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UKRI Interdisciplinary Assessment College Recruitment webinars

16 and 18 May 2023

Introduction to the team

- **Alex Amey** - Strategic Lead, Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode Programme

- **Samantha Aspinall** - Head of Interdisciplinary Research Development, Horizons Institute, University of Leeds

- **Stephen Meader** - Programme Director, Future Leaders Fellowships

- **Jenny Morris** - UKRI Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode Senior Programme Manager

- **Montana Walcott** - UKRI Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode Funding Officer

- **Matt Freeman** - UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships Senior Programme Manager

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Webinar Aims:

- Introduce the UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme

- Assessment process and timelines

- What college members will be doing

- Explain the role of the Interdisciplinary Assessment College

- Outline requirements for membership

- Explain the application process

- Commitment responsibilities of college members

- How we will assess your application

- Opportunity for questions

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This webinar is not for specific questions about the call.
The call text will be published on 25 May with specific call webinars on 13 and 22 June
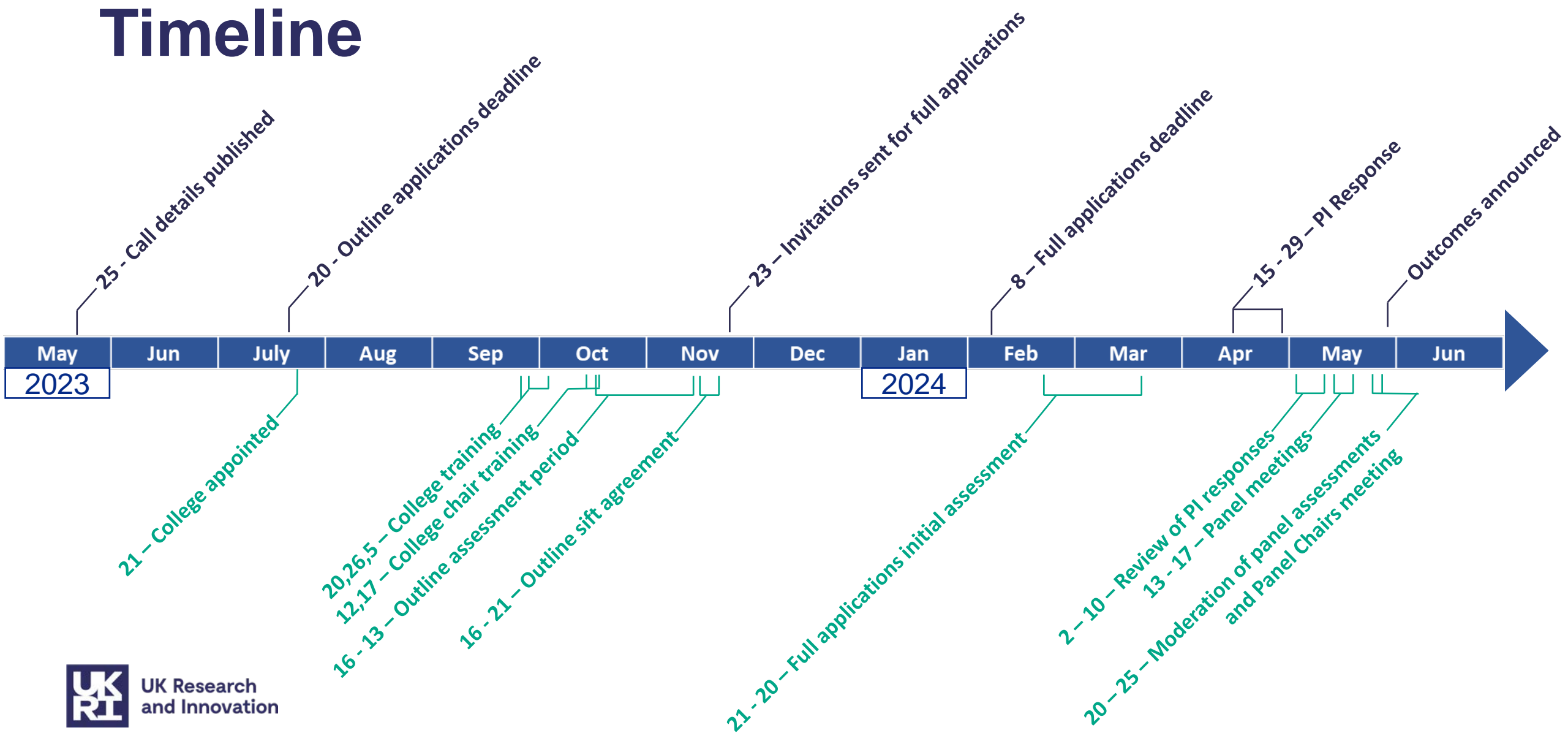
Cross Research Council Responsive Mode Pilot

- The scheme is aimed at new interdisciplinary ideas emerging from the research community. It will support projects that transcend, combine or significantly span disciplines, involving different knowledge and methodological spheres.

- We are piloting over two rounds of funding, allowing us to assess demand, and to test and refine our processes.

- We anticipate making around 36 awards in each round and ask that research organisations are mindful of this number (£32.5M per round).

- Projects will last up to two years with a full economic cost of between £200,000 and £1.2M (with UKRI funding 80% of the full economic cost).

- We encourage research organisations to prioritise diverse and distinctive ideas that tread new ground, and to help support a diversity of applicants to the scheme.

- We are not seeking applications that fit within a single research council remit.

- Pre-announcement on UKRI Funding Finder contains more information.

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Assessment process

Application comprises two stages:

- submission of an outline application (Je-S – Joint Electronic Submission system)

- invited submission of a full application (TFS – The Funding Service)

- College only assessment - no external peer review
  - Prevents 'death by 1000 cuts' peer review with focus only on specific discipline
  - Allows us to appoint interdisciplinary experts who understand interdisciplinary applications
  - Allows us to train panel members on scheme aims and how to assess interdisciplinary applications
  - Reduces community written peer review burden

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Timeline

2023

May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun

2024

Above the timeline (blue labels):
- 25 - Call details published
- 20 - Outline applications deadline
- 23 – Invitations sent for full applications
- 8 – Full applications deadline
- 15 - 29 – PI Response
- Outcomes announced

Below the timeline (green labels):
- 21 – College appointed
- 20,26,5 – College training
- 12,17 – College chair training
- 16 - 13 – Outline assessment period
- 16 - 21 – Outline sift agreement
- 21 - 20 – Full applications initial assessment
- 2 – 10 – Review of PI responses
- 13 - 17 – Panel meetings
- 20 – 25 – Moderation of panel assessments and Panel Chairs meeting

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What you will be doing

Outline stage

- ~30 applications assigned to each college member consisting of a brief JeS form a short Case for Support to be reviewed and scored against set criteria
- College chairs will review outline applications where there is a high degree of divergence in college member scores
- College chairs will agree the outline applications to be invited through to full stage

Full stage applications

- ~5-10 applications assigned to each college member to be reviewed and scored against set criteria
- Providing initial feedback to applicants
- Reviewing of applicant responses
- Panel meetings to agree final scores
- Panel Chairs to moderate panel assessments and agree applications to be funded.

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What you will be doing

- The meetings will be held virtually for round 1.

- The longest our virtual meetings are timetabled for each day is about 9:30 to 16:30, with several breaks

- Not all college members will be used in each stage/round

  - expertise areas, conflicts and balance of equality, diversity and inclusion are both factors we take into consideration when assigning college members

- We aim to make any reasonable adjustments college members may need, please inform us of any disabilities, specific needs or caring responsibilities that may impact on your involvement. Please note, we are able to pay costs incurred (such as for childcare) to support panel members to attend.

- You will receive a remuneration fee of £160 per day (£220 for chairs) of meeting work

  - travel and subsistence will be reimbursed for in person meetings

- Panels will be formed at full stage for every round: panel themes will be responsive to the proposals submitted in the round

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Members of the college will still be eligible to apply for funding through the UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme.
The scheme will have a clear conflicts of interest process in place.
You will need to notify us of any changes to your conflicts including moving organisation

Panel member role

We ask our panel members to read the '**Seven Principles of Public Life**' drawn up by the Nolan Committee and endorsed by Parliament. These principles are described in more detail at: **principles of public life** and refer to:

- selflessness
- integrity
- objectivity
- accountability
- openness
- honesty
- leadership

We expect you to be able to commit the necessary time and attention to your appointment and to have the full support or the necessary permission of your employer.

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UKRI Interdisciplinary Assessment College – what is it?

The College will support the new cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme, which is designed to support new interdisciplinary ideas emerging from the research community outside current disciplinary boundaries.

In this pilot scheme, we are initially seeking around 200 members, and 20 people as chairs, who have experience of recognising interdisciplinary research ideas or peer review processes to enable us to respond to potential demand and scope of applications.

Of the 200 members, some people will be assigned as roving panel members to help with consistency across the different panels.

The number of College members who are used as assessors for the first round of funding, will depend on the applications received.

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The College

- The College membership will reflect the breadth of disciplines and subjects across UKRI, including those working in new and emerging areas.

- Applications are open to all with experience of interdisciplinary research: academics; technical staff; professional services; businesses, public and third sector organisations.

- We welcome applications from early, mid and late career stages.

- We welcome and encourage applications from international colleagues. Panels will be run using on-line platforms, there will be no requirement for travel for this first round.

- We welcome applications from everyone and particularly encourage applications from groups currently under-represented in our peer review processes

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Selection Criteria

We are looking for colleagues with a wide variety of experiences in:
- undertaking interdisciplinary research
- working in interdisciplinary environments
- having experience of developing, managing, working with or supporting interdisciplinary research
- assessing interdisciplinary research

- understand interdisciplinary research

- can contribute to a positive peer review culture and are willing to work collaboratively with others, providing their views and listening to diverse opinions

- are willing to contribute to helping evaluate the pilot, providing feedback to UKRI on the process and helping identify key learning points

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Questions on the application

- Organisation

- Sector

- Career stage

- Main areas of experience and expertise, including past experiences and training, as well as your current area of work

- Why you are applying to join the UKRI Interdisciplinary Assessment College

- Would like to be considered for the role of panel chair?

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Questions on the application

We are looking for colleagues with a wide variety of experiences and we are using **Resume for Research and Innovation** as part of the application process.

- Module 1 - how you have contributed to the generation of new ideas

- Module 2 - how your expertise has been critical to the success of an interdisciplinary team or team members including project management, collaborative contributions and team support

- Module 3 - how your knowledge and experience fits the person specification advertised and how you have contributed to a positive peer review culture for interdisciplinary research

- Module 4 - how your engagement with interdisciplinary research has benefited communities

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Questions on the application

Your availability

We will ask you to indicate if you are available for the assessment periods:

Outline stage

    16th October – 13th November 2023 (submission of scores and comments)

    Chairs only: 16th – 21st November 2023 (sift agreement of outline applications)

Full application stage

    21st February – 20th March 2024 (submission of scores and comments)

    2nd –10th May 2024 (consideration of PI responses)

    13th – 17th May 2024 (panel meetings)

    Chairs only: 20th – 25th May 2024 (moderation of full proposal assessment panels)

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Questions on the application

Information for application matching:

- list the areas of research you would be confident in assessing - used to match you to applications (up to 10 keywords or phrases)

- potential conflicts of interest

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Questions on the application

EDI data
- Age
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Sex and Gender
- Socio-economic background

Why are we collecting this data:
We are building on our peer review processes and need to collect this EDI data to ensure that we have a diversity of people, ideas and perspectives both in the College for assessment purposes and to help us evaluate the scheme.

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Training and guidance for panel members

Panel Members
    20th September 2023 10:00 – 13:00
    26th September 2023 10:00 – 13:00
    5th October 2023   13:30 - 16:30

Chairs (additional training)
    12th October 2023   10:00 - 12:00
    17th October 2023   14:00 - 16:00

If you cannot attend these dates and your application to the college is successful, we will consider your involvement for round 2 of the pilot scheme.

Closing date: 16:00 on Tuesday 20 June 2023

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Assessment of your application

Step one – on receipt, your application will be assessed by a panel of senior UKRI colleagues based on:
- the assessment criteria outlined in the call advert
- balancing the expertise and diversity of the whole college

Step two - Assessment outcomes will be reviewed by a panel, who will consider the balance across college membership and may, where applications are of equal merit, prioritise applicants where their characteristics or expertise or organisational experience is underrepresented within this college.

Step three - A list of recommended appointments will be provided to the senior responsible owner for the scheme, Professor Alison Park (Economic and Social Research Council, Interim Executive Chair) to ratify decisions and provide assurance that appropriate processes have been followed.

Step four - Once ratification has taken place, successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified of UKRI's decision. This is expected to be by the 21 July.

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Benefits of panel membership

Opportunity to:

- actively participate in developing and evaluating new approaches to assessing interdisciplinary research and contribute your thinking to these processes

- gain insights into interdisciplinary research

- meet and work with colleagues working in interdisciplinary research from a broad range of roles and disciplines

- improve and gain skills in reviewing research

- improve and gain skills in writing applications and responding to reviewers' comments

- gain knowledge of the UKRI peer review processes and feedback insights to your colleagues

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Views from people who have participated in cross UKRI panels

"I have actually since used some of this experience in **improving the way** that I have been involved in **assessing people and their research**, it has given me a much broader perspective."

"Like all reviewing of grant applications or articles I have always felt that it massively enhances your own skills. You really hone your own appreciation of **what a really good application looks like**, what reviewers pick up on and **how to deal with the different elements** of an application such as the principle investigator response to reviewers. This has undoubtedly improved my practice but has also **helped me mentor colleagues**."

"The review panel membership itself is also broad, **I found myself (an engineer) alongside clinicians, historians, physicists and social scientists** who all brought a **different perspective** and insights to the topic under discussion. The panel was one of the **most constructive and collaborative** I have served on, and I have formed new colleagues and collaborations from people I met on the review panel."

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https://www.ukri.org/about-us/work-for-us/join-an-advisory-committee-panel-or-network/ukri-interdisciplinary-assessment-college/