Welcome
Early Career Researcher International Collaboration Grants

16 November 2022

Open funding route
International development funding route
Webinar Overview

- Background to this funding opportunity
- What we’re looking for
- Eligibility
- Open and International Development application routes
- Assessment & timescale
- Q&A session
As a result of this funding opportunity we want to be able to:

• Kick start fruitful international links across EPSRC’s remit.
• Support early career researchers looking to develop research activities with international collaborators.
• Enable UK researchers to target their research to tackling international development challenges.
What we’re looking for

• Opportunity for ECRs to initiate and build new international partnerships with researchers overseas.

• You and your international collaborators may have a previous relationship, but we do not expect you to have worked together extensively.

• Balance between partnership building activities and direct research.

• The international collaborators must also have an integral role in the proposed work.

• Open to all EPSRC research areas.
What we’re looking for

• Request funding to support any eligible international collaborative activities.

• Two parallel funding routes: open and international development.
  • **Open**: collaborate with partners from any country.
  • **International development**: collaborators in lower middle income, low income or least developed countries and project must meet ODA compliance.
Eligibility

• Open to early career researchers who meet the eligibility requirements of the EPSRC New Investigator Award (NIA) scheme.

• This criteria considers your contractual, application history and funding history eligibility.

• Applicants who apply for an early career researcher international collaboration grant are still eligible to apply for NIA.

• Applicants who have previously applied for NIA but otherwise still satisfy the other NIA eligibility criteria are still eligible to apply to this funding opportunity.
Funding available

• Up to £5 million (across open and international development)
• fEC up to £200,000.
• Maximum duration of 24 months.
• Support may be requested for international collaborations.
• Equipment over £10,000 (including VAT) is not available.
• Smaller items of equipment (under £10,000) can be included.
Trusted Research

- UKRI is committed in ensuring that effective international collaboration in research and innovation takes place with integrity and within strong ethical frameworks.

- Trusted research and innovation is a UKRI work programme designed to support cross-sector campaigns that protect all those working in our thriving and collaborative international sector.

- UKRI trusted research and innovation principles.

- CPNI trusted research guidance.
Application process
Timeline

Intention to submit deadline: 7 December 2022 1600

Closing date: 18 January 2023 1600

Expected awards: May 2023

Grant start: Summer 2023
Open vs. International development funding route

**Open**

- Collaborators from any country – can be developed or developing countries. Does not have to be both.
- The primary aim of the research should have UK strategic value.
- Support may be requested for international partners as per standard EPSRC visiting research guidelines.

**International Development**

- At least one collaborator should be based in a lower middle income, low income or least developed country on the [DAC list](#).
- Primary aim of the research should be to address a challenge faced by a developing country – i.e. ODA compliant research.
- Collaborators from a developing country can be listed as a Co-investigator and can claim salary and other consumable costs.
## Submitting your application

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Maximum Pages</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case for support</td>
<td>2 on track record, 6 on scientific case</td>
<td>The track record should cover the UK and international partners</td>
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<td>Workplan</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Justification of resources</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CVs</td>
<td>2 pages each</td>
<td>Required for named PDRAs, researcher CoIs, visiting researchers</td>
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<td>Letters of support</td>
<td>No page limit</td>
<td>Required from all project partners</td>
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<td>Technical assessment</td>
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<td>For facilities listed as requiring one in Je-S</td>
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<td>Hose organisation letter of support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cover letter</td>
<td>No page limit</td>
<td>You should use this to describe how your experience and career history fit with the eligibility guidance.</td>
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International partners should be included as project partners or visiting researchers for the **open route**. For the **development route**, international co-investigators are permitted.

Additional requirements for the development route are detailed in the next section of the slides.
Assessment process

• Proposals will be assessed by an expert panel.

• Prior to the prioritisation panel, introducers can request additional information from you under all or some of the assessment criteria. This is estimated to be in March 2023.

• You will be given the chance to respond, which will be considered in the ranking of proposals. You will have 2 weeks to respond and a maximum of 2 pages.
Assessment criteria

• Quality (primary)

• Applicants and partnership (primary)

• Importance (secondary major)

• Resources and management

More information on these criteria can be found on the funding pages.
Other considerations

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Trusted Research and Innovation
- Sustainability
- Responsible Innovation

The recent agreement between UKRI and Research Council of Norway is not in remit for this opportunity.
International development funding route
Official Development Assistance (ODA)

- Government aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of lower middle income, low income or least developed countries on the DAC list.

- Activities can occur within the UK and, or the partner country – end-usage must tackle development changes within the developing country.

- Proposals should focus on specific challenges within the partner country and not broader global issues.
Additional documents

There are two additional attachments required for your development route submission:

• ODA compliance statement
• Gender equality statement
ODA compliance statement

• Up to 1 side of A4, attachment type ‘non-UK components'

• Which countries on the DAC list of ODA recipients would like to work with?

• How is your proposal directly relevant to the development challenges of this country? And how will the outcomes promote economic development and welfare?

• What approaches will you use to deliver development impact within the lifetime of the project and beyond?
Gender equality statement

• Up to 1 side of A4, attachment type ‘non-UK components'

• Are there equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project?

• What is the impact on relations between people? e.g., changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, politics, etc

• How will risks or unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided, mitigated and monitored?

• Are there any relevant outcomes/outputs being measured?
How will these additional documents be assessed?

**Fit to opportunity: ODA compliance (primary)**

Proposals should:

- have a primary benefit of the economic development and welfare of developing countries
- meet other elements of compliance with ODA funding

**Importance (secondary major)**

How the research:

- contributes to the international development needs in the partner lower middle income, low income or least developed country or countries
How will these additional documents be assessed?

• The expert panel will comment on the appropriateness of your gender equality statement.

• If there is insufficient consideration of gender equality, or there is potential for the research to exacerbate inequalities, you may be required to review your approach in order to address this.

• The panel will have the discretion to make funding conditional on a sufficient revised approach to gender equality.
Eligible overseas costs – development

Cols from developing countries are permitted. The following costs are eligible for CoIs and researchers from developing countries:

✓ Salary costs for overseas co-investigators and researchers
✓ Travel and subsistence for overseas researchers
✓ Other directly incurred costs e.g. consumables, field work
✓ Contribution towards other directly incurred indirect and estate costs
✓ Travel and subsistence for UK-based researchers going abroad to undertake work.

Additional project partners from other countries are permitted subject to standard EPSRC funding rules.
Resources – development

• DAC List of ODA Recipients
  • [2022/23 list](#) – countries listed under least developed, low income and lower middle income are eligible for this opportunity.

• UKCDR and ESSENCE Good Practice Document (2022)
  • ‘Four approaches to supporting equitable research partnerships’

• The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Eligible overseas costs

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<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Open</th>
<th>Development</th>
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<tr>
<td>Travel for UK researchers to partner labs</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Extended overseas visits of UK based research staff</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Hosting costs for overseas visitors in UK</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Consumables of UK researchers while working overseas</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Cost of transporting equipment used in joint experiments</td>
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<td>Use of DTP funds to support EPSRC funded students in visits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costs of overseas researchers while at UK institutions</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costs of overseas researchers at overseas institutions</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costs incurred by research undertaken by collaborators</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Research projects led by non-UK institutions</td>
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Further guidance on EPSRC’s visiting researcher policy can be found on our [costs you can apply for](#) page and the [Je-S handbook](#).
Questions?
Thank you

Please get in touch
International@epsrc.ukri.org