ESRC National Capability in Behavioural Research
Agenda

- Welcome and introduction
- Overview: National Capability in Behavioural Research
- Funding Opportunity - Behavioural Research Hub
- Funding Opportunity - Behavioural Research CDT+
- Q&A
- Closing comments
Overview - National Capability in Behavioural Research
National Capability in Behavioural Research

- Substantial increase in interest in behavioural research across the public, private and third sectors
- Significant scientific and technological developments provides exciting opportunities for advancing research in this field
- Investment also a response to fragmentated academic research in the field, and diverse government research needs
- Broad definition of 'behavioural research'
- Important that behavioural research is not seen to be the only way in which social science can contribute to government policymaking.
National Capability in Behavioural Research

**Aim:**
To harness, connect and extend the UK’s existing capacity and capability in behavioural research, and support the mobilisation of research into policy and practice.

**4 core threads within initiative:**
- Cutting edge research and methods
- Strengthening relationships between academic and wider stakeholders
- Increasing the use of existing data and data infrastructures
- Training and professional development.

**The model will:**
- Build on excellence
- Reduce fragmentation
- Broaden out the base of expertise
- Be scalable
- Be attractive to partnership and co-funding
- Have agility
- Deliver across the UK
Funding Opportunity -
Leadership team for a National Capability in Behavioural Research

Funding available: up to £12.15 million
ESRC will fund 80% of the full economic cost
What we're looking for – leadership team

- Single interdisciplinary leadership team led by a director (or 2 co-directors) to develop the 'Hub'

- Director (or co-directors) must contribute a significant proportion of their time to the overall leadership and coordination of the grant

- No limit in number of research organisations that can be involved in an application, or number of bids individuals can be part of

- Very small fractions of co-investigator time should be avoided

- Leadership team should:
  - bring fresh perspectives to behavioural research
  - demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the variety of disciplines and methodological approaches that can contribute to our understanding of behaviour
  - be complemented by a wider core team.
What we're looking for - activities

- Outputs should be targeted towards addressing major societal and economic challenges
- Hub activity should have broad appeal:
  - build cross-sector capability to conduct and use behavioural research through the exchange of people and knowledge
  - signpost and synthesise existing evidence to inform policy and practice across different sectors
- Research
  - core research programme and commissioning fund
  - drive advances in behavioural research and research methods
  - flexibility to respond to emerging priorities, and longer-term research resource to address important questions
  - champion use, and leverage insights from, existing and novel data
- Capacity building
  - build capacity in the research community, including in research design, methods, and impact across all career stages.
What we're looking for - partnerships

- Key function is to connect and convene a diverse set of partners to:
  - breakdown disciplinary boundaries
  - strengthen cross-sector engagement
  - co-create and promote a vision for behavioural research
  - build capacity to conduct and use behavioural research

- Expect range of stakeholders to expand and evolve over time

- Looking for convincing plans for working:
  - across disciplines and sectors
  - with existing and emerging key investments, spokes and ESRC.
Proposals and assessment

- Proposals should cover 5 years of activity and associated costs
  - details of first 18 months activity
  - overview of plans and approaches to delivering longer-term ambition

- Assessment process: expert review followed by interviews with shortlisted applicants in June 2023

- Assessment criteria
  - overall fit to objectives
  - collective skills and expertise of the team
  - vision for the hub
  - collaborations
  - research ambition, approach and environment
  - operational delivery – grant and commissioning fund
  - institutional commitment
  - value for money.
Stage gate review

- Decision July 2023 and grant must start in September 2023
- A formal and in-depth review will take place after 18 months
- Deliverables likely to include:
  - vision for behavioural research and longer-term work and evaluation plans
  - detailed plans for core research programme
  - evidence of stakeholder engagement
  - effective operational procedures, including governance arrangements (for grant and commissioning fund)
  - effectiveness of working relationship with ESRC.
How to Apply -
Leadership team for a National Capability in Behavioural Research
Je-S: The Application Process

- You should apply using the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system
- Mandatory attachments include:
  - Case for Support
  - Justification of Resources
  - Data Management Plan, for proposals planning to generate data
  - CV, up to two sides of A4 per named person
  - Institutional letter of support
- Other optional attachments should be included where necessary. You should refer to the Je-S guidance for applicants (PDF, 301KB) for more information.
Je-S: The Application Process

- ESRC must receive your application by 24 January 2023 at 16:00
- You should ensure you leave enough time for your proposal to move through your organisation’s Je-S submission route, as you will not be able to apply after this time
- You can find advice on completing your application in the Je-S guidance for applicants (PDF, 301KB).
Funding Opportunity -
Centre for Doctoral Training Plus in
Behavioural Research

Funding available: up to £7.17 million
Centre for Doctoral Training Plus

CDTs provide training in focused, thematic, interdisciplinary research areas

- Interventions need to address a broad spectrum of capacity needs for a wide range of audiences.

- Aims to enhance national capability by building a critical mass of researchers with the knowledge and research skills to transform our understanding of human behaviour and inform policy and practice.

- Will comprise of three core components:
  - A doctoral programme to develop the next generation of PhD graduates
  - A fellowship scheme to accelerate the development of a cohort of early career researchers (ECRs)
  - A programme of additional training and development opportunities enabling the participation of researchers in government and other sectors for mutual benefit/support uptake of behavioural research findings and methods in decision making.
Postgraduate Training and Development Expectations

ESRC postgraduate training and development guidelines 2022 detail how the CDT+ will be expected to meet our expectations for core conceptual, general and specialist research training.

The guidelines also set out our expectations with respect to:
• Research in Practice
• Collaborative studentships
• Development needs analysis
• Supervisory practice
• Equality, diversity and inclusion

Be clear how you will offer students a bespoke training offer tailored to their needs and that of their project.
Eligible proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- working in partnership
- content and delivery of training:
  - studentships
    - conceptual, general and specialist research training
    - research in practice
    - collaborative studentships and international engagement
    - development needs analysis
    - supervision
  - early career researchers
  - training beyond academia
- equality, diversity and inclusion
- delivery, management and governance (including monitoring progress and capturing impact)
- allocation of studentships.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Available</th>
<th>ESRC Contribution</th>
<th>What should be included?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studentships</td>
<td>£2.66m</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-studentship Costs</td>
<td>~£3.75m</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowships</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>How many fellows you intend to support, the proposed value and duration of individual awards and provide a justification for approach.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training and development beyond studentships</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Total amount requested for T&amp;D activities beyond the studentships, inc. breakdown of, and justification for, the costs being requested. Should include the development of new training materials in order to fill any gaps in provision relating to behavioural research. How the wider training offer beyond studentship/fellowships will be accessed by wider stakeholders on a sustainable basis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership and management costs</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Total amount requested for leadership and management costs to support additional components required of this CDT+, inc the delivery, coordination and management staff costs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSCU Post</td>
<td>£750,000</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<td>How this post has been costed into the application at a sufficient level to work independently and demonstrate leadership across large and complex environments. Budgeted to last up to 5 years.</td>
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How to Apply -
Centre for Doctoral Training Plus in Behavioural Research
Expression of Interest

- All applicants should submit an expression of interest (EoI) by email by **16:00 on 9 December 2022** to `pgtframework@esrc.ukri.org`
- Your expression of interest should name the director and set out which research organisations and partners are involved in the proposal
- The EoI email should be limited to the above information only.
- The EoIs will not be assessed and will only be used to help plan the peer review process.
Je-S: The Application Process

- You must apply using the **Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system**.
- Mandatory attachments include:
  - Case for Support – including the following four annexes:
    - Annex one: Research Environment (outcome of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) (metrics for output, environment and impact)
    - Annex two: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan
    - Annex three: Delivery and Governance
    - Annex four: Management and Reporting
  - CVs for the CDT+ Director, Deputy Director and Training Lead
  - All of the below to be uploaded as “Other Attachments”:
    - Justification of Resources (training & development, placements infrastructure, leadership costs and GSCU embedded post)
    - Additional information for collaborative bids (for consortia proposals)
    - Letter of Support for collaborative bids (for consortia proposals)
    - Letters of Support from collaborative organisations
    - Project Partner letters of support for collaborative bids
Je-S: The Application Process

- You can find advice on completing your application in the Je-S guidance (PDF, 278KB).
- Applications must be submitted by 2 March 2023 at 16:00.
Questions
Thank you

Leadership Team: behaviour@esrc.ukri.org

CDT+: pgtframework@esrc.ukri.org