

Question	Answer
Can the start date be a bit flexible?	The start date is constrained by the availability of the funds and a January start date is required.
Quality networks of the kind you describe are hard to build, especially during the holiday season. Could we push the deadline back by a week or two?	The closing date has been extended to 1 September 2022; this is visible on the JeS system and will shortly be made public on the UKRI website as part of the Announcement of Opportunity.
Any chance that the deadline could move again to consider people with caring responsibilities over the summer (August)?	Apologies for any difficulties posed by the time of year. We have moved the closing date back as far as possible within the constraints of the funding availability.
Is September a sensible timing? August basically shuts down due to holidays etc.	Apologies for any difficulties posed by the time of year. We have moved the closing date back as far as possible within the constraints of the funding availability.
Sorry for asking but can I clarify the September submission extension - as it is not yet reflected on the website?	The closing date has been extended to 1 September 2022; this is visible on the JeS system and will shortly be made public on the UKRI website as part of the Announcement of Opportunity.
Are there any areas/subjects that will form the priority of this funding grant, like developing metrics for risks and opportunities around sustainable infrastructure development?	The call is open to any topic relevant to the overall aims of the call as stated in the Announcement of Opportunity.
Is the funding focused on any specific geographies, in terms of scope?	The call is open to any topic relevant to the overall aims of the call as stated in the Announcement of Opportunity.
Which ecosystems are the main areas of interest?	The call is open to any topic relevant to the overall aims of the call as stated in the Announcement of Opportunity.
Are applications which consider maritime biodiversity appropriate for this call?	Yes, the call is open to any topic relevant to the overall aims of the call as stated in the Announcement of Opportunity.
Can companies receive funding or is it possible to subcontract the activities to a company? Can project partners from the financial services sector / business community be remunerated using the grant?	<p>UKRI research and fellowship grants for all schemes may be held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approved UK higher education institutions • approved research council institutes • independent research organisations • public sector research establishments. <p>See full details of <u>approved organisations</u>.</p> <p>Businesses cannot be directly funded in phase 1, but options include subcontracts and/or project partnership.</p>
It would be useful to get more details about what is envisaged by partners from the financial sector (e.g. banking, insurance, green finance, environmental economists, ...?)	<p>Suggestions for information sources include:</p> <p><u>UK Centre for Greening Finance and Investment (UKCGFI)</u> funded as part of the <u>UKRI CERAF</u> programme.</p> <p><u>Green Finance Institute</u></p> <p><u>TNFD</u></p>

	Finance for Biodiversity UNEP Finance Initiative
Where can we find the financial opportunities for entrepreneurs and researchers to design services and products that meet the financial opportunities already highlighted by the market? Is there a database or website, organisation that can point us in the right direction?	<p>Suggestions for information sources include:</p> <p>UK Centre for Greening Finance and Investment (UKCGFI) funded as part of the UKRI CERAF programme.</p> <p>Green Finance Institute</p> <p>TNFD</p> <p>Finance for Biodiversity</p> <p>UNEP Finance Initiative</p>
Would there be any scope for a pilot?	Phase 1 awards are intended to be pilot activities and provide the opportunity to e.g. scope opportunities and begin networks.
Thanks for the suggestion of the hub. Are there any business hubs where we can reach out to (to get their perspectives)?	<p>Suggestions for information sources include:</p> <p>UK Centre for Greening Finance and Investment (UKCGFI) funded as part of the UKRI CERAF programme.</p> <p>Green Finance Institute</p> <p>TNFD</p> <p>Finance for Biodiversity</p> <p>UNEP Finance Initiative</p>
Would you be able to say a bit about eligible costs for phase 1 please? In particular, can we include a post-doc researcher, science writer consultancy fees, and travel costs for external experts?	<p>We will support costs of building interdisciplinary research communities, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigator salaries, plus associated indirect and estates costs • travel and subsistence • events • workshops • secondments • horizon scanning • feasibility studies and pump priming activities • minor equipment • administrative support. <p>NERC will not fund associated PhD studentships under this opportunity. See Section E of the NERC Research Grants Handbook.</p>
Is it possible to begin the creation of the hub as an objective in phase 1 proposal?	Applications are not expected to focus solely upon the hub activity at phase 1 stage. Phase 1 awards will however have access to additional integration and co-ordination funding to develop proposal(s) for the hub and spoke model for phase 2.
Are there any existing categorisations of businesses?	<p>Suggestions for information sources include:</p> <p>UK Centre for Greening Finance and Investment (UKCGFI) funded as part of the UKRI CERAF programme.</p> <p>Green Finance Institute</p> <p>TNFD</p> <p>Finance for Biodiversity</p> <p>UNEP Finance Initiative</p>

<p>As I understand it, letters of support cannot be attached in the application - how do we evidence business involvement? Most businesses will not want to register for JeS and become a project partner at this really early stage.</p>	<p>This is a recommendation for the project partnership, not a requirement at phase 1. Your level of engagement and the level of interest from partners and what they propose to contribute at this stage can be outlined in the Case for Support.</p>
<p>Apologies if this has been addressed but is this call open to PhD students conducting relevant research?</p>	<p>The call is subject to standard eligibility requirements, See Section C of the NERC Research Grants Handbook - Paragraph 48 states for a PI that "...Employment should be at lecturer (or equivalent) level or above".</p>
<p>I'd be curious to know more about which organisations can be funded. We have been in discussion with several Universities in the UK and Scotland and we couldn't figure out whether they were eligible for funding.</p>	<p>UKRI research and fellowship grants for all schemes may be held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approved UK higher education institutions • approved research council institutes • independent research organisations • public sector research establishments. <p>See full details of approved organisations.</p>
<p>Must the lead applicant be based in the UK? And what if the collaborators are all abroad and the project location is also outside the UK?</p>	<p>The lead applicant must be based in an approved organisation which includes UK higher education institutions.</p>
<p>Can an organisation make more than one submission?</p>	<p>The stated limit on applications refers to applicants "You may be involved in no more than two proposals submitted to this funding opportunity. Only one of these may be as the lead principal investigator."</p>
<p>Will you take a portfolio approach to funding in phase 1 in order to ensure a range of different activities?</p>	<p>Yes, the assessment panel will score the proposals against the programme criteria but UKRI reserves the right to amend these to reflect its portfolio.</p>
<p>International - are you seeking an international dimension in all projects, or is it more about NERC having some successful projects with an international dimension?</p>	<p>We are not specifically seeking this but international collaborators can be included where there is clear value to the proposed project.</p>
<p>In the excellence criteria, what is the relative weighting of primary vs secondary research vs the delivery of practical tools for stakeholders?</p>	<p>There is no weighting criteria.</p>
<p>Any hints about the size of the networks (numbers of partners) you are anticipating making up part of phase 1?</p>	<p>No, but approach must be justified e.g. according to expertise and capability required.</p>
<p>Is the stated limit of 1 proposal lead + one other proposal (i.e. supporting) at the organisational or PI level?</p>	<p>The stated limit on applications refers to applicants "You may be involved in no more than two proposals submitted to this funding opportunity. Only one of these may be as the lead principal investigator."</p>

<p>How many pilot projects will be funded in phase 1?</p>	<p>We anticipate that up to 8 proposals will be funded as part of phase 1 if there are sufficient of suitable excellence and fit to scheme.</p>
<p>Is the idea for stage two to choose a single network or to combine several of the phase 2 recipients into a network? If it is the former - will there be a possibility to merge two or more of the phase 1 winners into a single phase 2 bid?</p>	<p>Yes, the idea is for all phase 1 networks to form part of a larger network, or maybe more than one in exceptional circumstances.</p>
<p>Kindly share the list of eligible organisations and the criteria after the webinar.</p>	<p>UKRI research and fellowship grants for all schemes may be held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approved UK higher education institutions • approved research council institutes • independent research organisations • public sector research establishments. <p>See full details of <u>approved organisations</u>.</p>
<p>You mentioned only funded projects in phase 1 can get funding in phase 2?</p>	<p>Yes, but there is an opportunity to add new organisations and activities as part of the network if the need is highlighted as part of the phase 1 scoping activities.</p>
<p>What will be the composition of the assessment panel? Ecologists and economists, academics and business sector, government departments?</p>	<p>The independent assessment panel will be drawn from experts who will also have a board overview of the intersectional challenges in this complex area - the academic, policy and finance communities working in relevant areas.</p>
<p>Are there particular preferred types of finance/business partner (financial, insurance, manufacturing, other business ...)?</p>	<p>The call is open to any topic/area relevant to the overall aims of the call as stated in the Announcement of Opportunity.</p>
<p>Do all awarded P1 networks join the P2 or do they need to apply at a later stage to be part of the phase 2 network?</p>	<p>All phase 1 awards will be invited to form part of a phase 2 application.</p>
<p>You mentioned only funded projects in phase 1 can get funding in phase 2?</p>	<p>Yes, although there is an include partner organisations and activities as part of the network if the need is highlighted as part of the phase 1 scoping activities.</p>
<p>Will NERC be facilitating any introduction sessions for different sectors to meet one another, even if online?</p>	<p>Phase 1 provides the opportunity to have funding to make those and establish those connections. Phase 1 looks at the intention and the planned pathway to provide that network, not all of it necessarily needs to be in place at the start.</p>
<p>Slightly confused... if you get knocked out of phase 1, you cannot be part of phase two.... but if you stay out of phase 1, you can join phase 2?</p>	<p>This is not the intention; phase 1 award holders are eligible to apply to phase 2. There is a limited opportunity to adjust partnerships at phase 2 if deemed necessary as an outcome of phase 1 scoping.</p>