



**Medical
Research
Council**

Over-riding principles MRC Centres of Research Excellence

Applicants to note this document is draft and may be subject to change, the final version will be available at full application stage

Additional conditions under which We establish and jointly fund the MRC Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) as an identifiable integrated research entity. The MRC CoRE operates in and is managed by Your organisation. You accept the stated responsibilities for the MRC CoRE and You agree to support the MRC CoRE to deliver its challenge led mission.

We award this MRC CoRE Grant for a provisional term of fourteen years, with an initial period of seven years and subject to a mid-term review at year 6. Based on performance at the mid-term review You may request one subsequent seven-year funding period for the MRC CoRE. The maximum MRC CoRE duration is fourteen years.

It is to be noted that additional clauses (AC) apply to the MRC CoRE and are in addition to those UKRI grant award and training terms as detailed at <https://www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-research-grants/> and <https://www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-training-funding/>

and MRC grant award terms detailed at <https://www.ukri.org/publications/mrc-funding-additional-terms-and-conditions/>

and other terms as detailed specific to the MRC CoRE award.

RGC 2 Accountability & Responsibilities of the Research Organisation

AC 2.1 You will support the MRC CoRE to fulfil its agreed challenge led mission including all objectives and milestones as approved in the original application, noting that the use of funds may change from time to time to deliver the challenge-led mission.

AC 2.2 Infrastructure services and support provided by You for the use of the MRC CoRE, including accommodation, remain the property of Your organisation. The MRC CoRE has first call on the use of these assets during its lifetime.

AC 2.3 You will ensure that an independent scientific advisory board ("Board") is established as part of the MRC CoRE's governance structure to provide critical advice and support to the Director and their Executive Leadership Team. The Board should first meet in year one of the award and at least annually thereafter. The terms of reference of the Board must be agreed with Us and an MRC representative will attend the full Board meetings as an observer.

AC 2.4 The MRC CoRE should be led by an empowered Director (Grant Holder) and Executive Leadership Team that has the status and authority within Your organisation to control the MRC CoRE budget and appointments to deliver the agreed research strategy and objectives. The

Executive Leadership Team should include a Chief Operating Officer (or similar) and include the potential for leadership rotation through the lifetime of the investment.

AC 2.5 You will authorise and require the MRC CoRE Director to deliver the strategies and objectives agreed with Us and to provide effective leadership of MRC CoRE research and culture, supported by the Executive Leadership Team. The Director shall be accountable jointly to Us and You for all aspects of the MRC CoRE's work whether the MRC CoRE's work is undertaken at Your organisation or at multiple locations.

AC 2.6 Within the agreed MRC CoRE challenge-led mission You will support the Director and Executive Leadership Team to deliver the research and innovation of the MRC CoRE, including seeking additional funding from other available sources, based on advancing knowledge and the emergence of new opportunities. You shall not accept funding from other sources where association with such funders would damage the MRC/UKRI or the MRC CoRE's reputation for independent and impartial advice or is contrary to Our policies or principles.

AC 2.7 The MRC CoRE shall be "research-led" and its activity shall evolve during the period of award. You will assist such changes by making all reasonable efforts to accommodate requirements identified by the Director and Executive Leadership Team which take forward the challenge led mission of the MRC CoRE.

AC 2.8 The MRC CoRE Chief Operating Officer (or an equivalent) shall have the status and responsibilities within Your organisation to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities

AC 2.9 You will nominate a contact responsible for delivering your resources and services to the MRC CoRE, that will work with the MRC CoRE Chief Operating Officer.

AC 2.10 You will involve the MRC CoRE Director and Executive Leadership Team in decisions about changing or developing your services or their management, where these have an impact on the MRC CoRE.

AC 2.11 You will support the managerial action necessary to support the MRC CoRE strategies and objectives and any evolution of these during the lifetime of the MRC CoRE award. This will include ensuring appropriate provision for key appointments, accommodation and support staff and the relocation of any group or individual who ceases to fit with the challenge led mission of the MRC CoRE.

AC 2.12 In the event the MRC CoRE Director is no longer available to fulfil the role of Director for any reason, or to support leadership rotation, We will jointly agree the appointment of a suitable replacement. If We fail to agree on a suitable replacement within a reasonable period of time then this MRC CoRE award will terminate.

AC 2.13. In the event of a change in the MRC CoRE Director, a signed agreement noting changes to the structure will need to be agreed and signed by You, Us and the new MRC CoRE Director and where appropriate their employer, thereby agreeing to the original and subsequent Grant awards as required.

AC 2.14 You are liable for all actions by and commitments entered into by the Director or other members of the MRC CoRE. You shall indemnify Us in the event that any action by or on behalf of the MRC CoRE gives rise to any liability or obligation for the MRC/UKRI.

AC 2.15 The MRC CoRE must use the agreed MRC branding, naming conventions and acknowledgements in all communications, websites, signage and relevant materials. Additional communication and branding requirements will be set out in a separate policy document available at full application.

AC 2.16 The MRC CoRE will work jointly with Your press office and the UKRI Press Office in the drafting and dissemination of agreed press releases, media statements or media briefings and will clear all press releases/statements which refer to the MRC, UKRI, MRC/UKRI or work funded or part-funded by Us with the UKRI Press Office (press@ukri.org).

AC 2.17 You shall give Us as much advance written notice as possible of publications and press or other announcements or events/visits that are likely to generate significant media or public interest or concern. In such cases, any press releases must be cleared in advance with the UKRI Press Office.

AC 2.18.4 You will ensure that the MRC CoRE has a communications strategy. This strategy shall state clear objectives, target groups, activities and outcomes, and outline plans for measuring and evaluating performance.

RGC 4 Use of Grant

AC 4.1 When You apply for new Research Grants associated with the MRC CoRE, the relationship between the new Research Grant and the MRC CoRE must be made clear in the new application.

AC 4.2 In addition to the provisions under RGC 4.4 greater flexibility is permitted in the transfer of funds between fund headings, details of allowable changes to be confirmed by Us at time of award.

RGC 6 Extensions

AC 6.1 RGC 6 Extensions DOES NOT APPLY, the maximum funding period is fixed at fourteen years.

RGC 7 Monitoring

AC 7.1 Changes to project - it is acknowledged the MRC CoRE shall be “research led” and its activity shall evolve during the period of award, You only need to consult Us on substantive changes to the research challenge, not individual research activities.

AC 7.2 RGC 7.2 Transfer of a Grant to another Research Organisation DOES NOT APPLY and normal transfer provisions and any relocation must be discussed with Us in a timely manner.

AC 7.3 Change of Grant Holder - in addition to the provisions under RGC 7.3 where the Director is also the grant holder clause AC2.13 will also apply.

AC 7.4. Research Monitoring and Evaluation - in addition to RGC 7.4 and UKRI Funding Assurance Programme You will comply with all specific reporting requirements of MRC CoRE assurance. Requirements will be set out in a separate policy document available at full application.

AC 7.5 Disclosure and inspection - You shall ensure We are immediately given written notice of any legal action or formal complaints against any element of the MRC CoRE's work, or of any matters which are likely to attract critical media attention or damage the MRC's reputation with its various stakeholders. You shall assist the MRC in dealing with any such action or complaint.

RGC 13 Disclaimer

TERMINATION (in addition to RGC 13.3)

AC 13.3.1 Either Us or You may terminate the MRC CoRE at any time by either giving six months' written notice to the other.

AC 13.3.2 We may terminate the MRC CoRE on 30 days' notice if You commit a material breach of any of the Terms and Conditions.

AC 13.3.3 If this award terminates for whatever reason the MRC CoRE shall cease to operate once an orderly close-down has been achieved.

AC 13.3.4 During the notice period We and You will continue to provide resources for the MRC CoRE. The balance of such support provided by Us and You respectively will be consistent with the balance of support provided in previous years.

AC 13.3.5 Upon termination of the notice period We shall immediately cease funding the MRC CoRE, subject to honouring outstanding contractual commitments (except staff costs), or any payment that We agree may be necessary to achieve an orderly close-down.

AC 13.3.6 If the MRC CoRE Year 6 review is unsuccessful this does not constitute a termination, an orderly close-down will be agreed and managed over a period of up to two years and a maximum twelve months after the initial agreed seven-year funding.

AC 13.3.7 You retain responsibility for the proper discharge of contractual obligations to Your employees. You will indemnify against any losses, claims, damages, compensation, payments, awards, costs, expenses and/or liabilities of whatsoever nature (whether or not the same arise pursuant to any judgment, order, declaration or direction of any court or tribunal) arising from or in connection with any contract of employment (or any breach, or termination thereof) of its employees (whether under The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/246) or otherwise) by reason of termination of this agreement.

RGC 14 Status

AC 14.1 During the period of MRC CoRE funding You should not enter into agreements with other bodies the provisions of which would conflict with these terms and conditions.

AC 14.2 In all dealings with third parties, the MRC CoRE shall make it clear that it is acting on behalf of You and not the MRC/UKRI.

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