



UKRI – DEFRA One Health approach to Vector Borne Disease call FAQs

1. With the focus on arthropod vectors, is it also desirable for applicants to consider plants, fungi or fomites?

This call focuses on vectors and vector borne diseases related to animal and human health only. Vectors of plant pathogens are not in scope of the call.

2. Since the call is focused mainly on UK vectors, are Principal Investigators (PIs) from Low Middle Income Countries (LMICs) eligible to apply?

For this call PIs from LMICs are not eligible to apply. Please see section 3 in the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#) for more information on eligibility criteria.

3. One Health: What about vectors of plant pathogens, such as aphids?

This call focuses on vectors and vector borne diseases of animals and humans. Vectors of plant pathogens are not in scope of the call.

4. Can an Early Career Researchers (ECRs) be PI for this call?

Yes they can. PIs must adhere to the same eligibility criteria as Co-Investigators. Given the focus of the call is on consortia and data hub management, ECRs who have the necessary skills and experience to manage projects of such nature are invited to apply as Principal Investigators.

5. Can you clarify again that the total number of investigators can be 6 - e.g one PI and 5 Co-Is?

One Principal Investigator and up to five co-investigators.

6. Can I check that Research Co-investigators do not count as part of the of the 5 Co-Is?

Researcher Co-investigators do not count towards the five Co-Investigator limit.

7. Can you confirm? Is the application going for external peer review or is there no external peer review, straight to panel?

The applications will go to panel only, there will be no external peer review.

8. How may we evidence that a person started their independent research career after the date specified in 2016? Thanks.

Information on their research career can be included in the Resume for Research and Innovation (R4RI), and a Head of Department statement can also evidence a person's career stage and responsibilities.

9. Is it possible to share the slides via email to attendees?

Yes slides will be shared with attendees and put on the [call webpage](#).

10. Could you please specify the coverage of expertise in the panel a bit further? The needs of vector borne research require some novel, non-canonical areas, such as biophysics, etc. Will those be covered?

As this funding call has a One Health focus, the assessment panel for this call will be multidisciplinary spanning the areas of focus outlined in the [call text](#). In order to have a detailed review of the data hub applications there will also be panel expertise in data management, bioinformatics and tools and technologies.

11. Can a co-investigator be from an overseas HEI?

Only applicants based in the UK and employed at an eligible UK institution are eligible to be named investigators. Please see section 3 in the BBSRC [Grants Guide](#) for more information on eligibility criteria.

There are opportunities to include international researchers on the application as either a project partner, collaborator, or subcontractor. Please see the Collaborative research grants section (from point 2.45.) in the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#) for definitions of these role and associated criteria. Please note that strong justification must be given as to why the relevant expertise and/or services cannot be sought from within the UK.

12. Does UKHSA or APHA have to be the lead organisation in the consortium?

No, government agencies such as UKHSA or APHA do not need to be the lead organisation in the consortium.

13. Is it essential to have an early career researcher as part of the consortium?

As per the call guidelines, yes an early career researcher does need to be part of the co-Is and consortium.

14. Can a PhD researcher also be involved in assisting the team of co-investigators, if the his/her PHD research is exactly in line with the topics and objectives put forward for this project?

No. Student resource cannot be requested or included in BBSRC applications. Please see section 4.53 in the BBSRC [Grants Guide](#) for more information on eligibility criteria.

15. Is there a repository of successful applications that can be accessed? It would be particularly useful to understand the desired format and tone for the case of support.

As this is a new call there is no repository of successful applications.

16. You encourage partnering with government organizations? What type of partnership is possible? understand the policies behind disease controls across the UK

This call encourages partnerships with government organisations such as UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency. The aim of these partnerships is to encourage researchers to link up with government agencies so information can be shared both ways. For example, researchers can learn more about the policies behind some of the national disease control measures, and where we have legislation in place. These partnerships also will encourage cross-government working and understanding the links between different parts of government when it comes to vector borne diseases.

17. Thanks very much for sharing the information on the call today, can you kindly advise if we should include researcher co-i team members as part of the team resume? Should partners be included?

Researcher Co-Investigators are expected to have contributed significantly and intellectually to the project, so their contributions, expertise and role within the team should be included in the Resume for Research and Innovation (R4RI). Project partner involvement can also be mentioned here, and also in the case for support and project partner letters of support.

18. Would the call also cover other aspects of the vector biology, such as the sensory biology, that can ultimately lead to a better understanding of the vector ecology or inform the development of vector tools?

Yes this call will accept all aspects of vector biology including sensory biology, with the emphasis that we expect applications to meet the requirements of demonstrating multidisciplinary, multisectoral One Health consortium.

19. Regarding the Data Hub: would this need to be a completely new resource, or could it be an expansion of an already existing resource to incorporate the required features?

This can either be a new resource, or building the next step of a pre-existing resource in a novel way. Applications looking for funding to prolong the availability of an existing resource without any advancement or innovation would not be eligible.

20 Will costs for a project manager's time to support the PI to manage the project and consortium be eligible in this call?

Costs for a project manager's time to support the PI can be included in application, however justification will need to be provided. As per the guidelines the UKRI-BBSRC contribution will be 80% this would include project manager's time.

21. Is there flexibility on the start date for the projects, or is April 2023 a fixed start date for funded projects?

There is no flexibility in the start date, grants must start by 1st April 2023.

22. If a research consortium as natural part of its project would also provide a novel data hub for others to use, could this be submitted as part of the actual Consortium application, obviating the need for a second data hub application?

No, the data hub cannot be submitted as part of the research consortia grant, please submit the data hub grant separately.

23. Are there resources with information specifically about the One Health approach?

Please find below key resources relating to One Health approach:

[BBSRC Bioscience for Health Strategic Research Framework](#)

HMG Definition: One Health refers to two related ideas: First, it is the concept that the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment we live in are inextricably linked and interdependent. Second, it refers to the collaborative and sustained effort of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, regionally, and globally to attain optimal health for all living things and the ecosystem in which they co-exist.

24. Can project partners, who do not receive funding, be located outside the UK?

Project Partners, Collaborators and subcontractors as defined in the BBSRC [Grants Guide](#) can be located outside the UK. Strong justification must be given as to why the expertise or services cannot be sought from within the UK.

25. Are snail disease vectors included in this call?

This call focuses on arthropod vectors, snail disease vectors are out of scope for this call.

26. Can applicants from non-UK institutions apply?

As per the BBSRC standard eligibility criteria in the Grants Guide there is a requirement that PIs and Co-Is must live within the UK and be associated with an eligible organisation.

Applicants must be from UK-based institutions, this does mean principal and co-investigators. However there are other options to include international researchers on the grant application, this can be through sub-contracting, including as project partners or collaborators. I would suggest looking at the Collaborative research grants section (from point 2.45.) in the [BBSRC grants guide](#).

27. What is the expected start date of this grant?

The expected start date of the grants from this One Health approach to vector borne disease call will be March 2023 and no later than 1st April 2023.

28. Could the project have 2 PI's or a joint PI?

This is fine but on the JeS form one PI will need to be the lead applicant.

29. Do we require letters of recommendation/support from our collaborative partners such as APHA, WHO, UKHSA etc.?

If they are providing any in-kind contributions then yes.

30. Are Defra the key audience for this call or is it desirable to develop a proposal other stakeholder requirements e.g. Department of Health and Social Care, UKHSA, NHS?

The question rightly acknowledges that it is a One Health call that could have relevant outputs to DHSC, UKHSA and NHS so it would be desirable and encouraged to address these stakeholder's requirements.

31. Does the applicant need to include a track record in the case for support?

No, The Resume for Research and Innovation document is designed to replace the track record section of the Case for Support for this call.

Please direct any further questions to: onehealth@bbsrc.ukri.org

Funding call deadline: Thursday 27th October 2022.