Frequently Asked Questions:

**Expression of Interest (EOI)**

1. Q, Is the EOI stage assessed for eligibility - i.e. if someone submits and EOI that you deem out of scope, will you inform applicants and/or their HEIs?
*A, Yes, if an EOI is not within scope then applicants would be informed.*
2. Q, Do we need the letter of support to submit at outline stage? can you please talk a bit more about the outline requirements?

*A, No letters of support are not required when submitting your expression of interest. The information we require is just within the survey questions no additional documents are required alongside the EOI submission.*

1. Q, Will there be support to connect with other potential applicants and build multi-institution teams, e.g. after the EoI stage?

*A, No specific networking events are scheduled for this.*

1. Q,In relation to the EOI/Bid and 2 Leads only per institute would we need to ensure we only submit two for both EOI and Bid?
*A, yes, only 2 applications as project lead per research organisation should be received at EOI and full submission stage.*
2. Q,are HEIs limited to submitting 2 EOIs as project leads for 16 May, or are they just limited to submitting 2 applications for the 27th June deadline as project lead?
*A, See answer to question 4 above.*
3. Q, How detailed should the costing be at the Expression of Interest stage? Thank you.
*A, It would be helpful to provide details of costings for international & non-academic co-lead*s and the full economic cost of the project.
4. Q, Are the EOIs reviewed? and is there strict requirement to stick to what was on the EOI (apart from overall costs)
*A, We accept that some changes may occur from between the time the EOI is submitted and the full application is submitted, however we wouldn’t expect any major changes. We will use the details in your EOI to help source reviewers and ensure coverage of expertise at panel, so having details of the team composition and a summary of your research will help with this.*
5. Q, Can you share what the is needed as part of the EOI stage?
*A, Please see list below of the questions included within the Expressions of Interest survey*

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**Team/Applicants**

1. Q, Are applications from a single institution eligible/desirable?

*A, Single institution applications are permitted. They are not deemed either more or less desirable.*

1. Q, I have never heard of the "Grant Manager" role, do you have any links, resources, or further info? Thanks.
*A, The list of roles that are permitted by UKRI are available at* [*https://www.ukri.org/publications/roles-in-funding-applications/roles-in-funding-applications-eligibility-responsibilities-and-costings-guidance/*](https://www.ukri.org/publications/roles-in-funding-applications/roles-in-funding-applications-eligibility-responsibilities-and-costings-guidance/) *and those relevant to this opportunity are outlined in the core team part of the ‘How to apply section’ within the* [*funding opportunity*](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/braid-responsible-ai-demonstrators/)
2. Q, When you say two project lead bids are allowed per institution, does that mean each institution can only submit two bids that have co-leads or does it mean each institution can only lead two bids but can be on any number of bids?

*A, An organisation can only submit 2 bids as Project Lead, but can have co-Leads on any number of bids*

1. Q, What classifies as a research organisation to be deemed eligible to apply? E.g., can a research-focused SME apply?

*A, Standard UKRI eligibility applies please see UKRI guidance here:* [*https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/how-to-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/*](https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/how-to-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/)

1. Q, Can a research student collaborate with supervisors to draft a proposal?
*A,* *We expect project leads to be employed by the host organisation for the period of the award* *as per the* *Standard UKRI eligibility please see UKRI guidance here:* [*https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/how-to-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/*](https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/how-to-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/)
2. Q, Did you say 3 members of the core team should be in AHRC remit. Did you mean “partners” or member as in staff members from the core partner coordinating?

*A, No. The core team needs to have at least 3 people in it.*

1. Q, Can a model be used where the core team is funded all the time and other team members are funded per case study?
*A, Yes, you will need to justify staff resource and explain members of the teams' roles and work packages.*
2. Q, Do you see this aimed more towards experienced project leads, or is there a benefit to having ECRs leading/in the core team, or is a mixture of both preferred?
*A, It will be important for you to justify the appropriateness in terms of skills and experience of the core team and their roles within the team.*
3. Q, Should we assume that one team member should be a novel computation expert?
*A, You may include a team member with computational expertise but this isn’t a mandatory requirement, dependent on what is being proposed you will need to ensure you have the relevant expertise.*
4. Q, Is there a limit on the roles Early Career Researchers can undertake in the project?

*A, No there is no limit on ECRs but it would be the applicant's responsibility to clearly articulate the appropriateness of the roles & responsibilities allocated within the application.*

1. Q, Is it possible to have more than one mentor or should one of them be a Co Lead?
A, *Within the* [*funding opportunity*](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/braid-responsible-ai-demonstrators/) *we stipulate that you can have multiple mentors, however you will only be able to claim the costs of 1hr per month of a mentor’s time, any additional mentoring will need to be provided by the Early Career Researcher’s host organisation. The role of a mentor is distinct from a co-lead, I would only consider involving the individual as a co-lead if their role meets the* [*UKRI role description*](https://www.ukri.org/publications/roles-in-funding-applications/roles-in-funding-applications-eligibility-responsibilities-and-costings-guidance/)
2. Q, The call states "..we expect the majority of the core team to be in arts and humanities disciplines (such as law, philosophy and design)", however during the webinar last week I seemed to understand that this is not a strict condition as long as the remit of the majority of the work proposed is in the AHRC remit.

Could you please confirm is that this is indeed the case, and whether a proposal with team composed of less than 50% members from A&H disciplines (let's say 2 members out of 5) will evaluated negatively?
*A, You are correct in that the funding opportunity references an expectation that the majority of the team be from an arts or humanities discipline, we do also specify that the research should be within the AHRC remit and as such we would expect the application to outline the arts and humanities approaches/methods and disciplines as well as how the applicant team have the necessary skills & expertise to successfully deliver the research.*

*We understand that applicants may have experience/skills in multiple disciplines so the numbers you provided below should not be negatively evaluated. The applications will be assessed by peer review and an assessment panel, it will therefore be essential that you can convey how the project will speak to the arts and humanities and how the comprised team will ensure its success.*

**Remit**

1. Q, Will it be ok to have a PI who is not from the arts and humanities, provided the majority of the core team is? Would that look odd to the assessment panel?

*A, The project lead does not need to be from an arts and humanities discipline but the application will need to articulate what arts and humanities disciplines are being included within the team and research. Appropriate arts & humanities expertise would be required to cover the 51% plus remit requirement.*

1. Q, Noting the AHRC remit, would an application that has a significant social science element but that involves multiple humanities disciplines be eligible - i.e. could the '51%' be drawn from a combination of A&H disciplines?

*A, Absolutely*

1. Q, Can we address multiple/all the delivery themes or should we focus and frame the project in terms of 1?
*A, You can choose to address more than one theme*
2. Q, Can you explain the 51% remit requirement?
*A, As per standard AHRC rules in order to be eligible for AHRC funding your research application should be at least 51% within AHRC’s remit. A list of AHRC disciplines is included from page 68 of the* [*AHRC funding guide*](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/AHRC-200324-Research-Funding-Guide-version-6.3-v2-March-2024.pdf) *We want to amplify the role of the arts and humanities in the responsible AI ecosystem and that is a key objective of the BRAID programme.*
3. Q, Is there a specific focus that you are looking for in terms of multidisciplinarity relationship? For example, are you looking for projects on “AI for Arts and Humanities”, “Arts and Humanities for AI”, or it can be both?
*A, You just need to demonstrate the role of the arts and humanities in the research proposed, addressing responsible AI in a given context and align with at least one of the BRAID themes.*
4. Q, Should the bid be building on past RAI research by demonstrating existing ideas, or is developing and deploying new ideas going beyond existing RAI techniques also within scope?
*A, Both of these would be in scope, it’s just a matter of the case for support being compelling about whether it’s demonstrating a known or existing approach or responsible ai technique or intervention in a novel context where maybe we haven’t had an opportunity to see how that intervention actually makes a difference. Or it might be saying that we haven’t tried this is it worth trying it in this particular context.*
5. Q, On the 51% remit. Do the “contexts where RAI is applied” must be strictly within AHRC remit as well?
*A, The context the responsible AI is applied to is not limited to the arts and humanities but the role of the arts and humanities in applying those contexts is integral to this opportunity.*
6. Q, Arts and humanities remit includes ‘products‘ under design. Does this include software products? Ie where a partner is building AI software
*A, Software design falls under the software engineering portfolio which is within the EPSRC portfolio so no this would not be considered as AHRC remit.*
7. Q, Does a project focusing on Responsible AI only in the context of deployment/use be considered within the scope of this call?
*A, Yes the above sounds like it meets one of the aims outlined in the ‘Scope’ section of the funding opportunity: test and evaluate responsible AI tools, techniques and approaches in real world settings*
8. Q, Is the idea that an AI system would actually be developed? Or is it more about what kinds of features would need to be advanced to inform Responsible AI
*A, It would be the latter as the objective of the call is to advance the status quo of responsible ai*
9. Q, Could someone clarify how Design as discipline is viewed and incorporated within the scope of AHRC-supported research ? Specifically HCI is often misinterpreted as merely technical
*A, HCI is predominantly managed in the* [*EPSRC portfolio*](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/human-computer-interaction/) *although we acknowledge that the social and ethical considerations span beyond EPSRC. Design is a discipline that applies user, customer, citizen or community-centred approaches to creativity and invention to ensure more successful outcomes. These may include the built environment, physical products, digital or other services and systems that underpin how we live. Success in this context may mean economic, social, environmental, or a combination of all three. So if we apply that to HCI, design focuses on how user(s) can utilise a tool or method to achieve a specific goal*
10. Q, Can the focus be more general applications to a range of contexts or does it need to be focused on a particular setting?
*A, We expect you to choose a context of application and this is part of the requirement that this not be purely theoretical research, but that it actually has a demonstrative component that’s related to a particular setting.*
11. Q, As there is a cap for the Project per institutions. Are there similar limits to Co-leads?
*A, No co-leads are not restricted to the number of applications they can be listed on however you should ensure that you are not over committed and that each member of the team is well justified within that project*
12. Q, are there particular roles or FTE that qualify as part of the core team?
*A, No there is not a minimum FTE requirement to be listed as part of the core team, however those listed as part of the core team should be contacts that will make key contributions to the work (given the size of funding available we expect to see a work plan or Gannt chart) .*
13. Q, Does a project focus on the use of AI for cybercrime to be considered?
*A, In the context of AI for cybercrime, if the project is about figuring out how AI can be used to address cyber crime in a more responsible way. If you have specific research and practice ideas for how you’re going to demonstrate that could certainly be in scope. If it’s just that AI for cybercrime as a useful socially beneficial application of AI, that doesn’t have a strong responsible AI component necessarily.*
14. Q, Is the rule around >= 51% remit in AHRC both about the project leads core disciplines (i.e. out of 3 applicants at least 2 must be in A&H) and the work plan remit?
*A, We have set an expectation that there will be members of the team that have an arts or humanities discipline/background but the 51% refers to the arts & humanities within the project itself (i.e. the methodology and the research proposed and the outcomes)*
15. Q,Wondering if something like looking at AI-based processes for acquiring History subject knowledge in educational settings such as schools is likely to be in scope?
*A, You could choose education as a setting, but the above idea would need to strongly evidence the responsible development and application of AI technologies within that as set out in the funding opportunity and align with one or more of the BRAID delivery themes (AI for Humane/Inspired/Equitable or Resilient Innovation)*

**Networking**

1. Q, Can AHRC assist with matchmaking between academic and non-academic partners? Or can webinar participants be shared if they consent?

*A, We will share contact details for those that wanted to do so, and you can use* [*konfer*](https://konfer.online/) *and other networking tools can be found at* [*Businesses – UKRI*](https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/who-we-fund/businesses/) *, UKRI also announced the WAIFinder tool* [*New tool launched to navigate the UK’s world-leading AI landscape – UKRI*](https://www.ukri.org/news/new-tool-launched-to-navigate-the-uks-world-leading-ai-landscape/)

1. Q, I haven't got a team but I have some project ideas. How can I find a team for me?

I'd be interested in collaborators - j.c.walton@sussex.ac.uk. I work mainly on AI and climate / sustainability. Also some interest in design, including game design, gamification / serious play. Also governance, standards, policy of course. On a more humanities side, representations of AI within science fiction.

*A, We have shared your contact details Jo but also feel free to use the networking tools mentioned above & join the BRAID & AHRC AI mailing lists*

**International**

1. Q, Can we have international partners?

*A, International co-leads are permitted for this opportunity*

1. Q, Is it possible to have academic or industry partners from outside the UK? Can we choose a global context instead of just focusing on the UK? Thank you.
*A, International Co-Leads and non-academic co-leads are permitted within this funding opportunity. Project partners can also be from outside the UK. As this is UK funding we do ask that the research be primarily focussed within a UK context but it would be acceptable if the context could be applicable beyond the UK as well.*
2. Q, Can the fellowship organisation be international?
*A, This opportunity is not for fellowships*
3. Q, For non-UK partners do the usual funding constraints (e.g. no PhD) apply?
*A, you cannot apply for a PhD studentship as part of this opportunity, the list of available roles is outlined in the funding opportunity but can only be from the following: project lead (PL), project co-lead (UK) (PcL) project co-lead (international) (PcL (I)) specialist, grant manager, professional enabling staff, such as public engagement professionals, research and innovation associate, technician, visiting researcher*

**Partners**

1. Q, The minimum 2 non-academic partners criterion – does that mean 2 non-academic orgs, or individuals?
*A, The 2 project partners need to be 2 separate organisations as opposed to 2 individuals.*
2. Q, Can an academic institution work with a micro-SME, if one of the PI/Co-I (i.e. core team members) is involved in both of these organisations? Thinking of the non-academic impact can be within industry and if core team members are involved in both, would this be seen as conflict of interest?
*A, Project partners do not include project co-leads. You cannot include an individual (including their organisation) named as the project partner contact in your application as an applicant,* [***such as project lead or any other core team role***](https://www.ukri.org/publications/roles-in-funding-applications/roles-in-funding-applications-eligibility-responsibilities-and-costings-guidance/#section-role-descriptions-and-responsibilities)*.*
3. Q, Could you give some examples of potential non-academic partners?

*A, An example would be that for the BRAID programme their non-academic partners are the BBC and the Ada Lovelace Institution*

1. Q, The call mentions co-investment from third parties - please could we get a little more detail on the expectations there? And is there a need for cash contributions or can it be purely in-kind?
*A, All demonstrators will be expected to realise leveraged co-investment from third parties (project partners). While there is no lower limit set on the level of co-investment expected at the outset of the project, you must have secured some material commitment (for example cash or in-kind contributions\*) and this should be outlined in the proposal. \*In-kind contributions could include gifted time or services such as expert advice from a specialist, use of resources such as data, buildings, networks and so on.*

*In addition, all demonstrators must commit to increasing the level of co-investment committed over the course of the project.*

1. Q, Would patient organisations be considered as non-academic partners?
*A, patient organisations could be project partners if they are providing either in-kind or financial contributions. Patient groups could also be considered as part of public engagement and therefore resources could be requested and justified for this use.*
2. Q, Are partners able to participate for a limited portion of the project period, as long as their investment is still leveraged in that time?
*A, Yes we would expect that sometimes partners will evolve over the course of the grant and may not work on the entirety of the project however we do ask that you have at least 2 non-academic project partners associated with the project at the point of submission and you seek other appropriate partners as appropriate.*
3. Q, In terms of Non-academic partners, is it ok if the second partner is a group of creatives/artists (e.g. professional self-employed) rather than an official organisation?
*A, as per the previous question you can read an explanation of a project partner from page 35 of the* [*AHRC funding guide*](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/AHRC-200324-Research-Funding-Guide-version-6.3-v2-March-2024.pdf) *you may also wish to look at how this compares to other roles such as a specialist:* [*Roles in funding applications – UKRI*](https://www.ukri.org/publications/roles-in-funding-applications/)
4. Q, I would like to ask if local Authorities like Oxfordshire County Council are allowed to collaborate with consortiums, and would you be providing support on linking interested organisations with them? George Fourtinas @ Oxfordshire County Council
*A, We aren’t able to provide a matching service but we have shared your details. County councils would be a suitable project partner if they can meet the usual requirements of committing contributions to the project. You can read more about project partners from page 35 of the AHRC funding guide*
5. Q, Given your answer to the question about specialists potentially not counting as partner orgs, is there any guidance on the types of organisation that are eligible to be one of the 2 partner organisations?
*A, see answer to question 51.*

**Funding:**

1. Q, How many projects do you expect to fund? 4 x £900K is 3.6M and 3 x £1.1M is just £3.3M so the most that could be funded is three?

*A, We expect to fund 3 BRAID Demonstrators*

1. Q, Do you have advice on how access to HPC for AI deployment should be costed? Do we need to engage with HPC services and cost them as part of our application?

*A, As per standard AHRC policy We do not provide funding for individual items of equipment over £10,000. Please see section three of the* [*AHRC research funding*](file:///C%3A%5COffline%5CAGur01%5CDownloads%5CAHRC-200324-Research-Funding-Guide-version-6.3-v2-March-2024.pdf%20%28ukri.org%29) *guide for further information. You may need to explore whether any partner organisations can contribute HPC access.*

1. Q, The call mentions co-investment from third parties - please could we get a little more detail on the expectations there? And is there a need for cash contributions or can it be purely in-kind?
*A, Please see answer to question 48 above which outlines the contribution requirements.*
2. Q, Can funding be used to pay for resource/staff costs from the non-academic partners?
*A, Minor Directly Incurred costs may be requested to facilitate collaboration and these should be costed in line with the fEC of the project. If costs are being charged to the project, then they must relate solely to the activities on the project, and not be part of everyday business for the organisation. For example, travel and subsistence costs should not be charged to the grant, unless it is clearly justified in the proposal that the partner organisation would be unable to contribute to the project without having these costs covered. If all or a substantial amount of the collaborating organisation’s involvement is being charged to the project as part of the fEC, then this organisation is not a ‘Project Partner’ and their role as a ‘Subcontractor’ should be outlined in the application.* [*AHRC-200324-Research-Funding-Guide-version-6.3-v2-March-2024.pdf (ukri.org)*](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/AHRC-200324-Research-Funding-Guide-version-6.3-v2-March-2024.pdf) *Page 36 funding guide*
3. Q, If successful, when does the project funding need to be completed?
*A, The project would have a fixed start of 1st February 2025 and will be 3 years in duration, so the end date will be 31st January 2028*

**Other**

1. Q, In terms of collaboration, is there a preference for works addressing developing of AI collaborating with developers rather than working with deployers?
*A, No preference as long as the responsible AI is central.*
2. Q, Will prior BRAID funding through e.g. BRAID fellowships disadvantage applications in any way?
*A, No you will not be disadvantaged by already being a recipient of BRAID funding, we just ask that you are mindful of your FTE and ensure that you are not overcommitted.*
3. Q, What are the differences between the Demonstrator and the Fellowship programmes?
*A, The fellowships are centred on the individual who are embedded in a non-academic institution to work on a challenge that either they or the organisation has set around responsible AI, whereas the demonstrators are larger team projects which have to have a minimum of 3 people in the core team and 2 project partners. The fellowships still have to align to the BRAID themes but the demonstrators are focussed on showing how particular responsible AI interventions, techniques, tools & approaches can be embedded in a particular context and demonstrated in its use, studied to see the ways in which they work or don't work and considering how we might evaluate the success of some or other intervention in a particular context. Demonstrating responsible AI knowledge and practice is unique to this particular call.*
4. Q, Are there any limits to how much of the budget can be spent on fees to partners and/or contractors? As an arts and humanities researcher, the most practical approach for me would be to engage external industry partners and offer very clear value to them for the collaboration.
A, We would advise you to look at the UKRI roles and decide which would be most suitable for the organisation you are engaging with, such as project partner, subcontractor or non-academic co-lead. The funding is designed for research and innovation and therefore we do not expect to see large amounts of funding going to industry partners
5. Q, For the requirement that the projects engage with the BRAID programme directly, is there any information about the types of engagement the BRAID programme would like to see proposed by the projects (e.g. skills and training, co-badged reports, or other strategic priorities)?
*A, BRAID core team members are not eligible to be included in demonstrator applications but we would like applicants to provide details on how they plan to engage with the overall BRAID programme the other funded projects within BRAId and the wider responsible AI ecosystem.*
6. Q, I am struggling a bit with the new application format. It appears streamlined, which is nice. What are the biggest mistakes or misunderstandings you have seen from applicants who have not correctly interpreted the new application format?
*A, We do not have a list of common mistakes however we would recommend fully reading the funding opportunity guidance. Applications do not need to be completed in one go, there is also guidance available within each section of TFS whilst completing the application and matches what is outlined in the funding opportunity.*
7. Q, For bids building on a scoping call, how will the results or outcomes of the scoping bid be incorporated or not into the evaluation of the demonstrator bid?
*A, the scoping grants will not be evaluated in time for the submission of the demonstrator opportunity so the results and outcomes will* *not be considered within this opportunity*
8. Q, In terms of Equality and Diversity, are teams expected to demonstrate EDI consideration in the team formation as well their understanding of the issue or do they need to show the implication of their research on EDI or both?
*A, Ideally both, we want to diversify the ai ecosystem and give voice to marginalised communities so EDI should be a consideration in both the structure of the team and the research proposed.*
9. Q, Should the outcomes be scholarly publications only?
*A, No we would be looking for broader outcomes of the demonstrators would be to advance the status quo of responsible ai in a particular context/setting or use case and have real-world impact, potential to impact policies etc..*
10. Q, Can you give us an idea of the who will be reviewing proposals? Primarily AHRC reviewers? Industry? EPSRC? ESRC?
*A, we will seek reviewers primarily from the AHRC peer review college (PRC) but will also look beyond this to ensure coverage of the application areas so this may include reviewers from other council’s PRCs and potentially industry and non-college experts.*