

Questions from Amazon +10 UKRI webinar 21 February 2024

Questions have been edited for clarity and brevity. If UK researchers have further questions please contact UKRI Amazon@ukri.nerc.ukri.org or

British Council ISPF-Amazonia@britishcouncil.org as needed.

1. I understand that Brazilian research receive their funding from CNPq and CONFAP, however I would like to ask if UKRI funding can be used to pay for activities (like Workshops, fieldwork) or services in Brazil (like local experts). thank you.

A: You can request funds for activities in Brazil from UKRI. This includes minor costs like travel and subsistence for local experts.

2. My main question is how we can involve PIQCT if CV lattes is requested for all involved. The Indigenous chief will not have a CV lattes. How we can involve indigenous people without a CV lattes?

A: There are two ways to approach this. One is helping the PIQCT people involved in the project to create a Lattes CV. This is recommended, as it will facilitate requesting scholarships for them and having them as co-authors of publications that will derive from the project. When this course of action is not possible, this situation can be explained in the Research Project. The template available on 'Annex IV - Roadmap for Research Project' contains a specific question about the PIQCT member(s), which must be answered. In case their Lattes CV cannot be included, that is the space to explain the situation and explain who the PIQCT members are.

3. Is it possible to access a list of eligible institutions for the Brazilian PI to be based at?

A: Each proposal must have Principal Investigators from at least two states for the FAPs participating in this Call, one of whom must be affiliated with a higher education or research institution based in a state of Legal Amazonia (Amazonas, Acre, Rondônia, Roraima, Pará, Maranhão, Amapá, Tocantins, and Mato Grosso). Please also refer to the list of institutions in Legal Amazonia that expressed an interest in this call <https://www.amazoniamaisdez.org.br/en/post/amazon-10-initiative-creates-a-database-with-potential-projects-for-the-expeditions-call> Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of eligible Brazilian institutions.

4. Are researchers from the UK allowed to collaborate in multiple proposals?

A: Yes. From UKRI, you can be involved as lead or co-lead in no more than two proposals, (only 1 as a lead). You can be involved in UKRI and British Council components but not in the same project. For the British Council, you should only be involved in one proposal.

5. Will the NERC proposal also be evaluated by FAPs+CNPq?

A: Yes, there is a single assessment process led by CNPq with inputs from all the funders. UKRI (NERC and AHRC) will recommend reviewers and panel members to be involved in the assessment process. The funding decisions will be made jointly by all the funders using recommendations of the panel, the requirements of the funding opportunity and available budgets from the funders. The funders reserve the rights to use the recommendations to create a balanced portfolio of projects.

6. How does that split in evaluation work? Will a score be given by each funding agency involved in each project?

A: See response to Question 5.

7. Proposals must be submitted in Portuguese and English?

A: All proposals must be submitted through the Carlos Chagas Platform. This is in Portuguese. Proposals involving a UK component will also need to submit an English translation of the proposal so that UKRI/British Council can check eligibilities and propose suitable reviewers and panel members.

8. I'm not sure how to manage the British Council and NERC funding component. Do we have to specify in the proposal which funds we will be expecting from each organization up to the funding limits shown on the slide?

A: While a joint Brazil-UK project could apply to both UKRI and British Council to fund the UK components, individual UK researchers cannot request funding from both UKRI and British Council in the same joint project. Applications for funds to UKRI and British Council must be clearly distinguished and complementary rather than duplicative. You must ensure you meet all relevant eligibility criteria.

9. I believed it used to be in that one could not contact Indigenous peoples without going through FUNAI. What is the pathway to contact people now. Are there designated contacts for this funding opportunity with participating Indigenous communities?

A: Usually the best way to approach such researchers is through contacts in the region of interest. There is no single-way of doing so, and CNPq or FUNAI wouldn't act as intermediaries.

10. Can Brazilians be named on 2 proposals, as per the UK applicants?

A: Brazilian applicants can only be PIs in one proposal. However, they may be listed as members of the research team in other proposals. See section 7.9 in the opportunity document.

11. Does there need to be a balance in funding levels between the Brazilian proposal and the UKRI/British Council proposal?

A: Joint UK-Brazil proposals can submit funding requests up to the maximum specified for each funder. While UKRI and British Council do not necessarily expect balanced funding between Brazil

and UK components, the proposals should be clearly developed jointly with an equitable distribution of research efforts by both UK and Brazilian teams.

12. How are you submitting your CV? Only by ORCID? Given how strict the format is how you explain career breaks etc?

A: UKRI do not require CVs. The British Council ask CVs to be submitted as an attachment in the [British Council additional information](#) form. Brazilian applicants must submit Lattes CV. UK researchers will be listed as members of the project team.

13. As far as the UKRI budget is concerned, how could we pay for expenses in Brazil incurred by the Brazilian scientist? Will the funds from the UK partners be transferred overseas somehow?

A: In general, UKRI expect Brazilian researchers to be funded by the relevant Brazilian funders participating in this call. UKRI will fund minor travel and subsistence costs of Brazilian project partners. These costs would be administered by the relevant UK organisation and it would be their responsibility to disburse the funds.

14. Could you clarify what is the main difference between UKRI and BC funding, is it only the amount of funding available? But the aim of both calls is the same?

A: There is one call, led by the Brazilian agencies CNPq and CONFAP. UKRI and British Council are supporting the call aims and objectives by offering funds to support UK components of joint UK-Brazil projects. The main differences between UKRI and British Council components are:

1) Award sizes and durations

- UKRI is offering funds for components up to £1M over 3 years
- British Council from £100k to £125k over 2 years

2) Eligibility of researchers

- British Council may be able to support early career researchers who are not eligible to apply as lead researchers to UKRI. You should refer to the relevant annexes of the main funding opportunity for full details on the UKRI and British Council components.

15. Is the Manaus workshop in Portuguese? And will it be a live online event, or just recorded.

A: The event will be held in Portuguese. CONFAP will broadcast the event in its YouTube Channel live. However, we are studying the possibility of later uploading a subtitled recording of each panel in the same YouTube Channel. More information and the registration link are available here: <https://www.amazoniamaisdez.org.br/en/post/the-amazon-10-initiative-and-fapeam-will-hold-a-workshop-on-the-scientific-expeditions-call-in-mana>. The Portuguese version is also available on the website.

16. Can you provide some more information on the balance or priorities between biodiversity and culture/humanities? I take it the two should be synergistic, but the material online seems to emphasise the cultural components, but the talks today focussed on taxa/regions, so it's not clear.

A: Research proposals must involve scientific expeditions designed to extend knowledge of sociobiodiversity and biodiversity in the Amazon and address one or more of the priority research themes identified in section 3 of the main funding opportunity.

17. I was wondering about having a person with traditional knowledge relating to the study area. Can it be a person affiliated to an NGO that is used to work on the region? Or it needed to be a person with those characteristics. We were planning to work with riparian communities.

A: We expect projects to involve people from relevant communities with traditional knowledge, although people with expertise from working in the region can be included in addition. Please also see question 21.

18. Regarding access to Indigenous lands, these require proper authorization from the government and the local leaders which could take time and it is not guaranteed... So, of necessity, we will apply for the grants before we can secure the proper permits.

A: You can apply before having a permit and apply for a permit when the call outcome is known.

19. Is there guidance on the balance of funding between the UKRI and Brazilian components - e.g. is there a limit to the overall proportion of project funds that the UK component can contribute?

A. You can apply for any amount up to the maximum offered by each funder. Also see answer to question 11.

20. Is the UK-lead allowed to enter in two different applications by Brazilian leads?

A: Brazilian applicants are only permitted to put in one proposal as lead (see section 7.9 in the main call document). UKRI applicants can apply as lead or co-lead applicants in two proposals (lead only in 1). British Council applicants can only take part in one proposal.

21. How should we demonstrate the ownership of traditional knowledge in at least one project partner, as is required by ODA? Are there particular materials, criteria, or qualifications we need to provide?

A: In Brazil, ethnicity and belonging to a traditional community are self-declaratory. There is no formal document stating that. The researchers must present the information that is relevant about their belonging to a traditional community in the Research Project, following Annex V - Roadmap for Research Project.

22. It seems that UKRI and BC funding priorities are very 'applied-science' focussed with benefits to economic development, whereas the Brazilians also seem to be interested in supporting biodiversity-related research which does not automatically translate into economic benefits. How big are chances for biodiversity related projects that do not boost economic development, but help to better understand the biodiversity of Amazon?

A: UKRI and British Council funds are from the Official Development Assistance budget from the UK Government Department of Science, Innovation and Technology. We therefore require UK-Brazil projects to meet the ODA criteria. It is the responsibility of the UK applicants to identify appropriate pathways to impacts to ensure that Brazil directly benefits from the research. For example, researchers should consider and articulate how improved knowledge of biodiversity could contribute to better, more sustainable and resilient livelihoods and wellbeing of local communities. Insufficient evidence of how the research meets this requirement may lead to rejection from the scheme.

23. Can you confirm that the research can focus on ALL ecosystems (e.g. land, freshwater, coastal forests, marine) within Amazonia

A: Yes, all ecosystems present within Legal Amazonia are considered under this opportunity.

24. Can PIQCT people be funded under the main funding request or are they restricted to the scholarship opportunity just mentioned?

A: Yes, they would be funded under the main funding request. UKRI applicants can request minor costs like travel for them. PIQCT members can get funding in the form of scholarships provided by CNPq, observing the specific scholarship modalities that are listed in the form on Carlos Chagas Platform. They can also request per diems for travels, and even service costs, depending on how they are participating.

25. Do you have to specify the separate funding organizations and how much from each you are requesting in the proposal?

A: Yes, you need to submit individual budget forms for each funding agency from which you are requesting funding in line with the guidance set out in the main funding opportunity.

26. One potential Brazilian collaborator asked whether they would need to be involved in the finance/management of UK researchers (more work for them). Our answer was probably not, but it would be great to have feedback from UKRI.

A: UKRI grants would be awarded to the institution of the UK project lead (previously principal investigator) and they would be responsible for administering those funds. Brazilian collaborators would not be involved in this.

27. Can we involve experts from other Brazilian states apart from Amazon region? from different areas - natural and social sciences?

A: Each proposal must have Principal Investigators from at least two states for the FAPs participating in this Call, one of whom must be affiliated with a higher education or research institution based in a state of Legal Amazonia (Amazonas, Acre, Rondônia, Roraima, Pará, Maranhão, Amapá, Tocantins, and Mato Grosso). Researchers from states whose FAPs or foreign agencies which are not participants in the Call may be members of the research team for a project but must provide proof that they have obtained funding of their own for their part in the project..

Such researchers could be funded through the UKRI component under the [International Co-investigator rules](#) if clearly justified (this applies to researchers from any discipline for this call). There are 19 FAPs (out of 27 States) participating in the call, and they are listed in the call in item 4. Partnerships. Annex II also lists all of them and their particular eligibility criteria and funding items. This means that it is easy to check whether a researcher has access to funding via the call or not. On Projects with the British Council, we would expect any experts from other Brazilian states to provide proof that they have obtained funding of their own part in the project and will not be able to use funding from the UK budget to support them.

28. For proposals involving both NERC + AHRC should we submit under one single PI and one single submission to UKRI? So just a single ODA compliance, a single gender equality statement etc?

A: Yes, you will submit one joint UK-Brazil proposal including one additional document for UKRI regardless of whether the proposal falls with the remit of NERC, AHRC or both.

29. Can we include costs for building infra-structure (beyond the £10k for equipment), such as a simple classroom for workshops with a room for storage?

A: No, this would not be an eligible cost for this call.

30. What might be the best way to identify potential proposals being developed in Brazil, which would correlate with UK researcher's ideas?

A: Proposals should be jointly developed between researchers in Brazil and the UK. A database of potential research topics and contacts in the Brazilian legal Amazon has been published to facilitate collaboration <https://www.amazoniamaisdez.org.br/en/post/amazon-10-initiative-creates-a-database-with-potential-projects-for-the-expeditions-call>

31. Do you envisage extensions to the projects (should there be a delay due to legal matters or environmental/access issues)?

A: We will consider extension requests to UKRI awards as needed in line with the [UKRI grant terms and conditions](#) and any additional guidance and requirements associated with ODA and [ISPF](#) funding when available. British Council do not envisage being able to offer extensions to project end dates.

32. What is the minimum amount of funding AHRC would be willing to fund in a proposal?

A: There is no minimum award for UKRI grants for this funding opportunity. Both NERC and AHRC welcome proposals of different sizes.

33. Apart from universities can we involve CSO/NGOs in Brazil (as an associate partner) who are already working with Indigenous territories? Will be there more opportunity to ask questions? Which email can we have?

A: You can involve NGOs as project partners. Please see the guidance in the [NERC grants handbook](#). Please do contact us (NERC and AHRC) with any questions at Amazon@nerc.ukri.ukri.org and British Council at ISPF-Amazonia@britishcouncil.org

34. Where can I get more information about the workshop for Brazilian researchers that want to apply for this call?

A: Please see the answer to question 15. More information and the registration link are available here: <https://www.amazoniamaisdez.org.br/en/post/the-amazon-10-initiative-and-fapeam-will-hold-a-workshop-on-the-scientific-expeditions-call-in-mana>. The Portuguese version is also available on the website.

35. Please provide a link to where I can find more information about potential Brazilian partners for this call?

A: Please see the answer to question 31. <https://www.amazoniamaisdez.org.br/en/post/amazon-10-initiative-creates-a-database-with-potential-projects-for-the-expeditions-call>

36. Could you please tell us more about the split in proposal text between the project lead in Brazil and UK (as a single document).

A: The proposal should be jointly prepared by the UK and Brazil team of researchers using the template provided in the main funding opportunity text (Annex 4). The proposal should be an integrated project. There is no defined split but the text should make clear who is responsible for which parts of the project. Proposals involving the UK should include all requested additional information in a single document as described in the UKRI specific guidance [on UKRI funding finder page](#) and annex 2 of the main call.

37. Do you need an AHRC Co-I?

A: No, UKRI components can include topics from NERC, AHRC or both councils' remits.

38. Can IIASA researchers apply as Co-I?

A: IIASA researchers can be named on UKRI components. Only researchers employed on a permanent contract in the UK can be named on British Council components.

39. The CNPq platform is in Portuguese so is difficult to register.

A: We suggest using GoogleTranslate for organisations to register. Your Brazilian partners may also be able to support you.

40. Can funding be used to bring Indigenous researchers to work on Amazonian collections in European institutions?

A: The call is focussed on gathering new information on the Amazon through research expeditions rather than analysing already collected materials. For UKRI, it could be eligible if it forms a small part of a wider project but it would still have to meet all the call criteria, including ODA conditions. For British

Council, provided lead applicants present a strong case, it could be considered for collections in UK institutions.

41. Is this a single round call or will there be more options?

A: UKRI and British Council currently only expect to support this single call.

42. Can full salary costs of PI be requested?

A: UKRI and British Council can only fund 80% FEC (Full Economic Cost) of salary costs.

43. What can this grant be used for? (e.g. salary, travel, etc)?

A: Please refer to eligible and ineligible costs published in the main call for details. UKRI and British Council can fund salaries, consumables, travel, but will not fund studentships or equipment over £10k. British council also cannot fund office equipment. UKRI cannot fund marine equipment or shiptime. Also see the [NERC grant handbook](#) for information.