

UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme Webinar – Questions and Answers

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	QUESTION (grouped by similar questions)	ANSWER
	Application	
1.	<p>what do you need in the case for support?</p> <p>are there any specific sections that should be compulsorily in the outline application? I'm unsure how this application should look like. Do we need to provide a summarised version of the working packages we're envisioning?</p> <p>Apart from answering those questions mentioned in guideline, what do you expect to see in outline (case for support) document? Do we need to explain our proposed research methodology?</p>	<p>The purpose of the outline stage is to identify and prioritise ideas with high potential to progress to the next stage and submit a full application. The panel will assess the potential of your idea and if your proposal fits with the scheme objectives. Your application should focus on your aims (vision) and the objectives of your proposed research, providing evidence that it meets the scheme objectives.</p> <p>In the case for support, you should provide further details using the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are you hoping to achieve with your proposed work? 2. How does your project align to the scheme objectives? <p>In answering these questions you should ensure that your proposed work addresses each point of the assessment criteria that are aligned with the scheme objectives. We would expect there to be a brief description of the approach you will take to deliver on your objectives, but these should be explored in more detail if invited to submit a full application.</p>
2.	<p>What is the difference between aims and objectives?</p>	<p>Research aims should describe the overarching vision of your research proposal. Research objectives are more specific, to include the ways in which you would address the overarching aims.</p>
3.	<p>Can you include/do you expect preliminary data at the outline stage and would this be an extra attachment or has to be within the</p>	<p>Preliminary data is not a requirement. As with other responsive mode schemes across UKRI, for the full application, it can be useful for panel members to see some preliminary data to strengthen your case in terms of feasibility of your</p>

	<p>case for support? I think you mentioned diagrams can go as extra attachments. will the project application require prior feasibility evidence or preliminary data, which seems to be often required for eg BBSRC grant applications?</p> <p>What are expectations in terms of preliminary data? Would this be similar to research council proposals such as BBSRC or MRC or is more blue-sky also appropriate?</p>	<p>proposal and the interdisciplinary collaborative nature of your team. However, it is not a requirement, and we encourage speculative, early stage and high potential interdisciplinary research proposals.</p> <p>Any figures or data should be included within the 2-page Case for Support document. Additional attachments are not permitted.</p>
4.	<p>Should projects include an administrator or project manager?</p>	<p>You may include an administrator or project manager if your project requires this, but it is not mandatory.</p>
5.	<p>we don't understand the application should include more than 1 research funders? what does this mean</p>	<p>The disciplines represented in your proposal should represent more than one UKRI research council. In other words, your idea should span the remit of at least two research councils. In the Je-S form, under Classification of Proposal – Research Council Relevance, you should indicate which councils' remits your proposal has relevance to.</p>
6.	<p>Is there a preference for grants led by a single investigator vs larger teams? Similarly, is there a preference for applications from a single institution vs multi-institutional bid?</p> <p>How much weight is given to a consortium project compared to a single-proponent project during the evaluation of the proposal? For consortium projects, do you recommend both academia and industry collaborators, both domestic and international partners?</p>	<p>We don't have any preference whether you apply as an individual or as a team. Equally, there is no preference or weight given to single vs multi-institutional bids. You do need to illustrate that you and/or your team have the experience and expertise necessary to deliver the research proposed and that your proposal meets the scheme objectives.</p> <p>This is an open funding opportunity with no particular configuration of partners or collaborations that we are looking for, in terms of sector or nationality of partners. If you do have significant contributions from partners in other sectors, please ensure that your project is clearly academic led.</p>
7.	<p>Shall we introduce team member and their research background?</p> <p>in the 2 page CfS, do you expect to see a description of the project team? it's not stated in either of the two areas listed for the CfS, or the assessment criteria from what I read. (or is this just assessed via the Je_s online sections?)</p>	<p>In line with the assessment criteria for the outline stage, you should introduce who the investigators on the project are and show evidence that they have the right expertise in the disciplines required for the delivery of the project. You should also evidence that the project has been co-created and designed with all disciplines involved. However, individual or team capability to deliver, including feasibility, is not expected for the outline stage, and would be assessed at the full application stage. Therefore, we would not expect to see all the researchers who may be employed on the grant to be listed at outline stage, unless they were integral to the development of the proposal.</p>

	<p>in the Case for support are we expected to describe how many researchers will be supported via the grant, to give a sense of feasibility - or is this not expected?</p> <p>In the case for support, under the second point of "how does your project align to scheme objective" would you expect a detailed description of the project team or is that covered through the Jes form?</p>	
8.	<p>How many applications are you expecting in Round 1 outline stage?</p>	<p>We have no idea on the number of applications we're going to get at outline but 300 will be invited to full stage to manage numbers</p>
9.	<p>Would able to use any of the time during the award to establish collaborations, 'learn' how to work best across the disciplines etc? Particularly important if new disciplines are coming together - to understand how better to tackle the proposal?</p> <p>Related to a previous question, would we be use the award to "train" new researchers (at postdoctoral level) to work across disciplinary boundaries? It may be difficult to decide the exact project before knowing the background of the trainees.</p> <p>Would we be able to use any of the time during the award to establish collaborations, 'learn' how to work best across the disciplines etc? Particularly important if new disciplines are coming together - to understand how better to tackle the proposal?</p> <p>How exploratory can the project be? i.e. could it be how to bring together different disciplines around a core topic - could it involve a preliminary WP to establish the sharing of perspectives/ knowledge / tools / language etc. or would you expect this to be already established?</p>	<p>It depends on how long you need to spend setting the team up given that the project is only going to be 2 years. If you indicate that a significant amount of time would be required to work out how you're going to work together, this may not be reviewed well by the panel. One of the assessment criteria is to demonstrate how potential challenges will be addressed in conducting interdisciplinary research, and so panel members will expect that some of the thinking about how you will work together will have already been established.</p> <p>If part of the initial set up of that grant includes some time to have discussions on how the disciplines are going to work together, and how you going to set those up (e.g. spend some time exploring each other's methods to address the research proposal) or if you already have a collaboration and you want to work on how to work better, this could be justified.</p> <p>If you're not too sure how to work together, that might raise questions with the panel members. You may need to spend a little bit more time working on that, and therefore you might want to consider submitting your application in round 2.</p>

	Can the research be used to generate the interdisciplinary team, or we must have the team from the very beginning?	
Case for Support specifications		
10.	<p>In the outline stage it is suggested that: “The case for support should be no more than two sides of A4 and address the following questions... As guidance, we would expect to see half of your case for support focused on each question.” Is the expectation that the outline proposal are structured like this, i.e. stating which part of the text is meant to answer each question?</p> <p>Is there a format for the outline application?</p>	Yes, as guidance we suggest that the case for support is structured to answer the two questions that are aligned to the scheme objectives and assessment criteria for the outline stage.
11.	Different councils can have slightly different acceptable fonts. Which will apply?	At a minimum, font size 11 in Arial or other sans serif typeface of equivalent size must be used with a minimum of single line and standard character spacing. Page margins should be no less than 2 cm.
12.	<p>Can the 2 page Case of Support include figures?</p> <p>but images need to fit inside the two pages of the case - they can't be separate from that, yes?</p> <p>Can we use diagrams in the case for support, as long as the minimum font size is used and it stays within the page limit?</p> <p>Should a diagram in the case support be within the 2-page limit</p> <p>sorry that's just to be clear from the question about diagrams etc - and how they “count” in terms of the case doc. - usually any diagrams need to fit into the case page limit</p>	Yes, you can include figures as part of your Case for Support attachment, as long as they fit within the 2-page limit. At a minimum, font size 11 in Arial or other sans serif typeface of equivalent size must be used in figures, as well as the main text.
13.	At outline stage, are references to be included in the 4,000 character limit?	We are not expecting extensive references for outline proposals. Any references should be included within any limits (either within the 2-page limit of the case for support attachment, or the 4000-character limit of the summary section of the Je-S proposal form.
Je-S		

14.	<p>Is the submission of outline proposal going to be through JeS or the submission is moved onto new system?</p> <p>To confirm- Je-S for outline bids, new funding service for full bids? Can info from Je-S from outline by transferred to the new FS?</p>	<p>UKRI are beginning to launch funding opportunities on the new UKRI Funding Service. The timing of this scheme means that we decided to run the outline stage using the Je-S system, but we will be transferring to the UKRI Funding Service for the full application. The Funding Service is a separate system to Je-S, with a web-based question and answer format. Information cannot automatically be transferred between the two systems. However, the questions you will address in the case for support at the outline stage will be part of the first section of the full application, which you can build on from the outline stage. If you are invited to submit a full application, full guidance and instructions on how to submit your proposal through the new system will be provided.</p>
15.	<p>If we search this call through Je-S, the "Council" column shows MRC instead of UKRI. Do you think we can choose this one to create a new document at Je-S even if, rather than UKRI, Council is shown as MRC? Thank you!</p>	<p>Yes. This is a UKRI cross research council scheme but, for technical reasons, is hosted by MRC on Je-S.</p>
16.	<p>if hosted by a specific Research Council does that mean that the award will come from that Research Council or UKRI?</p>	<p>This is a UKRI scheme, with a centrally funded budget. For technical reasons, the scheme has to be hosted on Je-S by one of the research councils, in this case MRC. The full applications will be processed through the new UKRI Funding Service. These will be UKRI awards.</p>
17.	<p>Does the PI need to be based at the submitting organisation? (J-Es system asks for Submitting organisation and named PI)</p>	<p>Yes. The grant is awarded to the submitting organisation. It will be responsibility of the submitting organisation to distribute funds to other organisations, if applicable.</p>
18.	<p>If the project has Co-I's from other institutions, for the Je-S submission of the Outline proposal, do each of the Co-I submit independently submit identical contents?</p>	<p>No, only one application is required. This should be submitted by the PI's organisation. Co-investigators from other organisation should be listed as investigators on the same Je-S form.</p>
19.	<p>Do all co-investigators need to register on JeS for the outline application?</p>	<p>All investigators (including principal, co-investigators, international co-investigators and researcher co-investigators) need to be registered on Je-S for the outline application. You may also need to get your account verified by your organisation to confirm that you are eligible for the grant role proposed. Project partners do not need to be registered for Je-S. If known at this stage, project partner details should be added in the Project Partner section of Je-S, to help UKRI manage conflicts of interest.</p>
20.	<p>When you say all investigators need a Je-S account does that include "Researcher Co-Investigators"? I was planning that role for our proposed RA but she does not have a UK academic affiliation (she would get an RA position at my institution if funded)</p>	<p>To be listed as a researcher co-investigator, they would need to register with a Je-S account. In this scheme, please list all researcher co-investigators under co-investigators. Where researcher co-investigators are not currently employed by one of the organisations applying, they may use their current organisation in Je-S, but it should be made clear in the case for support where they would be hosted.</p>

PI and Co-Is /Teams		
21.	<p>Is it important that the P-I and Co-I are from different disciplines?</p> <p>Is there an expectation that CO-Is come from different disciplines? Or can interdisciplinarity demonstrated by a group of CO-Is where all the individuals work across disciplines?</p> <p>I am an engineer on a joint appointment between two faculties (social sciences and engineering). I collaborate with colleagues in social sciences on an interdisciplinary project. Do we need colleagues exclusively from engineering to be on the application or my engineering expertise and joint appointment satisfy the criteria?</p> <p>Are different Research Assistants from the disciplines required or expected to be proposed for the project? My team trains interdisciplinary researchers and previous proposals did not allow someone to be employed with interdisciplinary expertise, demanding 2 different RAs...</p> <p>Given an applicant from a discipline, working with methods and disciplinary ideas from his own discipline, but applying them to another question purely of another discipline, would that be eligible? or there needs to be scientists from both disciplines?</p> <p>Re ideas being generated in a truly interdisciplinary way rather than post hoc/bolted on, would 'internal' interdisciplinarity be recognised/eligible i.e. the PI has research experience and post-grad qualifications in two disciplines, and wants to research an idea crossing these and incorporating methods from both, then</p>	<p>There are no expectations on how teams are configured in terms of spread of disciplines across team members. Teams may be comprised of multiple investigators from different disciplines, or a team of interdisciplinary investigators. Teams may comprise of team of investigators, or one interdisciplinary principal investigator leading a project with a number of interdisciplinary research associates or researcher from different disciplines. What is more important is that you make sure you have the right team to be able to deliver that project. It might be that between you, you have the expertise to cover the different disciplines, but you should also make sure that you are engaging with the right disciplines and people with the expertise to be able to deliver that project from the outset.</p>

	subsequently brings in additional collaborators across disciplines while in process of applying?	
22.	<p>Can the PI and co-PI be from the same institute in UK (given that they belong to different fields of expertise)?</p> <p>Should applications involve co-Is from multiple institutions?</p> <p>Would the presence of PI/Co-Is from the same institution be a problem if they come from different disciplines?</p> <p>Do you expect large collaboration teams that span multiple organisations? Some of teams are already working at the interface between disciplines, so one team can be interdisciplinary already.</p> <p>As long as it covers multidiscipline and co-creative, is it ok if all applications (PIs and co-Is) from a same institution?</p> <p>Should the PI and Co-Is be based at different institutions or can they work in different disciplines at the same institution? Thanks</p>	Teams, including PIs and Co-Is, can be from the same institution or from multiple institutions.
23.	<p>No clear lead meaning we could also have two or three Co-PIs?</p> <p>Is it possible to have two PIs ? (in addition to Co-Is)</p> <p>If 2 Investigators are sharing responsibilities on an equal basis to an interdisciplinary project since the early design, can they be PIs? Instead of one PI and the other one CO-I? Then, there are some investigators that will be CO-I. Thanks since the projects are inter-disc, can they have more than one PI?</p>	As we are using the Je-S system for the outline stage, there can only be one PI listed on the application. This will be the main contact for UKRI and grant holder. However, if you are equally sharing the leadership and management in the team, you should indicate this in the Case for Support. We are exploring the possibility of joint PIs for round 2.

	<p>Can we have Co-PIs?</p> <p>How many PIs can be included in one application? Each discipline one PI?</p> <p>Can this project have multiple Co-PI?</p> <p>Can you have 2 co PIs in the UK, even if Jes only accepts one?</p> <p>Can Co-PIs each from a different disciplines be allowed?</p>	
<p>24.</p>	<p>Given the interdisciplinary nature of the call, what advice would you give around selecting a PI, given that in theory many different areas could lead?</p> <p>With regards to PI, given the interdisciplinary criteria, any recommendations on PI selection?</p>	<p>We recognize that as this is interdisciplinary research, you will most likely be working in teams, bringing different people from different disciplines together. You may decide that a leadership team is more appropriate than a single PI. You should articulate this in your case for support. However, we are not currently able to allow for co-PIs in Je-S. The PI is the main correspondent with UKRI and is the grant holder at the submitting organisation. It is the submitting organisation's responsibility to distribute the award to other participating organisations.</p>
<p>25.</p>	<p>In case of a team and two leading people in the team, but only one PI, which institution will receive the funds?</p>	<p>The PI is the grant holder and the submitting organisation receives the award. It is the submitting organisation's responsibility to distribute the award to all other organisations on the grant.</p>
<p>26.</p>	<p>Can you apply as a PI or Co-I when you are already a PI on another grant?</p>	<p>Yes, you can. However, you should refer to any terms and conditions of any grants or fellowships that you hold to make sure that you are following these rules, such as the amount of time you are allowed to spend on the grant and rules on requesting salary.</p>
<p>27.</p>	<p>Is there a practical limit to number of Co-Is in the team, beyond which, it would be considered untenable?</p> <p>Is there a guidance on how many co-Is can be listed on the application?</p> <p>Is there an upper limit on the number of Co-I</p> <p>Is there any limit on the number of Co-I s? Sorry, I missed the answer as to whether or not there is a limit to the number of Co-Is that can be involved? There are currently more than 5 interested in submitting a Case for Support at the moment. Thanks</p>	<p>We have not specified a maximum number of co-investigators allowed on the grants. You need as many that are necessary to deliver the project. We do not have a minimum number of hours or percentage of time. However, each investigator should have a clear role and contribution on the project, which should be justified.</p> <p>If you have more than necessary, this may be picked up by the panel, as it brings into question what contribution these investigators are bringing to the project and if they have appropriate time to commitment to the project.</p>

28.	<p>Can additional Co-PIs be added after the outline stage?</p> <p>Can the CO-Is (or project partners) be amended between outline and full proposal submission stages?</p> <p>Would it be possible to make change for Col in full proposal?</p> <p>I see the scheme says that Co-Investigators should not change between Outline and Full stages, but can Researcher Co-Investigators change/leave before a Full application?</p>	<p>Co-investigators or collaborators can be changed or added to the proposal between the outline and full application stage with a reasonable justification. It should be noted however that one of assessment criteria and what we are looking for, is co-creation and design of the proposal from all disciplines involved, therefore while investigators can be added later, we would encourage collaboration at project inception.</p> <p>It would not be looked on favourably by the panel if a project within a specific discipline was proposed at outline stage, with the intention of finding co-investigators to develop it into an interdisciplinary project at a later stage. We're looking for projects that are co-created across disciplines rather than a single discipline with a component of another, to be developed at a later date. In these cases, you should consider developing your ideas further and applying to round 2.</p> <p>We understand that the nature of postdoctoral contracts means that researcher co-investigators may become unavailable by taking up other positions during the assessment period of your proposal. In these cases, depending on their new position and if they meet the other eligibility criteria, they may become co-investigators if approved by their host organisation. However, if a replacement for a PDRA was required, they would most likely not qualify as a researcher co-investigator, because they would not have been involved in the project design or grant writing.</p>
29.	<p>Does the scheme support the project if the PI moves to another eligible UK university during the assessment time</p> <p>What happens if the PI moves to a different eligible university within the assessment time?</p>	<p>Yes. In the first instance if you know that you are moving to another organisation and already have an agreed contract before the proposed start date, you should apply via the host organisation as your future employer. If your situation changes during the period of assessment of your outline application and you wish to change your submitting organisation you can do so for the full application, as long as your new organisation is willing support this. You should contact UKRI to inform us of your intended changes for our records.</p>
30.	<p>Are you expecting most PIs (as opposed to Co-Is) to be from STEM areas or can they be from AHRC / ESRC disciplines?</p>	<p>This is a completely open call. PIs can be from any of the disciplines and research councils as long as projects are interdisciplinary.</p>
31.	<p>Are all researchers listed as Co_Is?</p>	<p>Not necessarily. Please check the eligibility criteria for Principal and co-Investigators (including Researcher co-investigators). All investigators should be listed in the Je-S form. Other research staff may be included in your grant e.g. Postdoctoral Research Associates, whose salary are paid directly from the grant, but they are not eligible to be investigators. Their details are not required at the outline stage.</p>
32.	<p>Is there value in investigators who hold multiple institutional affiliations (permanent job + visiting fellow + affiliate)?</p>	<p>This will not be part of the assessment criteria. For the outline stage, you should illustrate that the team has the right expertise in the disciplines required for the</p>

		delivery of the project. For the full application, there will be an assessment of the team's capability to deliver.
33.	some research topic's nature is interdisciplinary already, and one PI can design and conduct the research without Co-I (or minimal input from Co-I), but does require multiple PDRA, is that eligible?	Yes, you can apply as an individual, as long as you illustrate that you have the right expertise in the disciplines required for the delivery of the project.
Eligibility - individuals		
34.	Are Assessment College members eligible to apply to the scheme themselves?	Yes, you can. We have a system of checks and balances in place to manage conflicts of interest so that members of panels and committees can still apply for funding.
35.	If the PI on a call is at least at lecturer level, is it possible for one or more Co-Is to be at postdoctoral researcher level?	Principal and co-investigators must meet all the eligibility requirements, including a contract of employment of at least at lecturer level. For researchers of postdoctoral level who do not have contract of employment with an eligible UK research organisation, but who have provided significant intellectual input to grant writing and design, they may be eligible to apply as a researcher co-investigator. For the purposes of this round, please include researcher co-investigators under "co-investigators" in Je-S.
36.	Is this call intended for Early career researchers as well? Are Early Career Academics encouraged to apply? Does it have priority for specific career stage? Say if the PI is an early-career researcher, would there be concerns or would that be encouraged?	Yes, we welcome applications from early career researchers, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. Panel members will be trained to assess proposals relative to career stage. There is not a separate stream of funding for grants led by early career researchers. The full assessment process is still to be agreed and signed off by the project board, but UKRI will be looking to ensure that a mixed portfolio of applications is supported from the breath of submissions to the round.
37.	Will applying to this affect eligibility for first grants/NiAs? If I submit an outline to this call as PI, can I still submit a new investigator grant (before the full proposal deadline)? Will submitting to this scheme as the PI affect NIA eligibility?	Applying to the scheme won't affect your eligibility for new investigator grant, however, being awarded the grant could affect your status. We suggest that if you are looking to apply for another scheme for an NIA or early career award that you contact that scheme because some funding schemes have different stipulations on eligibility for that particular scheme.
38.	Would an application to this scheme conflict with a future FLF application (if there will be a round 9)?	For fellowships awarded under the FLF scheme academic-hosted applicants may spend up to six hours a week during the initial phase of the award (pro-rated for part-time applicants) on other commitments and related activities which will enhance their career development (for example, teaching, demonstrating, peer-

	<p>Will it be possible for Future Leaders Fellows to apply for this scheme (in any capacity, PI or Co-I) - provided that the salary tapering stage allows it? Thanks!</p>	<p>review, other funded projects). Those with substantial ongoing research commitments as a result of participation in other grants must relinquish these in order to hold a UKRI FLF award.</p> <p>Academic-hosted fellows can apply to be on a grant for a different project while simultaneously holding a UKRI fellowship, but they cannot request additional salary support whilst the fellowship is funded, and the award must be within the 6 hours a week permitted during the initial phase of the award. They have greater flex to apply for other grants as the fellowship progresses.</p> <p>Please see the FLF guidance for further information https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/UKRI-210323-Round-8-Guidance-for-Academic-hosted-Applicants-March.pdf</p>
39.	<p>For Co-Is, what would the funding call consider to be the equivalent of a lecturer position (for example, for an engineer)? Is this based on UKRI pay-band or something similar?</p> <p>What do you base lecturer equivalent on? Would a senior research fellow on the same grade as a lecturer be allowed to be PI?</p>	<p>By equivalent we mean employed at the same grade, or higher, than lecturer level. For example, if you are on a research-only academic career pathway (rather than teaching and research), you may not be employed as a lecturer, but on the same grade, such as a research fellow.</p> <p>Specific eligibility rules apply for certain UKRI staff at research council centres e.g.: NERC staff at band six level and above are eligible to apply as an investigator. NERC staff at band six must have at least three years' postdoctoral research experience and have been employed by NERC for at least a year. Staff at BBSRC research organisations at band E level or above are also eligible.</p>
40.	<p>Can visiting professors/scholars be a co-I of the project?</p>	<p>Co-investigators must be researchers based in the UK (primary residence), employed by an eligible research organisation and have a contract of employment at least at lecturer level or equivalent. International co-investigators are permitted under specific circumstances, with specific costing rules.</p> <p>You can find out if you are eligible for funding here: https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/eligibility-as-an-individual/ .</p> <p>Please see "Who can apply" section on the call webpage https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme/</p> <p>Researcher co-investigators are also permitted to apply therefore where PDRAs don't meet the Co-I eligibility rules they can be researcher co-investigators, if they have made a significant intellectual contribution to the development of the proposal (e.g. grant writing and design). For the outline stage, researcher co-investigators should apply in Je-S as co-investigators.</p>
41.	<p>Thank you for the presentation. Apologies for taking you back to the eligibility issue: I'm sorry, but both in the written instructions and</p>	<p>PIs and Co-Is need to have a contract of employment at lecturer level or equivalent to be eligible. Researcher Co-investigators are typically researchers at post-doctoral level or equivalent who have made a significant contribution to the grant</p>

	in the presentation there seems to be a little opening that I wanted to explore: I am working on a very interdisciplinary project, have an MA, but am second year PhD student. I wanted to apply for funding for the last two years of my PhD (full time). Is this NOT the correct funding scheme for me, and if not, could you recommend one for me? Can a PhD student be a research co-investigator?	design. Costs for fees and stipends associated with PhD studentships are not permitted. Therefore, PhD students are not eligible to apply. All UKRI funding opportunities can be found here https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/
	Eligibility - organisations	
42.	Eligibility - NGOs with research capacity can currently apply to ESRC as Co-Is. Why are NGOs excluded from this scheme, which wants diverse applicants?	These are specific policies relating to ESRC. This is a UKRI scheme and therefore using UKRI eligibility policies.
43.	Are third/private sector co-investigators eligible for this call?	Co-investigators must be researchers based in the UK and employed by an eligible research organisation. You can find out if you are eligible for funding here: https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/eligibility-as-an-individual/ Third and private sector organisations can be involved in projects as project partners. Please see the project partners section under “Who can apply” on the call webpage https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme/
44.	When (at which stage of the application) do we need to provide evidence of contract of employment or the assurance that the post will be extended beyond the end date of the proposed project?	We will not be checking eligibility at the outline stage. It is the responsibility of the applicants and host organisation to ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria for the appropriate grant role. Letters of support are not required at the outline stage. If your proposal is invited to the next stage, you will be sent full guidance and instructions on what documents to include in your full application, including any supporting documentation from your host organisation.
45.	Duplicate applications not permitted. If application deemed not eligible for this call as, are you also prevented from applying to an individual research council if that is the reason for not being eligible on this call?	If your application is deemed unsuitable for this call based on remit at outline stage you can apply to other council responsive mode schemes. You will need to check the eligibility rules for the scheme you are applying to.
46.	Is it possible to submit a modified version of a project submitted to this call to the ESRC responsive mode call in September as well?	No. Duplicate applications are not permitted.
47.	can you check on your website if your inst is eligible?	You can check the eligibility of your organisation on the UKRI website https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/eligibility-as-an-organisation/#contents-list

48.	Can CGIAR scientists be project partners?	CGIAR is considered to be an independent research organisation and so eligible scientists could apply as international co-investigators. Please note that there are specific rules for the costs that can be included for International co-Is.
49.	Would applications that could also fall within an existing Strategic Priorities Fund research area (e.g. the STFC-EPSRC Quantum Technologies for Fundamental Physics Call) be eligible for this call?	Yes, this is an open responsive mode call so any ideas that are interdisciplinary are welcome. You should decide which call is the most appropriate one to submit your application as duplicate applications are not permitted.
50.	Are there restrictions on which non-academic organisation partners can be Co-I (i.e. restricted to formally listed research eligible)?	<p>If you are a Co-I on the project the same eligibility rules apply as PIs and therefore you still need to be a member of an eligible research organization. Please see the eligibility rules outlined in the call text.</p> <p>Project partners can be any kind of organisation e.g. businesses, charities etc Project partners are expected to provide contributions to the delivery of the project, either in cash or in kind, and should not therefore be seeking to claim funds from UKRI. However, where there are specific circumstances where project partners require funding for minor directly incurred costs such as travel and subsistence, this will usually be paid at 80% fEC unless otherwise stated by us. These costs will need to be outlined and fully justified in stage 2 (full application) and will be subject to peer review.</p>
Resubmissions		
51.	<p>Could you please clarify the resubmission policy for this scheme?</p> <p>What are the re-submission rules if your proposal is rejected at outline stage?</p> <p>Resubmissions to round 2: If an outline application is not invited to be submitted as a full application, can it be submitted as full proposal in other schemes?</p> <p>Can you reapply in Round 2 if your submission is rejected in Round 1?</p> <p>Would an unsuccessful outline application be eligible to resubmit (or rework) for submission to this scheme in the second round?</p>	<p>If you are unsuccessful at the outline stage, you can submit to round 2 of the UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme. However, if you've gone through to full stage and are unsuccessful, you will not be eligible to submit the same application to this call. This includes applications that meet the quality threshold but are not awarded funding as part of the randomisation process. For this pilot scheme, we are setting this rule to help us with demand management.</p> <p>Only invited resubmissions will be allowed. We would expect all submissions to round 2 to be based on new research. This can be an entirely new application or an application that includes some elements that have been considered previously by any UKRI Council as part of an unsuccessful application, if overall it represents a substantially different package of work. This should be evidenced through either a substantially different research endeavour or via a notion to utilise existing research in order to apply it in a new way, such as the development of technologies based on existing research. These major changes may be materialised through different aims and objectives, methodology and other specific areas of assessment as appropriate to the Funding Opportunity.</p> <p>The same rules apply in terms of wider applications to and from other research councils. If you have gone through an application process but have just gone</p>

<p>Is it possible to submit to the second cross council call, if an application is not successful at the outline or the full proposal stage of the first call?</p> <p>Does standard UKRI re-submission policy apply - for unsuccessful outlines, how much would they need to be reworked to be eligible for round 2, if at all.</p> <p>Can you resubmit in round 2 if not successful in round 1</p> <p>if unsuccessful at outline stage, can the same proposal be submitted to Round 2?</p> <p>Can full stage proposals not funded in May2024 be allowed for resubmission in the potential second call launching in June 2024?</p> <p>Resubmission to and from other council schemes: If a grant application was previously submitted to a single council (because this scheme was not available then) and rejected can it be submitted to this scheme (altered based on the previous peer review comments) or would this be classed as a resubmission and so not allowed?</p> <p>Would UKRI permit submissions based on a previously unsuccessful proposal submitted to an individual research council, if the proposed work has been significantly built upon and fits to this pilot scheme?</p> <p>Could you please clarify whether reworked versions of proposals that have been submitted to research councils in the past (and been unsuccessful) can be the basis of applications to the UKRI pilot call? Thanks</p>	<p>through an outline stage then you can submit your application to the UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme. However, if you've gone through the full peer review stage of another research council scheme, we would not accept a resubmission unless there is new research added to the project.</p> <p>You will need to check with the other potential funding opportunities what the resubmission rules are as different councils have different rules but it is likely that they would except resubmissions of proposals that have only gone through an outline stage.</p> <p>You cannot simultaneously apply to the UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme and another council scheme with the same application.</p>
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Can an application be based on one which has been unsuccessful as a single-council application (perhaps due to 'death by 1000 cuts')?

Can a rejected EPSRC application (not fully in remit) be "resubmitted" for this call?

If an application is unsuccessful, can it be reworked for other schemes (I know it is ineligible for future rounds of the scheme)

If an outline application is unsuccessful, can it be submitted to another call e.g. standard mode?

To clarify, am I correct in that one cannot simultaneously apply to two different research council schemes. So apply with a similar project to a different scheme before we know the result of the outline stage.

Could you please, clarify again the eligibility for proposals that were rejected in previous calls of individual RCs? E.g. if I have a proposal that went to NERC last year, but was rejected because it was too interdisciplinary, am I allowed to rework that and submit to this call?

Resubmissions and the randomisation process:

again on resubmission - is process different for those applications that are deemed high quality but not funded via the randomisation process? versus a bid deemed not high enough quality.

as applications maybe funded via random allocation, if the application isn't funded can they re-apply

	<p>those who did well in the full application, meaning that they almost get funded but fell through in the randomisation process - do they get some advantage to reapply in Round 2?</p> <p>if a (high quality) proposal is not funded because of portfolio balance will it be carried forward /be an invited resubmission to round 2</p> <p>so to be clear, if a proposal is scored as high quality but not funded through the randomisation process, they cannot apply to round 2?</p> <p>What is the resubmission policy, particularly if you have been unsuccessful at random allocation stage?</p> <p>If invited to full application for round 1, but unsuccessful due to randomisation - can I resubmit the same proposal to Round 2</p> <p>Question re outcomes of the randomisation. If a bid was ranked highly enough to go to randomisation, but misses out on funding it cannot be resubmitted to round 2?</p>	
52.	<p>if you are invited to stage 2 and decide to pull out, can you resubmit in the next round?</p> <p>If invited, and you cannot submit by 8th February - can you submit during the second round?</p>	<p>In this situation you should contact the office to discuss the reason why you need to delay your application. A decision will be made on a case by case basis.</p>
53.	<p>are unsuccessful applications subject to any future restrictions? (e.g. repeatedly unsuccessful applicants policy from EPSRC)</p>	<p>We only have 2 rounds at the moment in this pilot scheme and it is not clear yet whether we will have funding for future rounds. This is something that the project board will need to consider if future rounds are supported.</p> <p>In terms of looking at whether applicants have been unsuccessful across other councils, this is not something we will be looking at.</p>

54.	If you are successful on the 1st call, is there anything to stop you applying for another one on the 2nd call?	No, however you will need to ensure that you can commit time to both projects.
International partners		
55.	Do you have any preferences with respect to international partners?	We do not have a preference whether an application includes international partners or not. Your team should be able deliver the research outlined in your project.
56.	In the funding call, it indicates that international co-Is are allowed if equivalent expertise is not available in the UK. Is it possible to include international co-Is when their expertise is available in the UK, but the international co-Is is preferred due to an existing relationship with the research team.	International co-investigators would be expected to be someone providing unique expertise or access to resources not available in the UK. If you wish to include an international co-investigator on your project this will need to be specifically justified in the application including why they are preferable to UK expertise.
57.	<p>Could you please expand on the precise meaning of the expectation for international co-investigators to provide ‘unique expertise or access to resources not available in the UK’, please?</p> <p>Does ‘not available in the UK’ apply to ‘resources’ only, or does it include also ‘unique expertise’?</p> <p>We have a potential UKRI-funded Co-I who is leaving the UK for a permanent job elsewhere (US), but no-one else is really suitable for this component of the work. Does that count as a “specific circumstance” where an international Co-I might be allowed?</p>	<p>It would apply to their expertise as well as the resources available to them.</p> <p>If there is no one with the expertise that is required to deliver your project in the UK, including colleagues who have recently moved abroad, then this would count as specific circumstances.</p>
58.	The 30% rule for international co-investigators include also other researchers that could support the international co-I (e.g. RA)?	Yes. Please see the Costs for international co-investigators section under “What we’re looking for” on the call webpage https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme/
59.	If you choose to submit across a number of institutions as a consortium, can these institutions be international or do they have to be UK based?	Please see the International co-investigator eligibility section under “Who can apply” on the call webpage https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme/
60.	Can local authorities/government bodies of other countries be project partners?	Local authorities/government bodies can be included as project partners but they are not eligible to apply for funding. Their involvement in the project will need to be justified and at full stage the management of IP and IP sharing arrangements will

	<p>Can academics in foreign institutions be included as project partners, with an advisory role?</p> <p>Can you have an international Co-I, e.g. a member of a government research institute in India?</p>	<p>need to be outlined and you will need to ensure you comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.</p> <p>Project partners can just have an advisory role.</p> <p>International co-investigators need to be individuals from an established international research organisation that is of comparable standing to a recognised UK research organisation, who would otherwise fit the normal definition for a principal investigator.</p>
<p>61.</p>	<p>Hi, I have read the Guidance and have a question. We have an innovative project likely to bring a significant methodological & interdisciplinary shift in Air pollution research, and is about South to North learning and innovation. I notice this can only be led by a UK PI? is that correct? also, our team is interdisciplinary but will need to have at least 50% international co-Is from the African continent because they are leaders and experts in these methodologies, would that be welcomed? Thanks</p>	<p>The PI must be a researcher based in the UK and employed by an eligible research organisation with a couple of exceptions (please see the call text for guidance on this).</p> <p>Whilst the funding is focussed on supporting UK researchers, the research that the project addresses doesn't necessarily need to address a UK based challenge, it can address a global research challenge including challenges relating to a specific international region. In terms of having 50% of the team of Co-Investigators being international this should be ok but would depend on the time and costs allocated to these members of the team. As I said below the total costs claimed for international co-investigators contribution to a project must not exceed 30% of the overall cost of the project, calculated at 100% full economic cost. Therefore if your international co-investigator costs do not exceed 30% of the overall cost of the project then this would be eligible.</p>
<p>62.</p>	<p>we are conceiving our project as a UK China comparison and to be succesful we will need to carry out data collection in China, which we will likely do in collaboration with Chinese collaborators in Chinese Universities. Are there any limits on our ability to tranfer funds to collaborators to cover data collection costs in China and perhaps (though not necessarily) their salary costs. Am I correct in that your presentation on International partners in general will cover this case.</p>	<p>As outlined in the call text: For international co-investigator costs, UKRI will award funding to the UK lead organisation; this organisation will then be responsible for distributing funds to the international research organisation. Justified costs will be funded at 100%. Estate and indirect costs are not eligible. The total costs claimed for international co-investigators contribution to a project must not exceed 30% of the overall cost of the project, calculated at 100% full economic cost. These costs can cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly incurred costs, such as travel and subsistence • research assistants (e.g. salary costs) • salary costs, only where these costs are fully justified and it can be demonstrated that the funding of salaries by grants is the standard practice of the international research organisation, and these costs cannot be covered through other sources <p>So costs for staff time associated with data collection will be eligible and consumables will be eligible under directly incurred costs.</p>
<p>Project partners and subcontractors</p>		

63.	<p>Will relevance to Industry be taken into account in the assessment process at all? And are business/industry project partners expected to make any minimum contributions to the projects?</p>	<p>We are looking for research that spans from very early stage speculative research through to more applied research. Having an industry partner or relevance to industry is not one of the assessment criteria, and will therefore not give you an additional advantage. However, if your application and your research project idea is relevant to industry, having the right team and partners to deliver that will be part of the assessment. Therefore you should make sure that you have the appropriate people on the team and appropriate plans in place to ensure that the impacts are realised.</p>
64.	<p>Can project partners be added at the full application stage if they were not including in the outline stage?</p> <p>I did not fully understand if we are expected to name all partners/sub-contractors? e.g. the presentation mentioned they can change later on?</p> <p>Should subcontractors be specified/listed at this outline stage?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Project partners should be included in the outline application where known, but additional partners can be added between the outline and full stage application.</p> <p>Letters of support are not required from project partners at the outline stage.</p> <p>You do not need to name subcontractors at the outline stage unless you need to make it clear how a specific piece of work will be delivered and is not covered by the expertise within the project team.</p>
65.	<p>are we expected to have secured partners at the outline stage? Will it look bad if we haven't fully committed them? (but there are other options) Likewise for co-Is, is it too bad if we haven't secured a co-I to cover one discipline, or can they be included later?</p>	<p>Project partners should be included in the outline application where known, but additional partners can be added between the outline and full stage application.</p> <p>As outlined in the call text we expect the full team of principal investigators and co-investigators to be established as part of the outline application and involved in the co-creation of the project. There may be exceptional circumstances where team members may need to change between outline and full stage, for example, a change in circumstances for a team member meaning they are no longer able to be part of the project. Further guidance will be given for full stage applications on addressing these changes. If you are not yet certain about your team, we suggest waiting until the second round of the pilot scheme.</p>
66.	<p>Are project partners essential for the full application?</p>	<p>You do not have to have project partners, it's not a requirement of the call. It really depends on what your project needs in order to effectively deliver it. If you do have a project partner, we need that information at full stage.</p>
67.	<p>Are there any restrictions/guidance in relation to industry partners, for example around intellectual property rights?</p>	<p>As stated in the call text: Project partner and subcontractor entitlement to project outputs and intellectual property Entitlement to the outputs of a project or intellectual property will be determined between the parties involved, however any access to project outputs or intellectual property must be in line with any relevant Subsidy Control regulation. Under UKRI terms and conditions for research grants you must ensure at all times that the grant funding awarded to you is compliant with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Any</p>

		entitlements will need to be set out in a formal collaboration agreement if a grant is awarded, as per FEC Grant condition RGC 12.1.
68.	<p>In outline stage, do we need to provide “support letters” of project partners?</p> <p>Are any letters of support needed?</p> <p>can you please confirm whether letters of support of project partners are required at either stage?</p>	<p>We're not requiring project partner letters of support at outline stage. Further guidance will be provided at full stage for the requirements for letters of support. For example, if you have a project partner providing essential equipment or samples, we would most likely need to have that confirmed in writing. TFS is changing the way project partner information and letters of support are managed and we will have a better understanding of TFS requirements closer to the full stage process.</p>
69.	<p>in the presentation, I think you mentioned that project partners can also be subcontractors. Could you please elaborate on that? Thanks</p> <p>Could sub-contractor agree to contribute some of their costs as in-kind - so that they could claim 80% of costs, not expecting the RO to pick up the shortfall? they would thus also be a project partner.</p>	<p>Under UKRI terms and conditions there are instances where a project partner can also be a subcontractor but this impacts how intellectual property is accessed and managed. If a third party is working under a subcontractor role and a project partner role this will need to be on discreet separate pieces of work and under different agreements with the research organisation. You should speak to your research office for guidance on this to ensure that arrangements are compliant with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.</p>
70.	<p>if I have an Industry partner who will match fund up to £900k, can total exceed £1.2m please?</p> <p>What is the maximum percentage of contribution that project partners could have?</p>	<p>The requested funding cannot exceed a full economic cost of £1.2M with UKRI funding 80% of the FEC costs which is £960,000. However, project partner contributions can take the total project costs to more than £1.2M. This is quite a significant contribution so we would advise you to make sure that your project is still academic led research and not research that should be undertaken by the industry partner. Industry contributions can be significant due to the value of samples or materials that they are supplying to the project free of charge. At the full stage you will need to outline details of the partnership and how IP associated with and arising from the project will be managed and you will need to make sure that you are compliant with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Guidance on this will be given at full stage.</p>
71.	<p>So companies from outside UK can be partners too, from what was said before?</p> <p>Can you expand on international collaborators? We have one international partners who will share data that would be essential for the project to be develop in the 2 year timeframe as well skills that complement the uk based team</p>	<p>Companies from outside the UK can be project partners. As with all project partners justification for their involvement in the project will be required at full stage as well as outlining details of the partnership and how IP associated with and arising from the project will be managed and you will need to make sure that you are compliant with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.</p>
	Assessment Process	

<p>72.</p>	<p>How many outline applications do you expect to be invited to full application (given that around 36 awards are expected)?</p> <p>While it may be unclear at present how many outline applications you may receive, do you have an idea of how many you plan to invite to full proposal?</p> <p>What % of full applications are likely to be funded?</p> <p>What number of applications are you expecting?</p> <p>If you are inviting 300 applications and accepting 36 awards, the success rate is about half of that that a candidate might expect at a normal panel.</p>	<p>We do not know how many outline applications will be submitted at this point as we have no previous experience to base this on.</p> <p>We are aiming to take a maximum of 300 applications through to full stage. This is based on the numbers of applications that we can potentially fund based on the costings. We can fund between 30 and 40 applications, depending on the size of the projects submitted and therefore we don't want to have an award rate that is starting to get very low.</p> <p>We have discussed what an acceptable award rate would look like. We need to tension the need to have a diversity of ideas invited to full stage with our award rate; we want to ensure we have balance of applications and disciplines and a wide diversity of potential applicants at full stage. We are seeing a success rate of 10% as the absolute minimum but we will reduce the number of full applications if the levels of outline applications allows this.</p>
<p>73.</p>	<p>Will the assessment of Outline applications take into account scale of research project, i.e. whether it is a £200k project or a £1.2m project ?</p>	<p>The applications will be assessed at the full stage against value for money. The cost of research varies greatly across the disciplines and therefore comparing applications on the scale of the budget alone would be inappropriate.</p>
<p>74.</p>	<p>How will the expertise of the team for the proposal be assessed? I understand CVs aren't submitted in outline stage.</p>	<p>The outline stage will be assessed against what are you hoping to achieve with your proposed work and how does your project align to the scheme objectives? Your application needs to demonstrate that you have a project team with the expertise in the disciplines required for the delivery of the project. This should be included in the case for support.</p> <p>At full stage you will asked to demonstrate and will be assessed on whether the applicant and team have the capability to deliver the project.</p> <p>CVs are not allowed to be included in your outline application.</p>
<p>75.</p>	<p>What happen to proposals scoring the same? Are there weighted elements that would tip one over others? If so, what are they?</p>	<p>At the outline stage applications falling into the same scoring band and above the quality threshold will be invited through to the full stage. In the scenario where the number of applications above the quality threshold is greater than the maximum number of applications we can invite through to full stage (300) we will use the sift stage to manage the diversity of applications taken through to stage 2 based. This process will be overseen by the Interdisciplinary Assessment College chairs, who will approve the final recommendation of applications progressing to stage 2.</p>

<p>76.</p>	<p>Can you clarify how the funding would be awarded, and the randomisation element? Will this be for all applications deemed fundable, or for those where there are two with very similar feedback?</p> <p>Are you able to explain what is meant by "stratification" when the randomised selection comes in? Does this mean proposals will be separated into groups in some way, with proposals then picked at random from each group in turn?</p> <p>Would UKRI consider balancing funding distribution across different regions? Would the same the proposal outline submitted from a less competitive region have a higher chance for success?</p>	<p>Following peer review, highly meritorious proposals will be distinguished from those not suitable for funding. The very highest quality applications will be selected for funding. Where applications are scored highly but where the panels struggle to differentiate between their quality, i.e. they are within the same quality banding, a randomised allocation process will be used to select successful applications from that band, until the budget has been exhausted. If the budget allows, the next quality banding will enter the process.</p> <p>Stratification will be used to ensure that a mixed portfolio of applications is supported from the breadth of submissions to the pilot. Applications meeting the quality threshold will be divided into groups based on certain criteria and then applications will be awarded randomly within the groups to ensure a diversity across the final set of awarded applications The stratification process will be agreed by the college chairs but is likely to include criteria such as research organisation and research area.</p>
<p>77.</p>	<p>will it be the same 3 college members that looked at your outline proposal that then look at your full proposal?</p>	<p>We will aim to have the same 3 college members reviewing full stage application that reviewed the outline application but we will need to take into account college member availability, balancing of applications across college members and any new conflicts that might have arisen as a result of new team members/project partners being added to the applications.</p>
<p>78.</p>	<p>Will there be demand management, is there a cap of the number of applicants an institution can submit?</p> <p>I think one of the slides alluded to RO prioritising applications - please can you clarify what you mean by this</p> <p>Are you expecting research organisations to sift potential applications?</p>	<p>There is no demand management on the number of applicants a research organisation can submit. We are asking that research organisations are mindful of the number of projects we are able to fund (30-40) and we expect them to ensure applications from their institution fit the scheme's objectives. 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.</p>
<p>79.</p>	<p>If a project is submitted here and judged to be excellent (ie fundable), but the panel decides it fits better under the Cross-Council Remit Agreement, what happens?</p> <p>Will the UKRI office move applications to this new call from traditional responsive calls depending on what they feel is the correct remit? And vice versa?</p>	<p>The UKRI Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode team and the research council representatives will be responsible for doing the remit checks before applications are sent to the college members for review. If your application is considered not to be in remit for this call you will be notified at this point and you can decide if you wish to submit your application to the relevant council responsive mode scheme.</p> <p>If your application is not invited to submit a full application after the outline stage you can resubmit it to round 2 or to an individual council responsive mode scheme.</p>

		As it will be relevant to more than one research council you should contact the relevant councils remit teams to discuss which council it is best to submit it to.
80.	We have an applied project in mind, with a focus on impact, with a novel interdisciplinary approach. How will such projects be viewed within the scheme?	The scheme is open to applied research projects as well as early stage speculative research projects.
81.	who is assessing portfolio balance - the panels / college or UKRI office?	The UKRI Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode team will work with the college chairs to review and assess the portfolio balance at the outline and full stages.
82.	How do you view the balance between technological development and interdisciplinary 'pure' research goals?	This call is about developing interdisciplinary research. Some of these will include technologies in the research development ideas and we are looking for clear integration at the design of the idea. For example, technological developments that apply AI to an already developed research idea, would be seen as potentially being 'bolted on' and would be out of scope. We don't have any expectations of the types of ideas that will emerge as this will be driven by the community.
83.	How will the reviewers score the bids on "value for money" if the applications do not include any financial information? since there is no costs info, how will the College review feasibility/value and to what extent contributors are suitably involved (in terms of their % time)?	The applications are not being assessed on value for money at the outline stage. This assessment criteria will only be included at the full stage.
84.	Although there are no expectations around the kinds of applications you will receive, is there any plan to make sure areas from all research councils are ultimately represented in the final list of funded projects? Or is it theoretically possible that everything could be in STEM for example? if all research councils are to be represented how is this going to be achieved - by number or value of grants?	UKRI will ensure that a mixed portfolio of applications is supported from the breadth of submissions to the call. Please see the assessment process section under "how we will assess your application" on the call webpage https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme/ The cost of research varies greatly across the disciplines and therefore comparing applications on the scale of the budget alone would be inappropriate.
85.	Is there a wish to go beyond London-based institutions?	Yes. UKRI will ensure that a diversity of applications is supported from the breadth of submissions to the call. Stratification will be used to ensure that a mixed portfolio of applications is supported. The stratification process will be agreed by the college chairs but is likely to include criteria such as research organisation and research area.
86.	You mention 'panels' in the Interdisciplinary Assessment College - how do you imagine splitting proposals into panels within the interdisciplinary call?	This will be responsive to the applications we receive. We will not split the applications by disciplines as this would be counterintuitive to the interdisciplinary nature of this scheme but will more likely be around the challenges the research applies to e.g. health, climate change etc.

	<p>How will panels be organised? Will they replicate particular cross-council groupings?</p>	
<p>87.</p>	<p>Please can you clarify whether there will be external peer review at the full application stage?</p> <p>You said 'no external peer review' but how does the college peer review differ from that?</p> <p>Please can you clarify whether there will be external peer review at the full application stage?</p>	<p>We draw quite a clear line between external peer review and panel assessment but both approaches fall under the larger umbrella of peer review.</p> <p>“External peer review” is the traditional written review process where the application goes out to an external expert within the wider research community. A number of reviews are collected for each application which are then sent to the applicant to respond to before going to a committee or panel to discuss and review.</p> <p>Panel assessment still uses the external research community as we bring in people from the external research community to provide their expertise on the panels. In panel assessments the members have multiple applications from the same scheme to review whereas in external peer review the application is reviewed in isolation by a member of the research community. It is unlikely that they will receive multiple applications from the same scheme to review.</p> <p>Members of the research community receiving UKRI funding are expected to contribute to supporting a world-leading research and innovation culture across the UK by participating in the assessment of UKRI grant applications including the reviewing applications they are invited to assess as part of the external peer review system.</p> <p>The assessment for this scheme will use an Interdisciplinary Assessment College whose members will have been recruited from the research community and who have signed up specifically to work with UKRI to review applications to this scheme. The criteria to be a college member is that they work in or support interdisciplinary research and therefore have that experience and knowledge of working on interdisciplinary research. The college members will have training on how to assess and review interdisciplinary research by key members of the community who are very experienced in reviewing interdisciplinary research. With this approach we are making sure that these interdisciplinary research projects are being reviewed by people with that specific area of expertise rather than through the lens of a single discipline which can happen when you go out to external peer review. Therefore it will still be a rigorous overall peer review process, it just won't involve the traditional external written reviews.</p> <p>The college will be responsible for reviewing the applications at the outline and the full stage.</p>
<p>Feedback</p>		
<p>88.</p>	<p>For those who are invited to the full application what level of feedback will they receive?</p>	<p>At the outline stage we will not have the capacity to provide individual feedback to applicants given the number of applications that we are expecting. You will receive your score, and we will also provide you with some general feedback. At the full stage there is much more opportunities for feedback. Before the panel members agree on their final scoring, there is a PI response stage which will give you an</p>

	Will we get some feedback if the application is rejected at the outline/full application stage?	opportunity to respond to questions that the panel have on your proposal. Panel members will also provide written feedback from the panel discussion.
89.	will you be told at the feedback stage if you are sifted out for balance? and will you be able to resubmit?	At full stage you will be informed if your application met the quality threshold or not to be eligible to be included in the stratified randomisation process.
90.	As this is a pilot for us too, and we might submit something that is deemed not to be suitable, will applicants get feedback on whether their application is more suited for a single council (, AHRC, EPSRC, ...) rather than this interdisciplinary scheme, and encouraged to submit, if their outline is not successful?	<p>We cannot signpost other schemes to which a proposal might be submitted, as we do not have the resources to provide individual feedback to applicants at the outline stage.</p> <p>The UKRI Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode team and the research council representatives will be responsible for doing the remit checks before applications are sent to the college members for review. If your application is considered not to be in remit for this call you will be notified at this point and you can decide if you wish to submit your application to the relevant council responsive mode scheme.</p>
Interdisciplinary Assessment College		
91.	Research support staff can be part of the assessment college. I understand that they would not participate in assessing any applications from their institution. But can these staff still support applications in development at their institution?	<p>Yes you can support colleagues, as long as the college member declares a conflict of interest either when applying for the college or on appointment that they have supported the development of a certain project. College members will not be reviewing any applications from their institution. Therefore it is particularly important to declare additional conflicts that are outside of the organizational conflicts. Confidential information will be shared with the college members and as part their terms of service they would need to ensure that it remains confidential.</p> <p>We have 2 different sorts of conflicts that we consider; soft conflicts and hard conflicts. A soft conflict is where an applicant and a reviewer are at the same RO and a hard conflict is where a reviewer is directly involved in the application. If a college member had supported the development of an application, we would consider that to be a hard conflict. That information is not going to be captured on the application form so we would ask all of our college members to inform us of any applications that they've been involved in so that we can manage the conflicts. During the assessment process if there is a discussion anyone conflicted with an application will be asked to leave the room. For virtual meetings conflicted members will be moved to a virtual breakout room.</p>
92.	Can you say a bit more about what kind of interdisciplinary expertise you are looking for in the college of interdisciplinary assessors, particularly with regards to professional services colleagues?	We are looking for colleagues (academics, professional services and technicians) to be members of the college. We're looking for a full range of people but they must have some experience of interdisciplinary research. This may be experience of sitting on interdisciplinary panels and reviewing research or supporting academics applying for interdisciplinary funding and giving them feedback on that as well as directly working on interdisciplinary research. We will be providing training for all college members. We have no idea what applications are going to be submitted, therefore we need to make sure that college membership covers all research areas

		that UKRI funds. So we will be making sure that we get full coverage of UKRI remit areas.
93.	<p>Will the membership of the college members be published?</p> <p>Will the names of the members of the college be public?</p>	We are aiming to publish that once we know what the college membership is. We will create a new space on the UKRI web page to upload that information.
94.	<p>What is/are the process/criteria for matching applications to college members and chairs?</p> <p>Sorry if I've missed this, but what is/are the process/criteria for matching applications to college members and chairs?</p>	This will be done by UKRI team including colleagues from across the research councils supporting the central Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode team. We will be using the information in the summary section of the JeS form to match this with the expertise that has been submitted by the college members on their applications.
95.	I already submitted my application for the college panel member. When can I get a decision whether I am involved in the panel	We have received a high number of applications and are currently assessing them. We hope to let people know towards the end of July if you are appointable and you will be invited to the training. We will need to review the proposals submitted before we can confirm if college members will be assigned to applications in the first round.
96.	Are college meetings f2f or virtual?	They will be virtual for round one. We will potentially look to do some face to face in round 2, but at the moment they will be virtual. When we evaluate round one, we will see if that indicates whether do face to face meetings for round 2
97.	Is the closing date for the college July or June? The website says 20 June, your slide said 20 July. Thanks.	The college is closing on the 20th of June and the call application closes on the 20th of July. This was an error on the 12 June webinar slides. Please accept our apologies.
98.	Will the newly formed interdisciplinary assessment college be used for future UKRI cross council themed calls?	This is a pilot scheme. At the moment there aren't any plans to use the assessment college for any other UKRI activities but this could change. The college members would be consulted on any possible future activities they could be asked to be involved and will be given a choice as to whether they would like to be involved.
99.	Will all college members reviewing an application attend a panel? Do panel members differ?	<p>At the outline stage the panel meeting work will be done off-line with the college members being assigned applications to assess, providing comments and scores on the UKRI extranet platform. There will be no meeting for the college members. For the outline stage the college chairs will be asked to review applications with divergent scores and then attend a virtual sift meeting to agree applications being invited through to full stage.</p> <p>At full stage there will be a requirement for assessing full stage applications. The assessment will involve some offline meeting work contributing to discussion boards to agree feedback for applicants and then attendance at a virtual panel meeting. Chairs will attend the panel meetings and a moderation panel meeting.</p> <p>If college members are assigned applications to assess they will be expected to attend the panel meeting at full stage. Therefore, there will not be a scenario where</p>

		college members assess applications and are then not assigned as panel members. Not all college members will be assigned to applications at each stage and therefore will not be required to do any assessments for that stage/round.
100.	<p>Will you have a second invitation to join the reviewer college? I only had enough information to apply once I heard the info on this call. Thank you.</p> <p>How do we apply for the reviewer college?</p>	<p>We have received a very high number of applications to the college and are now in the process of reviewing all those applications. As part of that assessment we will be making sure that we are covering the breadth of UKRI remit. If we identify gaps in the college membership we may reopen the call over the summer and target specific remit areas for new college applications. We may also refresh the college for round 2.</p> <p>This opportunity closed on 20th June. Unfortunately we are unable to accept late applications at this time.</p>
Conflicts of Interest		
101.	<p>And also, presumably College members would be excused from applications coming from their own institutions, given a potential conflict of interest? Thank you.</p>	<p>Any panel members assessing applications from their own institution will be considered a conflict of interest and will not be assigned to review the application. This will be managed during the panel meetings so that College members will not be involved in discussions of applications that they are conflicted with.</p>
102.	<p>Are chairs of panels allowed to be PIs or Col's? Would this not be considered as a conflict of interest?</p>	<p>Yes college member chairs and college members are allowed to apply to the scheme. The same processes for managing conflicts will apply to chairs as well as panel members and deputy chairs will act as chair where there is a conflict.</p>
103.	<p>Can you ask for a particular college reviewer to not look at the proposal if there is a perceived conflict of interest?</p>	<p>You can put this information in the additional attachment that was referenced in the presentation and outlined in the call information under attachments: sensitive information. We may not know what the final membership of the college is by the time your application is submitted but if there are any potential conflicts of interest that are not apparent from your application and that you would like to avoid in the assessment of your application you should include this information in that document.</p>
Costings		
104.	<p>At the Outline stage, is it necessary to submit a BUDGET</p> <p>a formal justification of resources is not formally needed at the output stage. Are we however expected to provide some estimates of the costs of the project in an informal way in the outline application?</p> <p>at outline stage, do we need to provide a detailed budget in justification of resources?</p> <p>In regards to costings, how much information do you need at the outline stage? Can the</p>	<p>We're not asking for any financial information in the Je-S form at the outline stage and we do not expect you to provide any estimates in the case for support or a justification of resources document. The information provided on what costs can be included is for guidance to support your own budgeting at this stage. We will be asking for the financial information and justification of resources if you are invited to submit a full application.</p> <p>Please note that this will be through the UKRI Funding Service, where new grants roles have been established. Here is guidance on the new grant roles and how cost headings should be used: https://www.ukri.org/publications/roles-in-funding-applications/roles-in-funding-applications-eligibility-responsibilities-and-costings-guidance/ . Full guidance on how to convert Je-S roles to the new roles in the Funding Service will be provided if your proposal is invited to submit a full application.</p>

	<p>cost details change between outline and full application stage?</p> <p>this question has already been asked but not addressed as far as I can tell: do we need to provide any details to explain feasibility vs costs, e.g. how many researchers we hope to employ?</p> <p>Are indicative costs required during the outline application?</p> <p>at outline stage, shall we provide the justification of resources?</p> <p>How much differences in costing could be for outline and full proposal?</p> <p>is there 10% limit in budget change between outline and full proposal?</p> <p>Does the total funding requested need to be provided at the initial application stage? I understand that a breakdown and justification of costs doesn't need to be, but a total? Thank you.</p>	<p>The focus of the outline stage should be evidencing that your idea fits the scheme objectives. The panel will be assessing if the project team has the right expertise in the disciplines required for the delivery of the project, but individual or team capability to deliver, including feasibility, will be assessed as part of the full application.</p>
105.	<p>Does the contract of employment for the PI need to be full time?</p> <p>If the PI is part-time, can their time be charged Directly Incurred (i.e. add to their existing contract) or does it have to be out of their current contracted time (i.e. Directly Allocated)? Also, the same question about CoIs?</p>	<p>Principal or co-investigators can have full time or part time contracts of employment. We do expect that investigators are based in the UK and employed by an eligible UK research organisation.</p> <p>Typically, where principal or co-investigators are working across several project and activities at their organisation, salaries are charged to the grant based on estimates of their time committed to the project under directly allocated costs. Investigator salaries can be requested under directly incurred costs where they are either spending 100% of their time on the project or where their time is supported by a full audit trail.</p>
106.	<p>Could a PI have a dual role, i.e. cost the PI time both as DI (research) and DA (intellectual input/leadership)?</p>	<p>PIs should request salary costs under Directly Allocated or Directly Incurred costs. This information will only be required at full stage.</p>
107.	<p>are the co-Is expected to be costed at a minimum %FTE in the proposal?</p>	<p>No, our scheme does not have a minimum percentage of time or number of hours of expected commitment. However, each co-investigator would need to be fully</p>

	<p>Are there upper or lower limits on PI and Co-I time commitment (e.g., % FTE) to the project?</p> <p>What percentage of time would you expect the lead applicant to spend on the project?</p>	<p>justified and it would be commented on in the assessment if there seemed to be too many or the hours weren't enough to gain recognition as a co-investigator.</p> <p>The maximum number of hours which may be charged by researchers is 1,650 hours per annum (equivalent to 37.5 hours a week, 44 weeks a year).</p>
108.	<p>Related to the earlier question about expectations/limits around %FTE time commitment of PI/Co-Is, is there a limit to the % PI and Co-I salary that can be costed to the project?</p>	<p>We do not have a limit to the % PI and co-I salaries can be costed to the project.</p>
109.	<p>Can international COIs ask for salary monies if their institution cannot afford to finance their involvement in the grant?</p>	<p>Salary costs for international co-investigators are permitted where they can be fully justified and it can be demonstrated that the funding of salaries by grants is the standard practice of international research organisation where they are hosted, and that these costs cannot be covered through other sources.</p>
110.	<p>How can it be that International Co-I's are funded at 100% FEC if we cannot claim overheads for them?</p> <p>does the same FEC apply to international collaborators?</p>	<p>We fund international co-investigators at 100% FEC for directly incurred costs and salary where it can be justified (instead of 80% for UK investigators), because we are unable to provide indirect and estate costs to their organisations.</p> <p>Collaborators, or project partners, whether they are international or from the UK, cannot receive funding directly from UKRI.</p>
111.	<p>With respect to international co-investigators are costs for lab and office space an eligible cost?</p>	<p>We are not able to fund any indirect or estate costs to international research organisations. As co-investigators should be employees of their international organisation, these arrangements should be made independently of this award.</p>
112.	<p>is there clear guidance for non academic organisations on how to cost as they are unused to UKRI funding and dont understand the requirements , permitted etc.</p>	<p>Please check the eligibility of any "non-academic organisations", as they are unlikely to be eligible to apply for funding directly from UKRI.</p>
113.	<p>Can salary costs for Research co-investigators be included?</p>	<p>Yes, researcher co- investigators are funded by the grant. Their costs should be included as directly incurred costs.</p>
114.	<p>Can costings cover teaching replacement for PIs/Co-Is rather than salary costs?</p>	<p>Only costs to cover the salary of the investigators on the grant are permitted. If costed under Directly Allocated costs, investigators should provide estimates of their time on the project. This commitment should be approved by your research organisation, and any subsequent arrangements to cover other activities should be made with the organisation directly.</p>
115.	<p>Can costs of new positions (PDRAs) be included?</p>	<p>Yes, this would be requested under directly incurred costs.</p>
116.	<p>Please can you clarify the budget limit? The call page says £1.2M at 80% FEC, while in the presentation it was stated that it was £1.2M at 100% FEC</p>	<p>The maximum amount that they can apply for is £1.2 million and that £1.2 million is FEC so UKRI will fund 80% of that which is £960,000.</p>

117.	<p>Is there any benefit in applying for a smaller amount than the max £1.2m</p> <p>Are you expecting costs of projects to be on the upper end of your scale (towards £1.2m)? Do you have any expectations regarding the cost of an average project?</p>	<p>The applications will be assessed at the full stage against value for money. The cost of research varies greatly across the disciplines and therefore comparing applications on the scale of the budget alone would be inappropriate.</p>
118.	<p>Is there a limit to the proportion of the funds that can be used for sub- contractors – especially for projects with high levels of technical development.</p> <p>What amount can be fully allocated to Project Sub Contractors</p>	<p>We have not specified a limit on funds that can be subcontracted. However, it should be noted that third parties should only be contracted to deliver a specific piece of work. Sub-contracting is subject to panel assessment at the full application stage and should be fully justified as to why this is necessary, why they're the most appropriate people to do this piece of the work and represents value for money.</p> <p>Subcontracting will be subject to your organisation's procurement rules. You should check with your research organisation beforehand requesting these costs, as we will only pay 80% FEC for subcontracting costs, and the remaining 20% will need to be paid by your RO.</p>
119.	<p>So £100k subcontracting of sequencing abroad is ok without matched 50% funding but buying a sequencing machine costing £100k needs RO matched funding £50k? THat is ok with this scheme?</p>	<p>This is in line with UKRI policy. Individual research councils reimburse large equipment costs at different levels. The 50% reimbursement level is in line with the majority of research councils. Large equipment purchases can be used by research organisations beyond the life time of the grant and can often be used on other research projects throughout the time of the research grant. Therefore the research organisation is expected to support the purchase of the equipment.</p> <p>You would need to justify the subcontracting costs as part of your application at the full stage.</p>
120.	<p>In terms of using research council facilities, is the cost going to be included in the fund? Will the access to the facilities to be (potentially) guaranteed?</p> <p>if I needed to request supercomputing time, and since this is a UKRI call, would this fall under partner agreement (i.e., notional costs) within the UK High Performance Computing ecosystem? Usually the UKRI allocation in these computers is split among proposals, with EPSRC having most of it. Under which remit would it fall the allocation in this particular case? Thanks</p> <p>Is there a supercomputer/HPC allocation</p>	<p>If you need to use a research council facility the following will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costs will be funded at 80% fEC • you will need to check you are eligible to access the facility. • you should discuss your research proposal with the facility or service you want to use before submitting your outline funding application • you should make sure that you are aware of the access procedures, resource availability and timelines at an early stage in developing your proposal. You may need to apply directly to the facility or service as well as including it in your funding application. • you will need to provide a technical assessment (which may be in the form of a quote) and confirmation that you can use the facility or service only at the full stage application • extension to grants will not be given due to unavailability of facilities intrinsic to the project, for example ship or air time. You should make sure that the facility will be able to provide access or services during the period of your grant. Under UKRI terms and conditions you grant needs to start within six months from the date of the award letter.

	<p>Sorry, is there a supercomputer/HPC allocation associated to this scheme?</p>	<p>Therefore, costs for use of facilities need to be included as part of your grant application. You should check with the facilities and/or services you would like to apply to which costs to include.</p> <p>We are contacting relevant research council colleagues regarding HPC time and will update this when we have an answer.</p>
<p>121.</p>	<p>Is use of marine facilities out of scope?</p>	<p>In the first instance you should contact the NERC Marine Planning team to discuss your request (marineplanning@nerc.ukri.org). They will be able to advise if your proposed use is feasible. Please note that grants are expected to start within 6 months from the award letter, expected in June 2024. For the first round of this pilot scheme, we cannot extend grants due to unavailability of facilities intrinsic to the project. You should therefore make sure that the facility will be able to provide access or services during the period of your grant.</p>
<p>122.</p>	<p>Is upgrade of an equipment eligible cost, please? (under 10K) The equipment wasn't bought from UKRI funds originally.</p>	<p>Yes, you may request funding for new equipment, or the costs of existing equipment repairs or upgrades, if this is not currently being supported by other means and is justified in your case for support.</p>
<p>Interdisciplinarity</p>		
<p>123.</p>	<p>Does the % split between research councils need to be equal or close to equal?</p>	<p>No, it needs to be in the remit of 2 or more research councils involved in the projects. But how that is split across the project will really depend on the vision that you have for your project and what it needs to achieve. But it needs to make sure that those disciplines are integrated.</p>
<p>124.</p>	<p>you said research needs to span 2 research councils - did you mean 'at least' 2?</p>	<p>Yes, we mean the remit areas of at least 2 councils.</p>
<p>125.</p>	<p>is there a link to Samantha's definitions of Multi-, Inter- and Trans- disciplinary ?</p> <p>unclear about the point around transdisciplinarity v interdisciplinarity. Does this suggest that the project is meant to develop knowledge but that it doesn't have to be driven by urgent societal challenges (that typically requires co-creation with relevant non-academic partners)?</p> <p>A quick clarification on trans-disciplinarity versus inter-disciplinary again, please?</p> <p>Unclear about the point around transdisciplinarity v interdisciplinarity. Does this suggest that the project is meant to develop knowledge but that it doesn't have to</p>	<p><u>Transdisciplinary</u> - There is no uniform definition of TDR, various definitions coexist. Common denominators are that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDR intends to transgress boundaries between disciplinary knowledge • TDR intends to integrate different bodies of knowledge and create new knowledge • TDR tends to imply active co-creation of knowledge between academic and societal partners <p>A project can be interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, but if a medical research project was working with a patient group, that would just be trans-d and not inter-d. Projects can be co-created with non-academic partners, but the academics involved cannot be from one research council.</p> <p><u>Multidisciplinary</u> is where researchers work in silos and there is no integration of disciplines or outputs.</p> <p><u>Interdisciplinary</u></p> <p>For the purposes of this scheme, we are using the following definition of interdisciplinary from the REF 2021 Interdisciplinary Advisory Panel final report:</p>

	<p>be driven by urgent societal challenges (that typically requires co-creation with relevant non academic partners?)</p>	<p>“Interdisciplinary research is understood to achieve outcomes (including new approaches) that could not be achieved within the framework of a single discipline. Interdisciplinary research features significant interaction between two or more disciplines and / or moves beyond established disciplinary foundations in applying or integrating research approaches from other disciplines”</p> <p>https://www.shapeidtoolkit.eu/faq/</p>
<p>126.</p>	<p>I think it was said that a project with work packages which are discrete and discipline specific will make an application out of remit? Is this correct? Within a project I can envisage individual WPs which are specific to disciplines, coming together to generate a final interdisciplinary output e.g. within a specific WP - would this be in scope?</p> <p>The presentation and guidance notes that applications should be fully integrative, suggesting that ALL work packages should integrate different disciplines. I'm sure I am not alone in thinking that this will be really challenging. Is the implication that you are expecting most WPs to be integrative but that some could focus around a single discipline?</p> <p>Can the research question be interdisciplinary with work packages relevant to a Council - So in your second example you mentioned MRC and BBSRC. The research question is interdisciplinary whereas there are relevant UKRI Councils to the bid may have specific work package areas?</p>	<p>If the work packages are discrete disciplines and only the outputs are brought together to form one output, that would not be considered as integrating or reciprocal. That would be a number of disciplines addressing one research question. An example could be ‘addressing food security’ and the work packages could be 1) soil scientists 2) plant biologists 3) social scientists working with farmers. All addressing one question, but their methods or approaches don’t integrate and the researchers don’t explore the reciprocal possibilities of their disciplines. In this scheme, that would be viewed as multidisciplinary.</p>
<p>127.</p>	<p>How will you treat disciplines/subject areas that already share remits across two different research councils? Will these still be considered as spanning two separate research councils?</p>	<p>Applications where there is a clear alternative research council responsive mode scheme including interdisciplinary research that fits within a single research council remit will not be permitted. So if all disciplines in your proposal are already covered by a single research council your application will not be eligible.</p>

	<p>Would Fintech be considered interdisciplinary, as research into innovative approaches spans both the finance and computing disciplines.</p>	<p>If your research proposal spans two research councils and integrates the work of those disciplines, then it would be in remit.</p>
<p>128.</p>	<p>Are interdisciplinary projects across councils that are more overlapping considered ie MRC/BBSRC or NERC/BBSRC.</p> <p>Some councils have more natural overlap between other councils than others (e.g. MRC and BBSRC, BBSRC and NERC, AHRC and ESRC) whereas others are very distinct (e.g. AHRC and EPSRC). Are you looking more for proposals which cross remits between the more distinct councils or are interdisciplinary proposals which cross the remit of councils which are closer aligned equally welcomed?</p>	<p>Applications need to clearly demonstrate that the research involves disciplines from more than 1 research council and explores new types of, and approaches to, interdisciplinary research not routinely funded through existing UKRI responsive mode schemes. Which research councils the application is relevant to does not matter. You do need to demonstrate the potential for reciprocal research benefits across the disciplines and show co-creation and design involving all disciplines required for successful delivery of the project.</p>
<p>129.</p>	<p>Can we be confident that truly interdisciplinary proposals (which have been falling through the Research Council gaps) will be recognised as such and not be rejected on the grounds of fitting within a single Research Council?</p>	<p>Your application needs to clearly demonstrate that the research involves disciplines from more than 1 research council, demonstrate the potential for reciprocal research benefits through the integration of distinct disciplinary perspectives and spheres of knowledge and show co-creation and design involving all disciplines required for successful delivery of the project. If you meet these criteria it will be within remit of this call. The college members assessing your application will have experience of working on or supporting interdisciplinary research and will be trained to review interdisciplinary research projects.</p>
<p>130.</p>	<p>There will be boundaries between the themes used to group the applications. How will the management of these boundaries differ from the existing boundaries between research councils and disciplines? Will it still be possible that applications fall between the theme boundaries?</p>	<p>We will ensure that all applications will be assessed by appropriate panels but we will not know themes until the applications invited to submit full stage applications are selected. All college members will receive training on assessing across disciplines.</p>
<p>131.</p>	<p>your 2 examples of interdisciplinarity do not demonstrate benefit to both disciplines but look one directional applying a method from one discipline to another - so not eligible for this call?</p> <p>In the two examples of research projects given by Samantha, it seemed like the benefit was one-directional (e.g. the wildlife</p>	<p>The examples given were interdisciplinary. It wasn't possible to go into detail about the projects on the webinar but as described the methods and approaches were fully integrated in these examples. Both projects had researchers who would normally apply to a number of different research councils, until they came together.</p> <p>Each of the participating disciplines benefited from working with each other through reciprocal development of their methods and approaches which informed and had impact on each other's work.</p>

	<p>monitoring benefits from the weather radar tech). Could you explain more how those projects had reciprocal benefits or how reciprocal is designed here please?</p> <p>You mention reciprocal benefit between the disciplines is one criterion: but how does that apply to the example you gave of interdisciplinary research - i.e., using a method from one discipline to solve a problem in another discipline? Is the application of that method to solve a new problem a sufficient "benefit" for the discipline that method comes from?</p> <p>In the first example of eligibility, how does the discipline providing the methodology for application in a different discipline benefit (it was stated these were clear examples of reciprocal benefits)?</p> <p>Can you please define reciprocal benefit for the disciplines within the application? If the aim of the project is to address a particular topic.</p>	
132.	<p>can you provide an example with AHRC with one of the science/technology/medicine councils</p> <p>Would you have any other examples of cross-disciplinary projects that are not from STEM disciplines but social science (e.g. AHRC and ESRC), please?</p>	<p>The examples were really to demonstrate that the academics explored each others' research, spent some time together really understanding each other's approaches to their research and saw ways to integrate what they were doing to create new projects. This way of working can be applied to all subjects if there is an interest in creating something different.</p> <p>One example is https://www.medievalists.net/2017/01/medieval-big-bang-theory-interdisciplinary-tale/ Prof Tom McLeish was a leader in interdisciplinary research and assessment.</p>
133.	<p>Do you have any guidance on how to best demonstrate the integration of diverse fields and making sure that no discipline (especially of the PI) is perceived as a 'lead' over the others?</p>	<p>A member of the team could be lead PI, what the proposal needs to demonstrate that all the disciplines involved are integrating elements of their methods or approaches to develop the research. It is important to demonstrate that the other disciplines are not 'bolted on' to one discipline to satisfy the interdisciplinary nature of the call.</p>

	<p>How can we best show that the discipline of the PI is not perceived as a 'lead' over the others?</p>	
<p>134.</p>	<p>Examples of what is and isn't in scope would be helpful. For example, a list of recent applications that were rejected for being too interdisciplinary, and a list of interdisciplinary projects that were funded by each of the Research Councils. This would help applicants decide where to draw the line when deciding which scheme to target.</p>	<p>We are unable to share information on unfunded projects. Information on funded projects can be found on the UKRI gateway to research https://gtr.ukri.org/</p>
<p>135.</p>	<p>How could applicants determine if their idea fits this call or within one RC? I have experiences where I thought an idea fitted, but then got bounced for not fitting remit</p> <p>My colleagues and I were looking at the description of what research fits this call and comparing it to the existing cross-council interdisciplinary mode. We noticed the criteria are extremely similar. a) how can we be sure we're choosing the right mode? b) if this isn't the right mode, will we be told what other mode is most appropriate?</p> <p>In my experience remit checking with councils can take some time. Is there any influence that this scheme will have on getting these checked by existing councils as a matter of urgency so that teams can be certain to be in scope for the cross council call?</p>	<p>Your application needs to span the remit of at least 2 research councils. There are some areas within the research council remits where there are shared areas of remit. Applications where there is a clear alternative research council responsive mode scheme including interdisciplinary research that fits within a single research council remit will not be permitted. So if all disciplines in your proposal are already covered by a single research council your application will not be eligible.</p> <p>You need to make sure your application is truly interdisciplinary. All your disciplines need to be integrated and working together. There needs to be co-creation across the disciplines and not separate work packages in the different disciplines and just bringing the results together.</p> <p>You can seek advice from your research organisation's research office. If you think it could possibly fit in a one of the research councils, then you could email that council to ask about remit checks and advice on whether your idea would fit an individual research council.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to do remit checks for this scheme.</p>
<p>136.</p>	<p>What are the key research area? also, can you detail bit more on interdisciplinary approach?</p>	<p>We will not know the research areas until all the applications are submitted as this is a responsive mode scheme.</p> <p>For the purposes of this scheme, we are using the following definition of interdisciplinary from the REF 2021 Interdisciplinary Advisory Panel final report: "Interdisciplinary research is understood to achieve outcomes (including new approaches) that could not be achieved within the framework of a single discipline. Interdisciplinary research features significant interaction between two or more</p>

		disciplines and / or moves beyond established disciplinary foundations in applying or integrating research approaches from other disciplines”
137.	Do we need to demonstrate how our research involves multiple councils, or will assessors assess that through the methods and research plans we outlined in the case for support?	<p>Applicants will be asked to complete classifications on their JeS form including research council relevance where you should indicate all councils that your project is relevant to and then a minimum of 5 keywords to summarise your project.</p> <p>The UKRI Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode team and the research council representatives will be responsible for doing the remit checks before applications are sent to the college members for review. They will base this on the information in your summary and classifications on the JeS form. Therefore you should make sure that it is clear in these parts of your application that project covers the remit of at least 2 councils. If your application is considered not to be in remit for this call you will be notified at this point and you can decide if you wish to submit your application to the relevant council responsive mode scheme.</p>
138.	<p>Following the earlier example, If you had an individual (EPSRC) engineer who is now working as a biologist (NERC). Would this be defined as interdisciplinary, as there is a PI who has moved and worked in both disciplines?</p> <p>Or does interdisciplinary imply - min two individuals, so the PI 'picks' their most recent discipline (e.g. biologist - NERC) and works with an engineer as Co-I?</p>	An individual can be seen as being interdisciplinary as long as they can demonstrate that the project spans two councils and demonstrate that the academic has the knowledge and experience to carry out the project.
139.	<p>regarding the scope of the interdisciplinary project, for instance, whether development of new machine learning models for human disease diagnosis is in the scope?</p> <p>Both example projects (like Radar for animal monitoring) given look like the application of one technology developed from one discipline to apply to other disciplines. Our project is about gathering important guidance from other disciplines to inform the development of a technology, which will in return create new knowledge within the other disciplines (do different from the examples above). Would this be seen as fitting in remit?</p>	<p>We are unable to comment on project remits. Please see the call text to check whether your idea meets the scheme objectives</p> <p>https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme/</p>
140.	There have been previous cross-research council calls via the “Physics of Life” (at the	This is a new scheme that is UKRI-wide whereas other schemes have been interdisciplinary with specified research areas, in this case biological and physical

	<p>interface of biology and physics). Would you for see that this scheme would support similar work?</p>	<p>sciences. This scheme is open to all disciplines being involved as long as the project spans more than one research council.</p>
<p>141.</p>	<p>Your two examples were both quite technical / natural / engineering science focused. How will you ensure that innovations in the social science area will be regarded as equally valuable, e.g. an innovation to qualitative methods informed by other disciplines, etc.?</p> <p>The examples of good concepts straddle the less closely related councils, like physics & arts. How will review process not be biased against more closely linked councils like MRC & ESRC?</p>	<p>This scheme is entirely open and ideas are welcome from across all disciplines. We are ensuring that the Assessment College also has representation from across UKRI's remit. The examples given were just to try and illustrate how disciplines can co-create and integrate their ideas. The Assessment College will be given training to ensure that all proposals are fairly assessed with whatever combination of disciplines are included.</p>
<p>142.</p>	<p>How would you view disciplines that are themselves very diverse and include practitioners who can by their very nature apply to more than one research council, for example geography (AHRC and NERC). Ie our disciplines are themselves interdisciplinary</p>	<p>The proposals need to span more than one research council and the researchers need to be able to demonstrate that the team has the expertise to carry out the research. The Assessment College will be looking at these factors and how the disciplines come together in the proposals.</p> <p>Applications where there is a clear alternative research council responsive mode scheme including interdisciplinary research that fits within a single research council remit will not be permitted. So if all disciplines in your proposal are already covered by a single research council your application will not be eligible.</p>
<p>143.</p>	<p>How would you characterise the difference between multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary outputs/impact? Could you give any examples of interdisciplinary outputs or impact, aside from publications in journals that are interdisciplinary in nature?</p> <p>Is there a specific outcome that you are looking for with this call (e.g. development of a prototype technology, generation of societal impact, progression of treatment to clinical trial etc...)?</p> <p>You don't mention anything about expected outputs. Is because it is a novel scheme with a short, 2 years funding window?</p>	<p>We are not looking for specific outcomes or outputs in this pilot project, we will see what comes from the community.</p> <p><u>Transdisciplinary</u> - There is no uniform definition of TDR, various definitions coexist. Common denominators are that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDR intends to transgress boundaries between disciplinary knowledge • TDR intends to integrate different bodies of knowledge and create new knowledge • TDR tends to imply active co-creation of knowledge between academic and societal partners <p>A project can be interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, but if a medical research project was working with a patient group, that would just be trans-d and not inter-d. Projects can be co-created with non- academic partners, but the academics involved cannot be from one research council.</p>

	<p>Outputs: can the output(s) be: (1) speculative; (2) art-oriented (exhibition)/ film work / sound?</p> <p>what are the main deliverables of a funded project?</p>	<p><u>Multidisciplinary</u> is where researchers work in silos and there is no integration of disciplines or outputs.</p> <p><u>Interdisciplinary</u></p> <p>For the purposes of this scheme, we are using the following definition of interdisciplinary from the REF 2021 Interdisciplinary Advisory Panel final report: “Interdisciplinary research is understood to achieve outcomes (including new approaches) that could not be achieved within the framework of a single discipline. Interdisciplinary research features significant interaction between two or more disciplines and / or moves beyond established disciplinary foundations in applying or integrating research approaches from other disciplines”</p> <p>https://www.shapeidtoolkit.eu/faq/</p> <p>The project deliverables should be appropriate your project objectives.</p>
<p>144.</p>	<p>Both example projects (like Radar for animal monitoring) given look like the application of one technology developed from one discipline to apply to other disciplines. Our project is about gathering important guidance from other disciplines to inform the development of a technology, which will in return create new knowledge within the other disciplines (do different from the examples above). Would this be seen as fitting in remit?</p> <p>Is it within scope to link two disciplines around EDI, e.g. psychology/sociology with physics around EDI barriers in STEM?</p>	<p>We are unable to give feedback on proposals at this stage. If your research proposal spans two research councils and integrates the work of those disciplines, then it would be in remit.</p> <p>Applications where there is a clear alternative research council responsive mode scheme including interdisciplinary research that fits within a single research council remit will not be permitted. So if all disciplines in your proposal are already covered by a single research council your application will not be eligible.</p>
<p>145.</p>	<p>The call text mentions that the project could "lead to the creation of new disciplines" - this seems an extremely ambitious objective. Could you give an example of what this could mean in practice?</p>	<p>An example of this would be engineering and genetics/biology coming together that led to the creation of Synthetic Biology. This is extremely ambitious and is not an expectation of individual research projects but an overall objective of the scheme. By UKRI investing in interdisciplinary research bringing together disciplines on research projects that would not normally be support through individual council responsive mode schemes we could see the emergence and creation of new disciplines.</p>

146.	<p>our idea includes EPSRC, ESRC, NERC & AHRC themes - is that welcome, or would it be seen as spread too thin??</p>	<p>If the idea requires this mix of these disciplines and the team has the experience to develop an integrated interdisciplinary idea, then we do not have a limit on number of research councils to include. There needs to be reciprocal benefits for the disciplines involved.</p>
147.	<p>The guidance for an ESRC standard grant includes "This opportunity funds researcher-driven basic, applied, and strategic research from any disciplines and on any topics in ESRC's remit. This includes standard research projects, methodological development, large-scale surveys or other infrastructures. Proposals can draw from the wider sciences, as long as the social sciences are more than 50% of the research focus and effort": I think the 50% rule applies across most councils: does this not imply that for a proposal to be eligible for the interdisciplinary fund, it would need to span more than 3 councils (as otherwise it would be >50% within any single council and could be funded through other schemes)?</p> <p>Could you just go over the difference between a proposal for the existing cross-council scheme and this scheme again?</p>	<p>We have not stated a percentage involvement for research councils, that would be a decision for researchers involved in the project. Our stipulation is that more than two research councils are involved in the proposal and that the research is interdisciplinary whereas multidisciplinary research will be supported through the council responsive mode schemes under the Cross-Council Remit Agreement. If you think that your proposal might be eligible for another council call, you can email them to check the remit of your project.</p> <p>A small proportion of applications might be suitable for both this call and existing responsive mode schemes via the Cross-Council Remit Agreement. You must determine which scheme to make your submission to, duplicate applications are not permitted.</p>
148.	<p>We have a project which is firmly interdisciplinary and benefits research across multiple research councils, but which has the potential to be even more broadly relevant. Will proposals be disadvantaged if they have small elements that are more "bolt-on", or will this be viewed as neutral or a plus so long as the core idea is clearly interdisciplinary?</p>	<p>The phrase bolted on is used to illustrate a situation where an academic has an idea, forms it and then seeks someone to add their knowledge/expertise on to what has already been created. An example could be an academic whose research area is ethics and is brought in at the final stage of project development to add their expertise and name to the work.</p>
Project Scope		
149.	<p>The call information seemed very UK focused. Are projects that take an international approach welcomed?</p> <p>Can the proposal be research in a LMIC only? (i.e. not UK)</p>	<p>This scheme is to fund UK researchers, but up to 30% of the project funds can be used to support an international researcher.</p> <p>The PI must be a researcher based in the UK. The exceptions to this are if your project will involve long periods in another country or you are located at an eligible international research organisation (for example, CERN or a Medical Research Council Overseas Unit).</p>

<p>I recognise that there is the 70/30% rule about funding overseas bodies but is there any particular problem if the work that is to be conducted will be conducted overseas?</p> <p>Thank you for the presentation. Is the focus of the call the UK? Will a research project focusing on a non-UK country be eligible/acceptable?</p> <p>What if it is not global research challenge but challenge specific to e.g. rainforest/ desert?</p> <p>Is global research (focused outside UK) within remit of this new scheme?</p> <p>Does the research have to be UK related?</p> <p>our project would involve researchers and ideation of the interdisciplinary research from the UK but field work and application of the research in 2 low middle income countries where 25-30% of resources would be spent. Is this eligible?</p>	<p>Whilst the funding is focussed on supporting UK researchers, the research that the project addresses doesn't necessarily need to address a UK based challenge, it can address a global research challenge including challenges relating to a specific international region. In terms of how the research is conducted, it may involve carrying out research overseas.</p> <p>Research can be carried out in a LMIC country as long as you meet eligibility criteria i.e. you are employed by an eligible research organisation and you meet the criteria for being a PI or Co-I.</p>
<p>150. are there any particular areas of focus? Or is it a markedly open call?</p>	<p>This is an open call. Applications can be submitted in any area of research providing it is interdisciplinary.</p>
<p>151. Is your focus primarily applied research?</p>	<p>No, we are looking for research that spans from very early stage speculative research through to more applied research.</p>
<p>152. Is the call looking to fund a specific research project or also initiation of a cross-disciplinary unit/centre?</p>	<p>In this scheme we are looking to support interdisciplinary research, to unlock new research, new approaches or new methods, and support breakthrough or disruptive ideas and collaborations. Applications solely focused on capacity building via a unit or centre would not eligible.</p>
<p>Round 2</p>	
<p>153. Is there likely to be more than two rounds?</p>	<p>The continuation of the scheme will depend on the recommendations of the evaluation and funding awarded to UKRI in the next spending review.</p>
<p>154. What is the timeline for Round 2?</p> <p>When will Round 2 take place/be advertised?</p> <p>Do we have a timeline for round2?</p>	<p>We are aiming to launch round 2 in June 2024 after round 1 is completed. This will enable us to manage resources but also to take into account feedback from the evaluation.</p>

	<p>Are you able to give an indication of timings for round 2?</p> <p>Will round 2 start in 2024?</p> <p>What are the dates for the second call round ?</p>	
155.	Will round 2 provide the opportunity for follow-on funding for those that were successful in round 1?	Round 2 will open shortly after round 1 applications are awarded and therefore the timelines are unlikely to fit for follow-on funding.
156.	Would a successful outline application in round 1 be able to submit a full application to round 2 instead (life is sometimes complex - i.e. maternity, paternity leave etc), or would you have to resubmit the outline to round 2 again (and is that permitted?)	If there are extenuating circumstances where you are unable to submit your full stage application, please do contact the office, and we can review this on a case by case basis.
Scheme		
157.	as this is a pilot, what is your criteria for success (as a scheme)-& do you anticipate that this will become routinely available beyond the pilot phase?	We are developing the evaluation framework and will be asking for input from Assessment College Members. We do not have any information on future rounds beyond the 2 pilot rounds at the moment.
158.	What lessons from the FLF have shaped this pilot and how?	There are many key learnings that we have taken from running 6 or 7 rounds of the FLF scheme. For example, how to run panels that cross the whole of the UKRI remit and how we manage large numbers of awards in a timely manner. There are some things we are changing as a consequence of our experience of running the FLF scheme, for example, not going out to external peer review on a large number of applications. We are constantly learning, and we are constantly changing FLF as well and we will be learning on this pilot scheme through the evaluation.
Timings		
159.	<p>Why is gap between result of first stage and deadline for 2nd stage so short? Any chance a bigger gap can be had?</p> <p>The window for full proposals is very short, especially as it is during December and January when many academics are on leave. It would be useful to have additional 2-3 weeks to submit the application.</p>	In developing the timetable there are many factors that have to be considered. We have allowed 11 weeks for the full stage application. This is a fairly standard timeframe for applications to UKRI calls at full stage. The timetable cannot be amended at this stage.

160.	<p>Can the project last longer than 2 years, if UKRI funding is only sought for 2 years of the project period?</p> <p>Why is the duration only 2 years considering that it takes time to learn how to work in an interdisciplinary manner.</p> <p>why only 2 years?</p>	<p>No, the limit is for 2 years.</p> <p>People have commented about the timeframe is shorter than standard responsive mode grants, however there are some reasons behind this. This is a pilot and we want to ensure we can evaluate the scheme and feed recommendations from an evaluation in to funding allocations under the next spending review. We are therefore balancing the need to provide sufficient time for projects and the ability to evaluate it within a timely manner.</p> <p>Standard UKRI terms and conditions apply for no cost extensions, for example, parental leave.</p>
161.	<p>Would extensions to project duration be considered (beyond 2 years)?</p> <p>so no cost extensions will be possible - thank you</p>	<p>If it's extending the end date of the grant due to exceptional circumstances, they will be subject to UKRI terms and conditions and you should contact the UKRI team through the appropriate mechanism. In terms of giving additional funding to extend the grant, that is not an opportunity at the moment as this is a pilot scheme. The funding will be for up to 2 years for the first 2 rounds but we may look to support longer grants in any future rounds, but that depends on what comes out of this pilot scheme and the recommendations from the evaluation.</p>
162.	<p>I thought from the website that a deadline was in September! is that correct now that is 20 July a closing date?</p>	<p>The call closes on 20 July 2023 at 4:00pm UK time. This has not changed. The call was announced with a 20 July closing date.</p>
163.	<p>Were considerations for regional holidays made when determining the deadline for the outline proposals? Northern Ireland has 8 weeks of school holidays vs. 6 for England, Scotland and Wales, and NI universities are closed for 12th July holidays, so NI researchers (especially those with family commitments) will have less time to prepare outlines. Will roving panel members make panels aware of this?</p>	<p>There were multiple considerations taken into account when determining the timeline for the whole round, while still achieving a decision from outline to full stage outcomes within a reasonable amount of time. These considerations included national holidays, school holidays for the different UK regions, times of the year that are typically busy for academics who are either applying to the call but also for those assessing the applications, as well as resources within the team and the research councils to deliver the administration on this large call and avoid clashes with other large UKRI schemes such as the future leader fellowships which also require support from our research council colleagues. We also had to consider the opening and closing dates of other opportunities across UKRI and the availability of the grant systems in order to process the number of applications we are expecting. We do try and take into account as many factors as possible and balance this decision as best we can within reason.</p>
<p>General Information</p>		
164.	<p>Will all research councils be involved, e.g. ESRC</p>	<p>Yes, we have a working group of colleagues with representatives from the different councils supporting the Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode team providing the subject matter expertise. They will be involved in checking the assignment of college members to the applications and also in checking the applications to the Interdisciplinary Assessment College</p>

165.	<p>Can you please share the slides after the webinar?</p> <p>Will a recording of this be available?</p> <p>when will you be sharing this recording?</p> <p>Will these slides be shared?</p>	<p>A webinar recording and slide set will be shared soon after both webinars have taken place</p>
166.	<p>How does this relate to Leverhulme which also seeks only applications which fall between different research councils?</p> <p>Actually, what you are saying about the Leverhulme programmes is incorrect! They don't cover medical disciplines at all. And their larger programmes (e.g. Research Centres) and Research Grants are often interdisciplinary.</p>	<p>Leverhulme run a whole range of different schemes, and therefore it depends on which one you're referring to. If there is one in particular you are referring to you can send us an email.</p> <p>From our basic understanding the majority of the Leverhulme competitions run off fellowship, so are personal awards that are largely salary costs with a small amount of research funding attached to them, whereas this scheme supports research projects grants so there will be some salary costs covered by the grant but the majority of it will be expected to be direct project costs. The other thing is, I believe, for Leverhulme competitions is that they still do offer most of their competitions within more broader areas, whereas this is open across the entire breadth of UKRI. The other potential difference is I don't think it is mandatory that the projects have to break traditional disciplinary barriers. I'm also not sure how Leverhulme define their disciplines, but I don't think they do it in the same way UKRI structures the research councils.</p> <p>Leverhulme run about 14 different competitions so if this one that you specifically have a question about a comparison to please feel free to email us and we can review what the high level differences are.</p>