators must be from an eligible research organisation to be covered by our International Co-Investigator Policy. You may be able to include some relevant costs under consultancy (in which case these would be funded at 80% rather than 100%), but again the individual(s) would not be recognised as an international Co-I. Please refer to the guidance for relevant costs.

I would like to include a retired academic who will be donating their time and expertise in-kind in my research project. Can they be a Project Partner?

Yes, you can include a retired academic who is offering their expertise and time in-kind as a project partner, as long as no ESRC research grant funds are claimed for their activities.

Where there are specific circumstances where Project Partners do require funding for minor costs such as travel and subsistence, this will usually be paid at 80% fEC. These costs should be outlined and fully justified in the proposal and will be subject to peer review and to UKRI policy.

I understand that ESRC applications sometimes allow an attachment including up to two pages of figures referenced in the case for support, as an 'other' attachment. Is that allowed under this Call?

The attachments must not be used to provide additional information or to get around the case for support page limits. We will allow attachments for accessibility purposes, as long as the figures are also included in the case for support and are readable.