



UK Research
and Innovation

Horizon Europe guarantee guidance

First published 17 December 2021

Last updated 19 December 2022

Please direct any questions on the guarantee guidance to
eugrantsfunding@ukri.org



Horizon Europe guarantee guidance

Please note that UK applicants must apply for funding from the EU as beneficiaries and not as Associated Partners in order to be eligible for the UK government's Horizon Europe funding guarantee. The change to Associated Partner status must only be made after the project has been assessed, at the point of preparing the EU grant agreement.

On 29 November 2021, the government announced a new scheme that guarantees funding for successful, eligible applicants to Horizon Europe grant awards regardless of the outcome of the UK's efforts to associate to Horizon Europe.

The UK government has stated that its priority remains association to Horizon Europe, as both the UK and the EU agreed under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement last year, and that it stands ready to formalise UK association. However, ongoing delays in this process have led to uncertainty for researchers, businesses and innovators based in the UK.

The guarantee is an interim measure intended to address the delays in the formalisation of the UK's association to Horizon Europe. To provide reassurance, the government has guaranteed funding for all eligible, successful applicants to Horizon Europe calls with final submission deadlines **on or before 31 March 2023**.

Calls that are part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) or European Research Council (ERC) schemes will be covered by individual calls launched on the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system after the results of the original EU calls are announced. All other eligible Horizon Europe calls will be covered by the Innovation Funding Service (IFS) system.

Please note that there is [one IFS guarantee funding application route](#) for all EU collaborative R&D calls in scope of the guarantee to 31 August 2022 except for 2022 EIT-KICs. In applying you will be asked to select the EU call through which you have been successful. Additionally there is another IFS guarantee funding application route [now open](#) for EU collaborative R&D calls in scope for the third wave of the guarantee announced in September 2022 **and** the fourth wave announced in December 2022, covering EU calls with final deadlines no later than 31 March 2023. The guarantee funding route for EIT-KICs 2023 activities is expected to open in the first quarter of 2023 if needed.

For help with applying through IFS, including to check whether all the correct information and documents have been provided before submitting the form, please contact heguarantee@iuk.ukri.org.

The Je-S and IFS calls do not have set closing dates and are intended to remain open until all eligible applicants who wish to apply for the guarantee have had the chance to do so. The call for EIT-KICs 2022 activities will close on 31 January 2023.



For detailed guidance on how to apply, please see the [Horizon Europe guarantee notice and guidance page](#).

Funding routes for successful applicants to the 2022 ERC Starting grants call and the 2022 ERC Synergy call opened on Je-S on 14 December 2022. Further details can be found in the ERC section below.

If you have any queries about the scope of the guarantee, please contact us at EUGrantsFunding@ukri.org.

Funding overview

The guarantee funding is delivered through UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and this notice provides guidance on eligibility, scope and what you need to do to receive funding if eligible.

As stated in '[Questions and Answers on the UK's Participation in Horizon Europe](#)' (European Commission), UK entities are eligible to apply as beneficiaries ahead of the UK's formal association to Horizon Europe while the UK is in the process of associating. The UK government continues to encourage UK researchers to take advantage of this opportunity.

However, UKRI and the UK government are aware that successful UK applicants are unable to access funding from the EU if the formalisation process of the UK's membership of Horizon Europe has not been completed by the time they are required to sign a grant agreement with the EU.

For grant awards arising from final EU submission deadlines on or before 31 March 2023, the UK government has committed to provide funding for all successful eligible UK bids. Funding will be made available in pounds sterling.

Please note that UK applicants must apply for funding from the EU as beneficiaries and not as Associated Partners in order to be eligible for the UK government's Horizon Europe funding guarantee. The change to Associated Partner status must only be made after the project has been assessed, at the point of preparing the EU grant agreement.

The funding guarantee will be delivered by UKRI with payments made quarterly in arrears as standard, with the exception of projects carried out under the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) 2021 Business Plans, where UK entities have already incurred costs in 2021. These 2021 EIT-KIC projects will be funded through two payments, one on registration of the project and a second payment once assurance checks on final project spend have been completed.

Please note that UK guarantee grants associated with projects funded by the EU under the lump sum model will still be funded by UKRI on a quarterly claims basis as standard.



Scope of the guarantee

This guarantee is intended to support all Horizon Europe awardees for excellent science, research and innovation who submitted to calls with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023 in the event that they cannot sign a grant agreement with the European Commission or delegated party because the UK's association has not been formalised in time, and therefore cannot receive funding.

Please note that the EURATOM Research and Training 2021 call is also covered by the guarantee, and funding may be accessed through the IFS call noted above (HORIZON-EURATOM-2021-NRT-01).

Both for mono-beneficiary and multi-beneficiary grants, this funding will be provided for the lifetime of the grant, subject to UKRI terms and conditions.

Previous versions of this guidance included a list of calls in the annex, but this has been replaced by a comprehensive commitment to include all Horizon Europe calls with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023 (as shown on the [EC Funding and Tenders Portal](#)). For calls with multiple separate deadlines, applications submitted to those deadlines that fall on or before 31 March 2023 will be eligible. For two-stage calls, only a final submission deadline on or before 31 March 2023 is considered to be in scope.

The UK government has stated that it continues to monitor the situation closely and may consider whether it is appropriate to change the scope of the guarantee, in which case it will provide updated guidance.

EIT-KICs

The guarantee also covers the costs of EIT-eligible activities delivered by UK participants of the KICs that would otherwise have been covered by grant funding awarded by EIT. The guarantee applies retrospectively for EIT-eligible activities where relevant costs were incurred in calendar year 2021. The call for this element of the guarantee has now closed.

Additionally, the guarantee also covers costs incurred in 2022 and 2023 for EIT-KIC activities delivered by UK participants where these costs would otherwise have been covered by grant funding awarded by EIT. For the costs of 2022 activities, access to funding under the guarantee opened on 23 May 2022 and will close on 31 January 2023. This part of the guarantee will cover costs incurred in the calendar year 2022 only. For the costs of 2023 activities, access to be funding under the guarantee will open in 2023. Due to the non-standard granting processes used by EIT-KICs, the scope of the guarantee for EIT-KIC activities in 2023 is defined by spend occurring in the 2023 calendar year, irrespective of the submission deadline date.

For EIT-KIC guarantee funding, the guarantee only replaces grant funding that would have been awarded by EIT. It does not replace funding from non-EIT sources or loans and does not cover activities that involve a 'success fee' on completion. In

addition, it does not cover funding under arrangements that place share-transfer or other equity conditions on UK partners. For such cases, relevant KICs would need to remove these conditions for funding to be capable of falling within the scope of the guarantee.

COST Actions

The UK remains a full member of the European Co-operation on Science and Technology (COST) Association and, subject to its usual rules, UK applicants are eligible to participate and receive funding in its interdisciplinary research networks (COST Actions) irrespective of the UK's association to Horizon Europe. As a result, UK participants in COST Actions are eligible for reimbursements via COST in the usual way and COST Actions are therefore not covered by this guarantee.

Eligibility

Successful UK applicants (excluding British Overseas Territories) will be eligible to register with UKRI for the Horizon Europe guarantee if they have applied as beneficiaries and:

- They are a UK-based organisation and a member of a consortium which has received notification of a successful proposal evaluated under a Horizon Europe call with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023 and which meets the required European Commission eligibility criteria to deliver the project.

or

- They are a UK-based organisation or researcher who has received notification of a successful proposal evaluated under a mono-beneficiary Horizon Europe call with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023.

or

- They are a researcher who has received notification of a successful ERC proposal with a UK host institution for an ERC call with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023.

or

- They are a researcher who has received notification of a successful ERC proposal for an ERC call with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023 with a non-UK host institution and wishes to move their grant to a UK host institution before having signed the Grant Agreement.

or

- They are a UK-based organisation which has carried out a project approved through usual EIT-KIC processes and they have incurred eligible costs during the 2021, 2022 or 2023 calendar years

and

- They are ineligible to receive funding from Horizon Europe because they were unable to sign the grant agreement as an applicant from an Associated Country due to the UK's association status not being formalised in time (as per guidance issued by the European Commission: [‘Questions and Answers on the UK’s Participation in Horizon Europe’](#)).

- If the UK's association had been formalised in time, they would have been able to sign the grant agreement as an applicant from an Associated Country and would have received funding from Horizon Europe or a delegated party.

The requirements set out elsewhere in this document will also need to be met, and additional terms and conditions will apply, including (without limitation) onboarding checks, award holder reporting requirements and the application of currency exchange rates.

What do I need to do to receive funding if eligible?

In order to receive funding through the guarantee, your grant details will need to be submitted to UKRI systems, in order for UKRI to provide you with a UK grant. For most grant types, registration will be via Innovate UK's [Innovation Funding Service](#) (IFS), while funding of ERC and MSCA grants will be provided via the [Joint Electronic Submissions](#) (Je-S) system.

For multi-beneficiary grants for current calls, the call on the IFS system will remain open and applicants will select their Horizon Europe call from a drop-down menu. Note that UKRI will only accept and process applications which include a grant agreement listing the UK partner as an Associated Partner and signed by at least the Commission and the coordinator.

Specific guidance on how to apply for ERC, EIT KICS, MSCA and all other guarantee funding can be found on the [Horizon Europe guarantee notice and guidance page](#).

Since applications will have been evaluated through the European Commission's trusted peer review systems, no further application quality assessment will be undertaken by UKRI.

For EIT-KICs, UKRI systems closed for 2021 grants in April 2022. For 2022 grants, UKRI systems opened in May 2022 and will close on 31 January 2023; for 2023 grants UKRI systems will open in the first quarter of 2023. You will need to provide additional supporting information from your KIC, details of which are given in Q&A section below.

Once registration of an eligible Horizon Europe grant with UKRI is complete, awardees will receive an offer of funding from UKRI. Payments will be made directly to each UK beneficiary organisation.

Terms of the guarantee

As set out above, in addition to the provisions of this document, further terms and conditions will apply to the Horizon Europe guarantee, including (without limitation) onboarding checks, award holder reporting requirements and the application of currency exchange rates. Further details may be found in the Q&A below and the additional material published alongside this guidance. The full terms and conditions



for the grants to be hosted on IFS are published alongside this document for reference. UKRI reserves the right to modify any of the terms and conditions of the Horizon Europe guarantee.

Those who are funded through the guarantee who are part of EU consortia will have Associated Partner status on the EU grant. UKRI guarantee grant holders should be aware that Associated Partners have obligations under their EU Grant Agreements, for example around the recruitment and working conditions of researchers, as described at : <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter>.¹

¹ See also the 'General definitions and information on Associated Partner status' section in the Q&A at the end of this document.

Technical questions and answers

Questions regarding the guarantee announcement

1. Should I still apply for Horizon Europe calls that are outside of the scope of the guarantee?

Yes. As stated in [‘Questions and Answers on the UK’s Participation in Horizon Europe’](#) (European Commission), UK entities are already eligible to apply ahead of the UK’s formal association to Horizon Europe. The UK government states that it is committed to securing association and continues to encourage UK researchers to take advantage of this opportunity. The [‘Supporting UK R&D and collaborative research beyond European programmes’](#) policy paper details how existing Horizon Europe applications will be supported in the case of a transition period following non-association. The guarantee is primarily aimed at those who have reached the Grant Agreement Preparation phase of their application and cannot sign their EU grant agreement.

2. What funding is covered on successful projects?

100% of the applied-for EU eligible costs will be paid (i.e., 100% of the requested EU contribution to eligible costs), subject to exchange rate and any reduction in tasks undertaken by the UK participants in the process of finalising the EU grant agreement. This includes, for example, the costs of financial reporting to UKRI, costs requested for PhD studentships, and costs for personnel based outside the UK. In general, the amount that can be requested from UKRI is capped at the value originally requested by the UK applicant in the original Horizon Europe proposal.

3. Are UK participants still able to lead consortia?

The European Commission has published clear guidance that during the application process UK participants should be treated as if the UK were already associated to Horizon Europe. This means that they can apply for funding and participate in and lead consortia for collaborative projects. If the European Commission formalises the UK’s association before a grant agreement must be signed, then UK participants on that grant will be funded by the European Commission and will be able to fulfil their role as lead or participant as set out in their proposal.

While Horizon Europe regulations generally require a participant to be based in a Member State or an Associated Country in order to lead a project, UK participants in successful consortia should follow the guidance of the European Commission on eligibility, project roles and signing the grant agreement.

4. What happens to projects that have already been submitted by UK participants while they are being treated as an Associated Country if there is an extended delay to the UK formalising their association?

As stated in [‘Questions and answers on the UK’s participation in Horizon Europe’](#) (European Commission), UK entities are already eligible to apply ahead of the UK’s formal association to Horizon Europe, and the UK Government expect the European Commission to continue evaluating these applications.

If UK applicants to calls eligible for the guarantee reach a point where they are required to sign the grant agreement before the EU has formalised the UK's association, then the process to follow will depend on the nature of the European grant applied for:

Consortium-style grants

For consortium-style grants, the guarantee is in place to fund eligible UK participants' roles in these projects. The European Commission may require a UK partner to change the status of their participation to 'Associated Partner'.

Associated Partners implement action tasks without receiving EU funding and do not sign the grant agreement. While Associated Partners are not required to have a capital or legal link to a specific beneficiary, the other beneficiaries in the consortium take on the responsibility (through consortium agreements or contractual arrangements) to ensure proper implementation of the Associated Partners' elements of the project, as well as compliance with specific obligations of the grant agreement which are extended to Associated Partners. The UK partner will be required to provide proof of the successful grant to UKRI and undertake the steps outlined in this document, and UKRI will provide the UK partner's share of the funding under the guarantee.

Mono-beneficiary-style grants

For mono-beneficiary-style grants, eligible UK entities will provide proof of success in the evaluation process to UKRI and undertake the steps outlined in this document, and UKRI will provide the entity with funding under the guarantee.

5. What happens if the European Commission stops evaluating applications for my call?

While the UK is in the process of concluding its association status, the European Commission allows entities in the UK to apply for Horizon Europe funding as if the UK were an Associated Country, which the European Commission has made clear in ['Questions and answers on the UK's participation in Horizon Europe'](#) (European Commission). It states that: "The first calls for proposals are expected to be published before UK association enters into force. The General Annexes attached to the main Horizon Europe work programme (2020-2021), as well as the ERC and EIC work programmes (to which the General Annexes will apply once the latter are adopted), will ensure that UK applicants are treated as if the UK is an Associated Country throughout the process, from admissibility and eligibility to evaluation, up until the signature of grant agreements. However, grant agreements can only be signed once the association has come into force."

6. If successful UK applicants have to become Associated Partners in their project consortium, do they still sign a grant agreement with the European Commission or delegated party?

Associated Partners implement action tasks without receiving EU funding and do not sign the grant agreement. While Associated Partners are not required to have a capital or legal link to a specific beneficiary, the other beneficiaries in the consortium take on the responsibility (through consortium agreements or contractual

arrangements) to ensure proper implementation of the Associated Partners' elements of the project, as well as compliance with specific obligations of the grant agreement which are extended to Associated Partners.

7. For calls open to Third Countries, will UK participants funded through the guarantee be required to provide the European Commission with reports against deliverables in the grant agreement?

If the EU has not formalised the UK's association at the point where the grant agreement must be signed, then the status of the UK participants on the grant would change to 'Associated Partner'. Associated Partners implement action tasks without receiving EU funding and do not sign the grant agreement, meaning that they have no direct obligation to provide reports against deliverables. The beneficiaries in the consortium will have responsibility for submitting deliverables to the EU and, depending on the tasks to be delivered by the Associated Partner, would agree the Associated Partner's expected contribution to reporting through consortium agreements or contractual arrangements.

8. What post-award reporting will be required for the UKRI guarantee grant?

For grants hosted by Innovate UK's IFS system we have reviewed our processes in response to feedback from guarantee grant holders. The table below summarizes the revised post-award technical monitoring level by grant value and organisation type we will apply for all new guarantee grants hosted on IFS from 1 December 2022.

Grant-holding organisation	Guarantee grant value	Technical monitoring level with Monitoring Officer appointed
Businesses participating in EU consortia as Associated Partners	Up to £500k	UKRI internal assurance; no Monitoring Officer appointed
	£500k-£2m	Bronze (2 days per year)
	Over £2m	Silver (up to 22 days per year)
Businesses with UK-only (monobeneficiary) awards, including EIC Accelerator guarantee grants and EIC Pathfinder/Transitions guarantee grants where applicable	Up to £2m	Bronze (2 days per year)
	Over £2m	Silver (up to 22 days per year)
HEIs/charities/public sector bodies	Any	UKRI internal assurance; no Monitoring Officer appointed

There are currently no changes to the technical monitoring of existing guarantee grants. If we move from this position we will inform all parties as and when required.

A final report of the UK partner's contribution to the project will still be required at the end of all guarantee-funded projects held on IFS. Financial claims and reporting processes are unaffected by this change.

For 2021 KICs grants, financial checks only will be carried out to verify costs incurred in 2021. For 2022 and 2023 KICs grants, technical monitoring will be as indicated in the table.

For MSCA and ERC guarantee grants, hosted via Je-S, grant holders will be expected to report research outcomes through Researchfish. Grants may fall under the regular programme of assurance checks carried out on Research Council grants. UKRI reserves the right to carry out additional monitoring as required. However, no UKRI Innovate UK Monitoring Officers or project officers will be assigned to these awards, even those which are part of EU consortia (MSCA Doctoral Networks, Staff Exchanges and COFUND guarantee grants). UK partners in MSCA consortia awards funded by UKRI under the guarantee are expected to contribute to REA post-award monitoring requirements as required.

9. What will happen to awards where the eligibility of the consortium is compromised in the event that the UK is unable to associate to Horizon Europe?

The minimum eligibility requirements for a consortium, including the number of Member State or Associated Country participants, are conditions set out by the European Commission in the legal agreements of Horizon Europe and are specific to the type of call. The eligibility of any individual consortium is therefore a decision for the European Commission to make, and projects should follow guidance from the European Commission.

10. Will my guarantee funding be jeopardised if my consortium reallocates the EU funding originally assigned to my UK institution to fund additional activities?

For consortium-style projects, the guarantee will fund UK participants for the activities that were assigned to them as a beneficiary in the original proposal that are still assigned to them as an Associated Partner in the final signed EU grant agreement. Guarantee funding will only be reduced if the UK participant is no longer performing an activity it was assigned in the original proposal.

11. How can UK participants in successful projects submit their funding request to UKRI?

Procedures will vary depending on the call and will make use of existing systems and processes used by UKRI. For most grant types, registration will be via Innovate UK's [Innovation Funding Service](#) (IFS). Funding of ERC and MSCA Grants will generally be provided via the [Joint Electronic Submissions](#) (Je-S) system. Further details may be found in the [Horizon Europe guarantee notice and guidance page](#) once the call opens.

12. What exchange rate will be accepted to convert the EUR grant to GBP?

The Euro value of the grant must be converted to pounds sterling and the UKRI grant under the guarantee will be for a pound sterling value. For grants signed by the Commission up to 31 December 2022, a maximum exchange rate of £1: €1.160354 will be accepted, which reflects the average exchange rate between January 2021 (at the start of the Horizon Europe programme) and October 2021. Payments will then be made on the basis of the GBP grant value.

For grant agreements signed by the Commission from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2023 a maximum exchange rate of **£1: €1.180720** will be accepted, which reflects the 2022 average daily spot rate to the end of September 2022. This exchange rate will only be applied to new guarantee applications, not to guarantee grants already funded by UKRI. For guarantee grants where no EU grant agreement will be signed, the revised exchange rate will apply for new guarantee applications to UKRI from 1 January 2023.

UKRI may change the GBP grant value in response to significant fluctuations in international exchange rates by applying an exchange rate that is different to the one it initially applied, but it shall not:

- i. do so more frequently than once in a 12-month period; or
- ii. apply any such change retrospectively to affect payments already made.

13. Will proposals submitted to UKRI be re-evaluated/reassessed?

Since applications will have been evaluated through the European Commission’s trusted peer review systems, no further application quality assessment will be undertaken by UKRI. Organisational validation and due diligence checks will be carried out in line with UKRI business as usual processes.

14. How will grant payments via UKRI be made?

Grants will be funded in pounds sterling. UKRI will typically make payments quarterly in arrears in line with standard processes.

For grants hosted on IFS, payment will be made based on claims according to Innovate UK standard processes, where evidence of expenditure incurred and defrayed in the claim period will be required. The level of independent oversight required will depend upon the total grant value of the UKRI guarantee grant provided (not the total original EU grant value):

Value of Grant	Independent Accountant Report (IAR) Requirement for HE projects
Up to £100k	None
£100k to £500k	Last claim only
£500k to £2M	First and last claims
More than £2M	First and last claims, and annually

For grants hosted on Je-S/Siebel systems payment will be made via profiled payments according to Research Council standard processes.

15. How long will it take for the grant offers to be issued after submission?

For grants hosted on IFS the anticipated turnaround time is around 30 days, if all the required information is submitted correctly. The process may take up to 90 days if additional information is required, depending on how quickly the additional information is provided. UKRI will always aim to prioritise those whose requested grant start date is due soonest, as far as possible. For Je-S grants the anticipated time to grant offer is around 7 weeks; again, those looking to start their awards soonest will be prioritised, as far as possible.

16. What happens to my grant if the UK formally associates to Horizon Europe after the UKRI guarantee has been applied to my project?

UK participants who have received a UKRI grant under the guarantee will remain on the UKRI grant for the lifetime of the grant, subject to UKRI terms and conditions.

17. Will UK-based Affiliated Entities be covered by the guarantee?

Yes, costs for UK-based Affiliated Entities in consortia will be covered by the guarantee in the same way as costs for beneficiaries. The EU will treat UK-based Affiliated Entities as Associated Partners if the UK doesn't associate in time, and they will be covered by the guarantee.

18. What is the closing date for the UKRI guarantee funding routes?

The guarantee systems will remain open indefinitely. This includes both IFS- and Je-S-hosted calls. If any of the calls need to be closed for operational reasons, guarantee funding applicants will be given due notice.

19. Can I access the UKRI guarantee if I am on a reserve list for EU funding?

Applications for the guarantee will ask for proof that your application has been invited to Grant Agreement Preparation (GAP) process by the EU. Even if your grant was originally placed on a reserve list, if you subsequently receive an invite to the GAP process, you can apply for the guarantee. The guarantee will not fund reserve list applications that have not been invited to the GAP process.

20. Can I move parts of my grant applied for outside of the UK to the UK and claim funding from the guarantee?

If you are part of a multi-beneficiary consortium that is eligible for the guarantee and wish to relocate some of your project tasks to the UK (e.g. a researcher is moving to a UK institution and wants to take their part of the grant with them *or* a partner withdraws from the project and the UK partner is best placed to replace them), then this may be possible, providing the following conditions are met:

1. You must first contact UKRI (EUGrantsFunding@ukri.org), provide details of the situation and receive agreement in principle for the move.
2. The EU project must not yet have started or incurred any costs.
3. The proposed movement of tasks to the UK must not render the EU project ineligible.
4. The value of funding requested for the tasks moved to the UK must not be more than the budget assigned to those tasks in the original EU proposal (unless specifically approved by UKRI).

If these conditions are met, then you will need to provide a copy of the original EU proposal and an amended EU grant agreement with the tasks removed from the original beneficiary and reassigned to a new or existing UK Associated Partner. This must be accompanied by a covering letter explaining why the tasks are being relocated to the UK and confirming that the new UK host is willing to accept the additional tasks.

21. What should I do if asked for proof of the guarantee commitment?

This document states the eligibility conditions and sets out the process to be undertaken to receive funding from UKRI. This document should be used as evidence of the guarantee in the first instance.

22. Can I claim costs for travel and accommodation for the kick-off meeting of a project if the travel has been booked before the UKRI guarantee grant start date?

Costs incurred in booking travel and accommodation before the UKRI guarantee grant start date for a kick-off meeting will be eligible.

23. How should UKRI guarantee funding be acknowledged on research publications and outputs?

Your research publications must acknowledge funding received from UKRI. This includes, but is not limited to:

- research articles published in journals
- conference proceedings and publication platforms
- monographs
- book chapters
- edited collections
- outputs deposited at institutional or subject repositories.

If your research has supported the development of patents or exploitable intellectual property your organisation must make sure that UKRI is fully acknowledged.

For guarantee projects wholly funded by UKRI, acknowledgement of funding should include UK Research and Innovation written out in full, followed by the grant number in square brackets. For example:

‘This work was funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under the UK government’s Horizon Europe funding guarantee [grant number xxxx].’

For collaborative projects which are part of EU-funded consortia, you will need to cite the EU project according to their requirements in addition to acknowledging the funding from UKRI.

If there is more than one UK partner involved in the output, then please include all grant reference numbers as appropriate.

If you wish to include UKRI branding, guidelines and logos are available on our website at <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/contact-us/brand-guidelines/>.

24. Are organisations located in British Overseas Territories eligible for the guarantee?

Organisations in British Overseas Territories are not eligible for the guarantee.

25. Can I access the guarantee if I mistakenly applied as an Associated Partner?

Any successful UK applicant who applied to Horizon Europe as an Associated Partner instead of as a Beneficiary as a result of a genuine mistake on their part, or because the coordinator of the consortium changed the applicant's status to Associated Partner, should contact UKRI (eugrantsfunding@ukri.org) to discuss their situation and whether they meet the eligibility criteria for a temporary funding route that is being piloted. Please note that the temporary funding route may be removed before the end of the window for making applications to UKRI under the guarantee.

Specific questions for grants hosted on the Innovation Funding Service (IFS)

26. What start date will I be able to enter onto IFS?

You will be required to enter a future date into the start date section on IFS initially, although UKRI can manually adjust this if required. If your project has already started at time of submission to UKRI, you will be asked to note the actual start date of the project. The Grant Offer Letter will be issued listing this date as the project start date and using the duration entered in Application Details. We recommend that you wait until you receive the Grant Offer Letter before you start incurring costs against the grant, and if costs are incurred before this point, it is at your own risk.

27. What if our EU grant's start date comes before we can expect to receive funding from UKRI?

The expected processing time through the IFS calls will be a maximum of 90 days. There is scope for this to be faster, but that will be the maximum. The processing team will do their best to prioritise those with sooner start dates, but this will be dependent on the volume of grants in total.

28. My project includes more than one UK partner. Do we need to submit our details separately or as one application for funding?

Please submit your details separately in IFS; each participant registered on the signed EU grant agreement as a separate Associated Partner will receive a separate grant from UKRI. UKRI will link multiple grants from the same EU grant together for monitoring purposes, i.e., the same Monitoring Officer will be assigned to look after all the UK components of the same EU project.

29. Are Co-funded European Partnerships within the scope of the guarantee?

Calls to form Co-funded European Partnerships with final submission deadlines on or before 31 March 2023 are within the scope of the guarantee. However, given the more complex nature of the grant agreement, please contact UKRI (eugrantsfunding@ukri.org) letting us know the UK partners involved so that we can arrange a call to discuss the details. Please note that UK entities cannot hold or administer cascaded funding (see Question 33).

30. Are calls run by Joint Undertakings within the scope of the guarantee?

Joint Undertakings calls with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023 and where UK entities are eligible to apply but cannot receive funding while the UK is not associated, are within the scope of the guarantee.

31. Are calls run by the European Partnership on Metrology within the scope of the guarantee?

The European Partnership on Metrology calls with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023 are within the scope of the guarantee.

32. What will happen if a guarantee funded UK partner is unable to complete their part of a multi-beneficiary project?

In the event that a UK partner is unable to complete their part of a multi-beneficiary project, you can request to transfer the guarantee funding to another UK institution who can complete the work. In exceptional cases where there are no alternative UK institutions capable of taking on the work, you should contact UKRI to determine whether certain tasks can be subcontracted to non-UK institutions.

33. Can cascaded funding, i.e., financial support to third parties through funding calls administered by an EU consortium, be funded through the guarantee?

No, under the EU rules Associate Partners may not hold or administer cascaded funding. Such funding, if originally included in the EU application budget, must be transferred to another partner in the EU consortium before the Grant Agreement is finalised. However, UK entities may be recipients of cascaded funding held by an EU consortium. This could be eligible for funding by the EU, depending on the exact call conditions, and therefore will also not be covered by the UK guarantee.

EIC Accelerator/Transitions/Pathfinder awards

34. Are EIC Accelerator and single applicant EIC Transition awards within scope for the guarantee?

Yes, eligible successful UK applicants to EIC Accelerator and EIC Transition calls with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023 are covered by the Horizon Europe guarantee. If the awardee is unable to proceed with signing the grant agreement for their EIC award, proof of success in the EC evaluation process will need to be submitted to UKRI which will provide funding under the guarantee.

NB. The specific call for the 2021 calls has now closed, but awardees who did not get to submit to this call can submit to the general Horizon Europe Guarantee IFS call instead.

35. Are EIC Pathfinder awards and multi-beneficiary EIC Transition awards within scope for the guarantee?

Yes, funding for eligible UK applicants involved in eligible consortia successfully evaluated under EIC Pathfinder or EIC Transition calls with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023, who are unable to proceed with signing a grant agreement with the European Commission, is within scope for the guarantee. The final signed grant agreement, listing the UK partner as an Associated Partner,

will need to be submitted to UKRI, which will provide funding under the guarantee to enable continued participation in the project.

NB. The specific call for the 2021 calls has now closed, but awardees who did not get to submit to this call can submit to the general Horizon Europe Guarantee IFS call instead.

EIT-KIC awards

36. I was unable to sign a grant agreement and/or receive funds for an approved EIT-KIC project during 2021 and have incurred costs 'at risk'. How quickly will I receive the guarantee funding?

The UKRI call to register your 2021 EIT-KIC project has now closed. Once your submission has been validated you will receive a payment of 50% of your claim upfront. You will be able to claim the remainder of the funding once you have completed financial reporting to your KIC and they have verified your incurred costs. You will need to submit this verification to UKRI alongside your claim to receive the balance.

37. Does the guarantee cover EIT-KIC activities where costs are incurred in 2022 or 2023?

Eligible UK participants involved in EIT-KIC activities with costs being incurred in 2022 or have been approved for 2023 are covered by the guarantee, provided that Third Country participation is allowed.

This covers the costs of EIT-eligible activities delivered by UK participants where these activities have been approved through usual EIT-KIC processes and the costs would otherwise have been covered by grant funding awarded by EIT. For the 2022 costs of these activities, access to funding under the guarantee opened in May 2022. For costs incurred in 2023, UKRI will open a separate call next year when you will be able to register your project. This part of the guarantee will cover costs incurred in the calendar years 2022 and 2023 only.

38. What supporting documents will I need to provide to UKRI when registering for funding under the guarantee for EIT-KIC activities carried out in 2022 or 2023?

You will need to submit the following supporting documents:

- **A letter from your KIC confirming the details of your project/activities.** A template letter that must be used for this purpose has been provided to each of the KICs by UKRI. Your KIC will fill in the template and give you a signed copy to submit when registering your project. (For information, you can see the [2022 template letter](#) and you can download it if you need to share it with your KIC; a new template will be provided for 2023). It is recommended that you contact your KIC to confirm that they will provide this supporting letter before applying for EIT-KIC projects.
- **A 2022 or 2023 grant agreement between you and the KIC and/or an alternative proof of success.** Suitable alternative evidence could include an official letter or email from the KIC confirming that your project was approved through usual EIT-KIC processes.

- **If your KIC has removed ‘success fee’, share-transfer or other equity conditions in order for your claim to be within scope of the guarantee**, you will need to submit confirmation of the details of this from your KIC.

39. I am participating in a multi-year EIT-KIC project, how will guarantee funding be administered?

In line with EIT-KIC processes, the guarantee covers costs by calendar year. The UKRI call for EIT-KIC projects where costs were incurred during 2021 closed in April 2022. For costs incurred in 2022, you can register your project along with supporting documents in UKRI systems from 23 May 2022. For costs incurred in 2023, UKRI will open a separate call next year when you will be able to register your project.

40. I received ‘exceptional status’ from EIT for my participation in an EIT-KIC project. Do I need to claim anything under the guarantee?

No, the guarantee only covers projects that have not been able to receive funding from the EU. You should continue with your project as normal and receive funds from EIT.

41. Are operational costs for running an EIT-KIC Co-Location Centre (or equivalent) eligible for funding under the guarantee?

The guarantee covers funding for UK partners carrying out activities that have been successfully approved by EIT-KICs and which meet the eligibility criteria set out in the guidance. Operational costs for running an EIT-KIC Co-Location Centre or regional office based in the UK are not covered by the guarantee.

Specific questions for calls hosted on Joint Electronic System (Je-S)

42. Why are the Je-S calls being hosted by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)?

Due to system constraints, EPSRC will be formally hosting these awards on behalf of UKRI on Je-S. EPSRC will not be involved in the processing of the awards and any queries should be directed to EUGrantsFunding@ukri.org and not to EPSRC.

43. What will my MSCA/ERC guarantee grant be referred to as?

The guarantee will use the scheme and call names given in the following table. For the purposes of applying for UK visas, the Je-S scheme names will be included on the list of approved schemes for the Global Talent Visa, where appropriate.

Call	Je-S Scheme Name	Je-S Call Name
ERC Starting Grant	UKRI Frontier Research Guarantee	Horizon Europe Guarantee ERC Starting Grants 2021 (invite only)
		Horizon Europe Guarantee ERC Starting Grants 2022 (invite only)

ERC Consolidator Grant		Horizon Europe Guarantee ERC Consolidator Grants 2021 (invite only)
ERC Advanced Grant		Horizon Europe Guarantee ERC Advance Grants 2021 (invite only)
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)	UKRI Postdoctoral Fellowships Guarantee	Horizon Europe Guarantee MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2021 (invite only)
ERC Proof of Concept	ERC and MSCA Other Guarantee Calls	Horizon Europe Guarantee ERC Proof of Concept Grants 2021 (invite only)
MSCA Citizens		Horizon Europe Guarantee MSCA Citizens Grants 2021 (invite only)
MSCA Staff Exchanges		Horizon Europe Guarantee MSCA Staff Exchanges 2021 (invite only)
MSCA COFUND		Horizon Europe Guarantee MSCA COFUND 2021 (invite only)
MSCA Researchers at Risk		Horizon Europe Guarantee MSCA Researchers at Risk 2021 (invite only)
ERC Synergy		Horizon Europe Guarantee ERC Synergy Grants 2021 (invite only)
MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN)		Horizon Europe Guarantee MSCA Doctoral Networks 2021 (invite only)

44. What start date will I be able to enter onto Je-S?

You will be required to enter a future date into the start date section on Je-S initially. However, you will be able to confirm the actual start date you want to be covered from when you have accepted the offer in Je-S and submit the start confirmation document.

We have added a call condition to the Je-S guarantee calls to enable this: *'Notwithstanding RGC 5.2 (in the standard UKRI research grant T&Cs), the start date of the Grant may precede the start date shown in the Offer Letter, and can also be earlier than the issue date of the Offer Letter itself.'*

This call condition is included in the Grant Offer Letter. The anticipated time to grant offer is up to 7 weeks from the date of submission; we will aim to prioritise those looking to start their awards soonest, as far as possible.

45. How do I submit the start confirmation document?

After your research development manager or officer accepts the award through Je-S, they will be sent a start confirmation document with the start date of your project. They must submit this through Je-S within 42 days of the date your project started. Any kind of eligible grant expenditure may be used to trigger the submission of the start confirmation.

More information can be found in the Je-S help text found here:

https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/index.htm#t=pages%2FStart_Confirmation.htm

46. What is the latest start date I can submit?

The MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships will follow MSCA standard practice with 1st Sept 2023 being the latest start date. For all other ERC or MSCA grant types, we are assessing these on a case-by-case basis. If your desired start date is beyond 2023, please provide us with further information on the start date you want to propose and the reason why via email to EUgrantsfunding@ukri.org

47. At what point can costs start to be incurred from?

We recommend that you wait until you receive the Grant Offer Letter before you start incurring costs against the grant, and if costs are incurred before this point, for example paying a deposit on a piece of equipment, it is at your own risk. Once the Grant Offer Letter has been received this is covered by our standard terms and conditions:

RGC 4.3 Expenditure may be incurred and subsequently charged to the Grant from either the start date of the Grant or the date that the Offer Letter was issued on, whichever is earlier.

48. Do I have to wait for my award letter in order to apply for my Global Talent Visa for my ERC or MSCA project?

The endorsing bodies have agreed that the written confirmation of an MSCA/ERC grant required to apply for the Global Talent Visa can be the same documents that you submit to the UKRI guarantee, allowing you to apply for your Global Talent Visa before you receive your UKRI award letter. The advice is:

“If you have received your successful MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship or ERC grant results in the following 2021 calls (HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01 Postdoctoral Fellowship; ERC-2021-StG Starting Grant; ERC-2021-AdG Advanced Grant; ERC-2021-CoG Consolidator Grant) but don’t have a Grant Agreement because you are submitting your grant details to UKRI in order to receive funding through the Horizon Europe guarantee, then you can submit the following documents with your Global Talent visa endorsement application: either a) a copy of the European Research Executive Agency GAP invitation letter and a copy of the grant proposal (which contains the individual researcher’s name); or b) a copy of your UKRI Guarantee Grant Offer Letter.”

49. What do I need to do if I need to make changes to my grant once it becomes active on Je-S?

For any changes to the guarantee grants once it has become active on Je-S we will be following UKRI's normal process for requesting changes. More detailed information can be found here: <https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/requesting-a-change-to-your-project/if-theres-an-unexpected-change-in-circumstances/>. We do not need to be consulted on detailed changes of the programme of research/training or planned outputs.

50. If I need to reallocate the budget under different cost headings, can I do this without requiring a formal amendment to the guarantee grant?

Yes, the ERC guarantee grants have an additional call condition, reproduced below, which allows for free virement across cost headings. We will not be providing a higher amount of funding than what was originally assessed by the ERC. However, the funds can be moved across categories to meet the needs of the project:

Virement of costs

The costs on this grant may be vired between any fund headings as required for the delivery of the research.

Similarly, for the MSCA guarantee grants we will not need to be notified of any reallocation of funds across headings within the total funding envelope provided. If any eligible additional funding is required, more details can be found below on how to request this.

51. What level of post-award reporting will be expected on Researchfish?

Guarantee grant holders hosted via Je-S will be expected to report general research outcomes through Researchfish from the March 2024 submission period. UKRI's general guidance on reporting outcomes on Researchfish can be found here: <https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/reporting-your-projects-outcomes/what-you-need-to-report-and-how-to-do-it/> However, there will be specific guidance issued for guarantee grant holders nearer to the next submission period detailing the simplified process.

There is specific guidance on reporting for grants in a multiple-grant project for those that have applied through Je-S with a lead and non-lead proposal here:

<https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/reporting-your-projects-outcomes/reporting-outcomes-for-epsrc-funded-projects/>

Please note that although the grants are being hosted by EPSRC on the Je-S system, there will be no Council-specific rules or questions asked in the reporting for the guarantee grants.

52. What reporting will I have to do if my guarantee grant is still part of a Horizon Europe consortium?

Along with the Researchfish submission as outlined above, UKRI expects UK guarantee grant holders to provide reports to the project coordinator as expected within the consortium.

European Research Council (ERC) awards

53. Are ERC grants within the scope of the guarantee?

Yes, the guarantee will provide funding for all eligible successful awardees of ERC Calls with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023. This guarantee will allow awardees to receive the full value of their funding and continue their research in the UK. Awardees do not need to move abroad to an EU Member State or to an Associated Country to Horizon Europe to access this funding.

54. Will my ERC guarantee grant be portable?

Grants funded through the UK guarantee will be portable within the UK according to UKRI standard terms and conditions. Awardees of ERC Starting, Consolidator and Advanced grants through calls with a final submission deadline date on or before 31 March 2023 who applied to be hosted outside the UK may move their project to the UK and be funded through the guarantee, subject to two conditions:

- i. They have not signed an ERC grant agreement to be hosted elsewhere.
- ii. They can demonstrate through submission of a host institution letter that a UK research organisation is prepared to host them for the lifetime of the grant.

Applicants who have applied to be hosted outside the UK and wish to move their project to a UK institution are advised to contact us at EUGrantsFunding@ukri.org before applying.

55. What terms and conditions will be attached to my ERC guarantee grant?

The UKRI research grant terms and conditions will be attached to these grants (available to view [here](#)), with a small number of additional conditions, which will be listed in the specific call guidance. The additional terms will be the same for Starting, Consolidator and Advanced guarantee grants. As noted above, no pre-financing will be paid on these grants.

56. What do I need to do if I was successful in the 2022 Starting grants call?

The ERC Starting grants guarantee call opened on Je-S on 14 December 2022. The documentation you will need to submit can be found below. If you wish to proceed with the UK guarantee process before the ERC have formally withdrawn their offer and the deadline for your grant signature has passed, then you will need to confirm that you will not be continuing the grant agreement preparation process with the ERC. An additional supporting attachment will need to be submitted to UKRI through Je-S.

The letter will need to be a PDF on headed paper from a senior representative within the host institution (someone capable of speaking on behalf of the host institution) stating the following:

- Names of the Principal Investigator and project title
- Confirmation that the original ERC grant will be withdrawn from the ERC grant preparation process

57. What documentation will I need to provide to UKRI to access funding for my successful ERC Starting/Consolidator/Advanced/Proof of Concept grant?

The Je-S form has been made as simple as possible to complete. You will need to complete some details about the project for administrative purposes only. The information submitted will not be reassessed by any peer reviewers for scientific merit. You will need to submit PDF copies of:

- The original ERC proposal (including the host organisation letter of support)
- The confirmation that the proposal was successful
- The evaluation summary report
- A completed cost conversion tool (a template will be available to download for specific calls once the calls have opened on Je-S)

Applicants who have applied to be hosted outside the UK and wish to move their project to a UK institution need to also include with their Je-S submission:

- The original host organisation letter of support
- A letter of support from the new UK-based host organisation
- Confirmation a grant agreement has not been signed with a host institution in the EU and that the ERC grant preparation will be terminated

58. Will PhD studentships applied for on my original ERC proposal be covered by the guarantee?

Yes, PhD students will be covered by the guarantee. If funded on the UKRI studentship model, rather than as a salaried Research Assistant, the minimum stipend paid must match or exceed the UKRI minimum stipend. Please see: [Get a studentship to fund your doctorate – UKRI](#) for more details

59. Will overseas team members be covered by the guarantee?

Yes, all costs originally planned in the ERC application associated with overseas team members may be covered by the guarantee, including but not limited to personnel costs, and subcontracting as well as other direct costs such as travel, subsistence, equipment, and consumables. UKRI guarantee funding will be distributed from UKRI to the Host Institution and then sent onwards to other organisations involved in the project.

60. I applied for the additional funding, which was approved by the ERC. Will this be covered by the guarantee?

Yes, the total funding approved by the ERC will be paid through UKRI's guarantee process. The additional funding will be wrapped into the overall award and paid on the same profiled schedule as the rest of the grant.

61. What do I need to do if I want to move my UK-based ERC guarantee grant to another UK-based organisation?

This will depend on if your grant details have already been submitted into Je-S.

If you have not submitted your details, you can provide an extra letter of support from the new host institution as an additional attachment to the Je-S form. This will need to explain the rationale for the move and that the new host will provide the necessary environment, facilities and support to ensure the project can successfully proceed. This will need to be a PDF on headed paper from a senior representative within the host institution (someone capable of speaking on behalf of the host institution).

If you have accepted your offer in Je-S, but the grant is not yet active, you will need to email EUgrantsfunding@ukri.org with the additional letter as outlined above. We will then be able to retract and reissue the offer in the name of the new host organisation in the system.

If your grant is already active in Je-S, we will be following UKRI's normal process for requesting changes to projects. More detailed information can be found here: <https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/requesting-a-change-to-your-project/if-theres-an-unexpected-change-in-circumstances/>

With the change to organisation, you will need to raise a grant transfer request through Je-S. Additional supporting documents should be uploaded with the request as noted above. Please refer to the Je-S helptext for how to do this: https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/handbook/index.htm#t=pages%2FGrant_Maintenance_Requests.htm

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) awards

62. What will the funding rate of my MSCA grant be?

Grants will be funded in pounds sterling by profiled payments based on UKRI standard processes. The total grant value will be based on the total value assigned to the UK participant in the original MSCA grant (calculated as the total applicable MSCA unit costs for the full grant duration multiplied by the UK country correction coefficient), taking into account the exchange rate. UKRI will typically make payments quarterly in arrears.

63. What terms and conditions will apply to the guarantee MSCA grants?

UKRI's standard research grant terms and conditions will apply (available to view [here](#)), with additional conditions which are given in the specific call guidance.

64. Will the UK guarantee still require that "Contributions for the recruited researcher" be paid to the fellow/student in full?

Yes, the guarantee grants require that the full value of the unit costs under the heading "Contributions for the recruited researcher" in the original MSCA proposal (i.e., Living Allowance, Mobility Allowance, Family Allowance, Long-Term Leave Allowance, Special Needs Allowance) is paid to the student/fellow by the end of their studentship/fellowship.

65. Will the UK guarantee still enable the MSCA Staff Exchange, COFUND or Doctoral Network project to have flexibility to use the Institutional unit costs as they see fit to ensure the successful implementation of the project?

Yes, the contributions for the indirect costs/ management costs can be used for your researchers' project management costs for these grant types.

66. Will the UK Guarantee require that essential costs for living and working in the UK are covered from the institutional unit cost contributions in the same way that MSCA does?

Yes, the UK Guarantee requires that costs required for MSCA fellows to have the right to work and live in the UK are covered from the institutional unit contributions, such as visa costs and the NHS surcharge.

67. If I become eligible for the family allowance since originally applying, can I add this to my guarantee grant?

Yes, you will need to provide evidence that your Research Organisation has checked your evidence and confirms your eligibility for the family allowance to UKRI. The additional allowance will then be added for the remainder of your grant through an additional funding stream. It will appear in the quarterly profile as standard over the grant.

If you haven't yet submitted your details on Je-S and become eligible, along with the standard guarantee documentation listed in the specific call guidance, you will need to submit:

- a verification letter from the Head of Department, or equivalent, of your host organisation to indicate:
 - that the necessary documentation has been checked and meets the eligibility criteria as defined by the European Research Executive Agency (REA)
 - Confirms the total amount of eligible additional funding to be added to the grant
- An amended version of the UKRI cost conversion tool which reflects the additional allowance in GBP (£)

If you become eligible once your UKRI grant has become active on Je-S, you will need to raise a Generic Change Request through [the Je-S grant maintenance request](#) process. The same additional supporting documents as above should be uploaded with the request. The additional funding will appear in the quarterly profile from that point onwards for the remainder of the grant.

68. Will the MSCA Special Needs Allowance still be offered under the guarantee?

Yes, you can claim this either at the start of your grant when you submit your details to UKRI, or during the lifetime of your grant if your situation changes.

If you become eligible before submitting your details on Je-S, you will need to include an additional letter from your host organisation to confirm your eligibility along with the standard documentation in the call specific guidance [on the UKRI website](#).

If you become eligible once your UKRI grant has become active on Je-S, you will need to raise a Generic Change Request through [the Je-S grant maintenance request](#) process. Any additional supporting evidence should be uploaded with the request, including the confirmation from your host organisation that you are eligible.

69. Will my host institution receive long-term leave allowance for my MSCA guarantee grant if I take maternity/paternity/parental/sick/special leave?

Yes, following UKRI terms and conditions, which state that within the announced grant cash limit, the Grant may be used to meet the costs of extending the Grant to cover a period of sick leave for staff supported within the original grant period. At the end of the Grant Period, UKRI will reimburse you for any additional net sick leave costs that cannot be met within the announced Grant cash limit, except where you have already recovered these costs by claiming Statutory Sick Pay from HMRC. This will be payable only for the percentage of time that the staff are contracted on the Grant. Documentation will need to be provided to indicate the length of leave taken and the extension cannot exceed this duration.

Further information regarding maternity/paternity/parental/sick/special leave can be found in the UKRI's standard research grant terms and conditions: [UK research and innovation fEC grants: standard terms and conditions of grant](#).

70. How should the 'project partners' section be completed on the Je-S form for MSCA grants which are part of a consortium?

If you have many partners making in-kind contributions to the project, you do not need to list them all in this section of the Je-S form. It would be useful to capture here other UK partners involved in the project who are not receiving guarantee funding from UKRI, for example organisations hosting secondments.

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

71. Will the guarantee cover MSCA Global Postdoctoral Fellowships?

The UK Horizon Europe guarantee will cover MSCA Global Fellowships that have their return phase hosted by a UK institution in the original proposal.

72. Can I delay the start date of my UKRI Postdoctoral Fellowship guarantee grant?

UKRI will allow a latest start date of 1st September 2023. Further delay may be permitted on a case-by-case basis, with approval from UKRI. Please contact EUgrantsfunding@ukri.org in the first instance.

73. If we apply for the UKRI Postdoctoral Fellowship guarantee grant with a specified start date for the fellow, is it possible to change that start date?

This is possible and may be permitted on a case-by-case basis, with approval from UKRI.

In order to request this, you will need to raise a Generic Change Request through [the Je-S grant maintenance request](#) process. Any additional supporting evidence should be uploaded with the request.

74. Can I change my UKRI Postdoctoral Fellowship guarantee grant to a part-time arrangement and extend its duration?

Yes, you can apply for a no-cost extension to your UKRI Postdoctoral Fellowship to extend the duration of the grant and you can then reduce the percentage of working time spent on the grant accordingly to fit that increased duration.

75. Can I change the UK-based organisation hosting the fellowship?

UKRI will consider changes in exceptional circumstances to the MSCA Postdoctoral fellowship guarantee grants. We will require an additional supporting letter from the supervisor to confirm that the research environment being moved to at least matches the current host organisation for the benefit of the Fellow. We will also need confirmation from the Fellow themselves that they are happy with the move.

If this change is made before submitting your details on Je-S, please add the letter as an additional attachment.

If the change is required whilst the grant is active, please submit a grant transfer request through Je-S and add the letter as additional supporting evidence. Please refer to the Je-S help text for how to do this: https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/handbook/index.htm#t=pages%2FGrant_Maintenance_Requests.htm

76. Can I change the supervisor of my fellowship?

In exceptional circumstances UKRI will consider changes to the MSCA Postdoctoral fellowship guarantee grants with further detail provided as to why the change in supervisor is required.

If this change is made before submitting your details on Je-S, please add the letter as an additional attachment.

If the change is required whilst the grant is active, please submit a grant holder change request through Je-S and add the letter as additional supporting evidence. Please refer to the Je-S help text for how to do this: https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/handbook/index.htm#t=pages%2FGrant_Maintenance_Requests.htm

77. Can UKRI Postdoctoral Fellowship/Doctoral Network guarantee funding be used to cover the costs incurred on secondments or placements to UK or non-UK institutions? Will it cover the costs for the outgoing host for Global fellowships?

Yes, all of these costs are eligible under the UK guarantee. This includes costs for secondments which are specifically set out in the original proposal and secondments where the details are determined during the lifetime of the grant.

78. Will UKRI require a partnership agreement between Associated Partners and host organisations for the outgoing phase of a global Postdoctoral Fellowship?

Yes, we expect a partnership agreement to be recorded between all parties where required to ensure that any specific provisions are covered. This agreement should be made available to UKRI upon request.

79. Where do I submit my career development plan?

Although a career development plan should be developed and maintained for the Fellow in line with MSCA procedure, you do not need to submit this to UKRI. However, the plan should be made available to UKRI upon request.

MSCA Doctoral Networks

80. If the projects are funded through the guarantee, will it be possible for UK beneficiaries to transfer some of the UKRI funding to cover project-wide activities?

These costs will be eligible under the guarantee, provided that proof of payment can be provided in line with UKRI's standard terms and conditions. UKRI would expect your research organisation to keep an adequate record for your own internal auditing procedures.

81. Can UKRI guarantee funding be used towards the costs of going on secondment, including making payments to the secondment host directly to cover their related costs?

Yes, this includes secondments which are specifically set out in the original proposal and secondments where the details are determined during the lifetime of the grant.

82. Will the MSCA mobility rule (i.e., the fellow should have spent less than 1 of the last 3 years in the UK) apply for UK participants in Doctoral Networks funded by the guarantee?

Yes, the standard MSCA mobility rule will apply. However, if you have an exceptional candidate who doesn't follow the standard rule, please submit the details to EUgrantsfunding@ukri.org and we will review on a case-by-case basis.

MSCA Staff Exchanges

83. Are there any restrictions on the types of countries that the UK partners can send secondees to or from?

UKRI will honour the original planned exchanges under the guarantee, even if they do not explicitly appear in the grant agreement. These include:

- Secondments from the UK based associated partner to a beneficiary in an EU Member State or Associated Country
- Secondments from the UK based associated partner to a third country eligible for EC funding
- Secondments from the UK based associated partner to a third country not eligible for EC funding

- Secondments from a third country eligible for EC funding to the UK based associated partner

The same level of funding as applied for in the original budget will be provided under the guarantee to cover these exchanges. Standard staff and secondment eligibility rules will apply. UKRI will accept flexibility in how the budget is used to meet the needs of the project, including changes to the planned secondments.

84. Will the guarantee still require that ‘Contributions for seconded staff members’ be paid to the seconded staff member?

The guarantee will still require that the full value of the unit costs under the heading ‘Contributions for seconded staff members’ is paid to the seconded staff member by the end of the project.

MSCA COFUND

85. How do UK-based implementing partners of successful COFUND grants apply for the guarantee?

The guarantee will cover the EU contribution where implementing partners are clearly listed in Part B Section 5 Partner Organisations of the original proposal. When completing the UKRI conversion tool, please multiply the number of recruited researchers by the corresponding COFUND allowance. The letter of commitment as well as the original proposal and grant agreement should be included in your submission through Je-S. If required, additional attachments can be submitted on Je-S.

86. Will the guarantee require that recruited researchers receive the applicable ‘COFUND allowance’.

The guarantee will still require that the full value of the unit costs under the heading ‘Contributions for recruited researcher’ is paid to the recruited researcher/student by the end of their project.

87. Can UKRI guarantee funding be used towards the costs of going on secondment, including making payments to the secondment host directly to cover their related costs?

Yes, this includes secondments which are specifically set out in the original proposal and secondments where the details are determined during the lifetime of the grant.

General definitions and information on Associated Partner status

88. What is an ‘Associated Country’?

An Associated Country is a country that is not a Member State of the EU but has a formal agreement with the EU detailing the terms of its association to a European framework programme. Sixteen countries associated to Horizon 2020, and it is likely a similar number will associate to Horizon Europe. Entities from associated countries are eligible to participate in most elements of the programme under the same

conditions as entities from Member States, with a few limited exceptions.

89. What is a 'Third Country' and 'Third Country participation'?

All countries that are neither an EU Member State nor an Associated Country are referred to as non-associated 'Third Countries'. Non-associated Third Countries have no agreements to associate to the EU Framework Programme. Participants from non-associated Third Countries are able to participate in some areas of the programme, predominantly in collaborative calls as Associated Partners, although they are not generally eligible to receive funding from the programme unless this is explicitly mentioned as an exception in the call documentation.

90. What is an 'Associated Partner'?

Associated Partners implement action tasks without receiving EU funding. They cannot lead a consortium, and do not sign the grant agreement. One example of this is where legal entities participate in a Horizon Europe grant but are not based in a Member State or Associated Country. While Associated Partners are not required to have a capital or legal link to a specific beneficiary, the other beneficiaries in the consortium take on the responsibility (through consortium agreements or contractual arrangements) to ensure proper implementation of the Associated Partners' elements of the project, as well as compliance with specific obligations of the grant agreement that are extended to Associated Partners.

91. What is the last legal signature date?

The 'last legal date for signing the grant agreement' refers to Article 31 of the EU's [Regulation Establishing Horizon Europe](#) document:

"The following periods shall apply [...] for signing grant agreements with applicants, a maximum period of eight months from the final date for submission of complete proposals".

This is the last date by which the Commission must sign the Grant Agreement. The Commission may choose to set a Grant Signature Date that is earlier than this last legal date, but they may not postpone beyond it. This applies to all calls except ERC and MSCA, for which the dates provided in the Work Programmes are used.

92. When do I become an Associated Partner?

Following successful evaluation, the Commission will notify you of your success and invite you to begin the process of grant agreement signature. If the UK has not completed association to Horizon Europe when the grant agreement signature is imminent, your organisation could participate in the project as an Associated Partner (i.e., no longer classed as a beneficiary) as long as the topic you are responding to allows Third Country participation.

You should notify your coordinator and the Commission project officer that you would like to participate as an Associated Partner. The Commission will acknowledge this, and you will no longer be part of the grant agreement signature process. However, the coordinator should keep you up to date on the progress of the grant agreement signature.

93. How do I become an Associated Partner?

As an Associated Partner you do not sign the grant agreement, but you do sign the consortium agreement. You will need to accept certain Articles from the grant agreement (see the paragraph below) which should be inserted into the consortium agreement.

The grant agreement Articles that apply to Associated Partners are as follows:

- Article 11 (proper implementation)
- Article 12 (conflict of interests)
- Article 13 (confidentiality and security)
- Article 14 (ethics)
- Article 17.2 (visibility)
- Article 18 (specific rules for carrying out action)
- Article 19 (information)
- Article 20 (record- keeping).

You will also need to accept that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 can exercise their rights towards you.

The [Model Grant Agreement](#) gives further details at Article 9.1 (p39-40)

You should ask the coordinator to insert the provisions of Article 9.1 into the consortium agreement and say that they apply to you. Note that any financial provisions in the consortium agreement do not apply to you and you should ask the coordinator to exclude you from those provisions.

Many projects use the [DESCA Model Consortium Agreement](#) although your coordinator may have a different format.

The consortium agreement will be signed prior to the signature of the grant agreement. Once the grant agreement is signed the project can begin.

94. Can I continue to be the project Coordinator if I have to become an Associated Partner?

No. In order to be the coordinator of a project, a legal entity must sign the grant agreement. Only entities eligible for funding can sign the grant agreement. You will need to discuss this with your EC Project Officer and your consortium and agree that an existing partner or a new partner will take on this role. The funding allocation within the consortium should then be adjusted accordingly.