



Economic
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Research Council

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



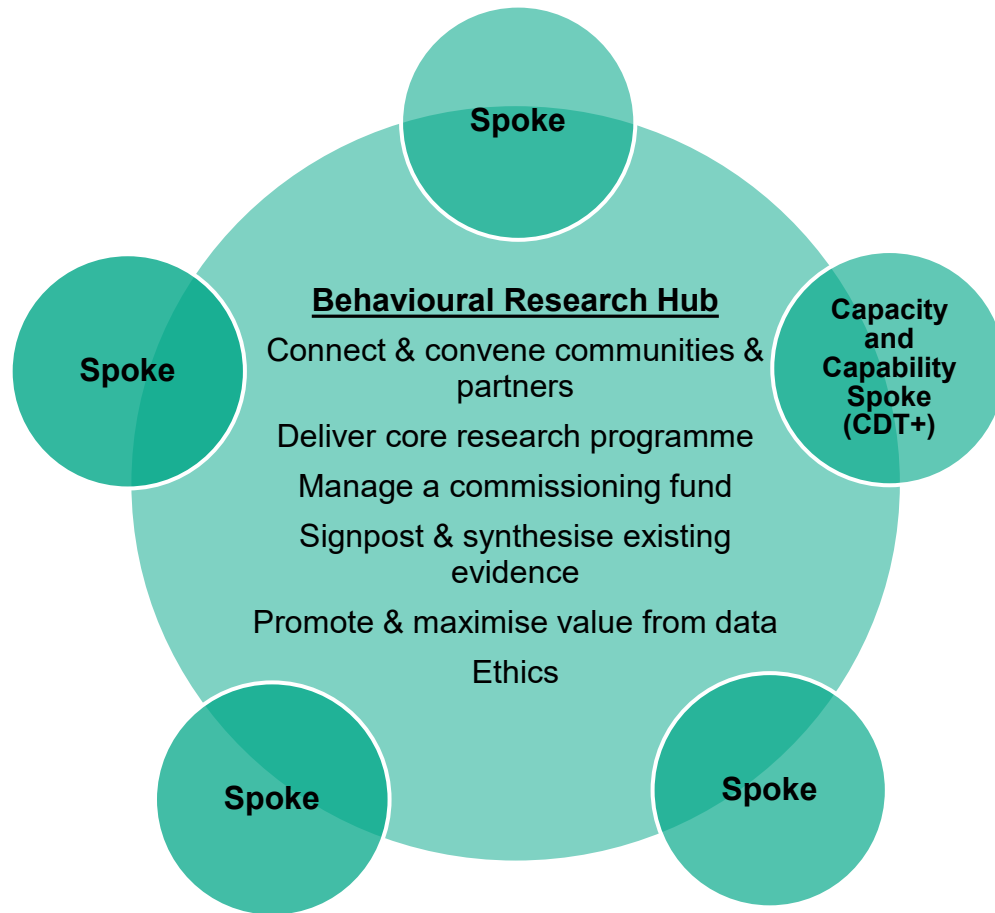
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Overview - National Capability in Behavioural Research

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.



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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)**.



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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.

Assessment criteria

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.

		Funding Available	ESRC Contribution	What should be included?
Studentships		~£2.66m	100%	<p>8 ESRC-funded studentships per annum must be included within the total amount requested but do not require justification.</p> <p>The CDT+ must support 2 (or more) studentships funded by non-academic sources over the same period.</p> <p>Applicants will need to detail their strategy for securing this funding as part of their application.</p>
Non-studentship Costs	Fellowships	~£3.75m	80%	How many fellows you intend to support, the proposed value and duration of individual awards and provide a justification for approach.
	Training and development beyond studentships		100%	<p>Total amount requested for T&D activities beyond the studentships, inc. breakdown of, and justification for, the costs being requested.</p> <p>Should include the development of new training materials in order to fill any gaps in provision relating to behavioural research.</p> <p>How the wider training offer beyond studentship/fellowships will be accessed by wider stakeholders on a sustainable basis.</p>
	Leadership and management costs		100%	Total amount requested for leadership and management costs to support additional components required of this CDT+, inc the delivery, coordination and management staff costs.
GSCU Post		£750,000	80%	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.



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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 (Eol) 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 Eol email should be limited to the above information only.
- The Eols 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