

FAQs arising from the transdisciplinary research to tackle AMR Phase 2 webinar on 1 May 2025

Summary

Please note, this FAQ does not address specific questions on the remit of potential projects or on individual circumstances except where we can generalise these for a wider audience. If you need to refer to more detailed applicant guidance, for example, on eligibility, costing, etc., then this is included in the funding opportunity text.

For specific queries, please email: UKRI-AMR@ukri.org

Notification of Intent (NoI)

Regarding the proposed budget, what level of detail is expected in the notification of intent?

We are not expecting a lot of details about the proposed budget, just a summary of the proposed project plan and how it will fit with the aims and scope of the funding opportunity.

How much can the project change during the notification of intent and the submission of the full proposal. For example, can the project lead change?

Information provided as part of the notification of intent step is not considered finalised, therefore additional partners and project co-leads may be added for the full application, and the application may change significantly as it develops, and further details are prepared.

If the project lead changes, please let us know by emailing UKRI-AMR@ukri.org

What is the relationship between notification of intent and the full proposal? Is there any pre-approval?

The notification of intent will not be assessed. It will be used to inform plans for the assessment panel. Information provided as part of the notification of intent is not considered finalised, so the project teams and partners can be added and changed. We expect the project to evolve and change as the full application is developed.

We will not be providing feedback on the notifications of intent except if we have concerns regarding the transdisciplinarity of the proposed project or fit to the call scope.

Demand management

Are you envisioning institutional limits on the number of applications?

An institution can support multiple applications. However, we encourage institutions to be mindful of this and seek opportunities to explore a combination of approaches that could enrich the transdisciplinary nature of the proposal. Applicants may be co-leads on multiple bids but can only be project lead on one proposal. If applicants are partnering on multiple bids, this should be justified. All projects leads and co-leads should inform their research office or reporting structures of their intention, particularly if planning to claim funding, due to both overhead management as well as staff management.

Funding

What is the funding limit for each grant?

The full economic cost of projects must be within the range of £1.5 to £3 million and they can be up to 5 years in duration. UKRI will pay 80% of the full economic cost and 100% of permitted exceptions.

The call states up to £3 million per project, are projects less than this more or less favourable?

We are seeking ambitious transdisciplinary proposals. Each proposal will be assessed on merit and how they meet the requested criteria of the opportunity, one of which is value for money. This is not about how expensive an application is, but whether the budget is appropriate to deliver the research and justified by the anticipated outputs. Each proposal will be evaluated on the originality, potential for impact, strength of the transdisciplinary research including the proposed team and its value. We urge all applicants to consider these points in their application

Will there be a second round funding call? / Is this a yearly call for proposals?

We currently have no plans for additional AMR funding opportunities.

Does the project have to be 5 years long?

No, but this funding opportunity is supporting larger scale projects, and you will need to justify the timescale required to deliver your project.

Please explain further what is meant by 'Funding 80% of FEC and 100% of permitted exceptions'? Can you elaborate on what are 'exceptions'?

All applications must be costed based on the full economic costs (FEC) necessary to deliver the research. If a grant is awarded, we will typically fund 80% of the FEC, and the applying organisation must agree to find the balance of FEC from other resources.

Exceptions are directly incurred costs that are funded at 100% of FEC, subject to actual expenditure incurred, or items that are outside FEC.

For this funding opportunity, exceptions can include:

- costs for international collaborating organisations
- public partnership costs
- DNA sequencing
- externally contracted social surveys

For further information regarding all costings, please refer to the [Application and policy guide for the UKRI Funding Service – UKRI](#)

Do we need to cover salary costs for all co-leads and does having 'partners' provide a route around this?

Individuals can be included as part of the core team, including project co-leads, without requesting salary contributions from the grant. However, only project co-leads who are providing a substantial commitment to the project should be included on the application, and applicants will need to demonstrate that the right team is in place to successfully deliver the proposed work.

A project partner is 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.

There is a broad range of who could be a project partner including:

- members of the business community
- policymakers and members from the public, private and third sectors

- practitioners such as clinicians, crop breeders, farmers, veterinarians, landowners
- representatives from civil society, humanitarian and independent NGOs
- people with lived experience
- local communities

Will NHS Trust collaborators be funded at 100%?

Researchers from NHS bodies with research capacity will be funded at 80% of the full economic costs.

Applicant team and eligibility

I'm a fairly new PI, and I have support from more senior Co-Leads, but I'm conscious that reviewers/assessors may presume that I am too 'junior' to lead a programme of this scale. Can you clarify if UKRI are supportive of early career academics leading on this call?

UKRI is supportive of early career researchers being involved in this funding opportunity. The project lead should be:

- an individual who will act as our main contact and coordinator of the project, including its transdisciplinary remit
- can be from any discipline
- must also have a record of delivering research

As you are at an early stage of your career and to help to clarify the leadership position, you should evidence the three criteria listed above and clearly describe how you will be supported by the project co-leads (the intellectual leadership of the project team can also be shared with project co-leads) and that you have the backing of your organisation to support the administration relating to the award.

If you are unsure, please email UKRI-AMR@ukri.org or discuss with your collaboration team as to how other early career researchers can be involved as potential co-leads, if not appropriate for leadership positions based on the points mentioned above.

Are PhD projects allowed to be funded through this call? /Are there funding opportunities for students?

Studentship costs are ineligible. We do not award individual studentships or allow inclusion of studentships on research grant applications.

How much emphasis will be given to preliminary data if new collaborations are being made for the purposes of the Call? Can one show the applicability of previously used methods and how they can be transferable?

Providing preliminary data is helpful to demonstrate the potential feasibility and validate the approach of the project. However, it is acknowledged that preliminary data may not be available or may be limited for new collaborations and transdisciplinary research so you could consider including, for example, what other published work can be used to support your approach, showing the applicability of previously used methods and how it could be transferable across other disciplines and areas etc.

Is there any limit to the number of project co-leads?

There is not a limit on the number of project co-leads on an application, however, we expect only project co-leads who are providing a substantial commitment to the project to be included on the application. Applicants will need to demonstrate that the right team is in place to successfully deliver the proposed work, i.e., the strength of the collaborative proposal and all co-leads must be justified (token adding an institution or discipline is not sufficient).

Should there be a single lead UK university if the application is from researchers from multiple UK universities?

Yes, only the lead research organisation can submit an application to UKRI

Is there an expectation that applications will have participants from different universities?

This funding opportunity is about building a transdisciplinary collaborative team to deliver the planned ambition of the application. While we recognise there is significant transdisciplinary expertise within any university, the strength of the team will be amplified by including other institutions with complementary expertise in the proposal.

International collaboration

Are international collaborations permitted in this consortium? /What opportunities are there for collaboration between UK project team members and researchers from low- and middle-income countries? / What could be the role of international partners? / Can projects be done in LMIC?

We welcome international researchers as project co-leads if they provide expertise not available in the UK, and they make a major contribution to the design of the project. International project co-leads need to be employed by an international research organisation otherwise, they may be eligible as a project partner. However, project partners cannot claim funds from UKRI as they are expected to provide contributions to the delivery of the project, either in cash or in kind.

For further information, please refer to: [UKRI project co-lead \(international\) policy – UKRI](#)

What type of funding is available to international collaborators?

UKRI only covers specific costs of project co-leads (international) involved in applications led by UK project leads. The total of such costs requested for international applicants from high-income countries, India and China must not exceed 30% of the total resources requested. There is no cap on costs requested for international applicants from DAC list countries and we will additionally pay overhead support and for equipment providing such costs are justified.

For more information on international costs and what we will and will not fund see the [UKRI project co-lead \(international\) policy](#)

Is there a limit on the number of potential international partners for this grant?

More than one international co-lead may be involved in an application but please bear in mind our policy of the total costs of the combined funding as mentioned above. All costs must be justified, and applicants must explain why such costs are required to achieve the aims of the research project. International project co-leads must provide expertise not available in the UK and make a major contribution to the design of the project.

AMR being a global concern, how much priority is given towards multinational collaboration? / Is there a preference for multi-country proposal?

Applications will be evaluated on their pathway to impact, including scope of potential and ability to tackle the area(s) highlighted whether this be a national or multinational level.

Can we focus our proposal on interdisciplinary global training?

No, this funding opportunity is to support transdisciplinary research projects.

Is there any disadvantage on not having international partners within the research team, can it be UK only and will FCDO be on the review panels?

There is no advantage or disadvantage to having international partners within the research team. We recognise that AMR is not restricted by national boundaries and therefore projects can be relevant to the UK, LMICs, or a global setting. FCDO is currently not a co-funder for this funding opportunity.

Project partners

Is it essential to include policy makers or industrial sectors in the project team?

Project partners do not need to specifically be policy makers or from industrial sectors, if they are not relevant to your project. However, we do want to see a range of stakeholders included as partners in applications. We encourage projects to build an appropriate team that brings together both academic researchers and a range of stakeholders from across UKRI's remit. There is an expectation that projects will work collaboratively with communities, people with lived experience, practitioners and policy makers **where research insights are anticipated to feed directly into policy and practice**. Where there are partnerships, these need to be equitable and sustainable with all parties committed to the co-creation and implementation of ideas.

There is a broad range of who could be a project partner including:

- members of the business community
- policymakers and members from the public, private and third sectors
- practitioners such as clinicians, crop breeders, farmers, veterinarians, landowners
- representatives from civil society, humanitarian and independent NGOs
- people with lived experience
- local communities

Is there an expectation on how many partners there are per proposal

No. There is no limit on number of project partners

Can we bring in international project partners? /Is there funding support for international project partners?

Project partners, whether UK based or internationally, 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 be subject to review.

Can industrial partners that support field sampling be a co-lead as opposed to project partners and request funding?

No, industrial partners are not eligible as co-leads or to receive funding from UKRI. Project partners are expected to provide contributions to the delivery of the project, either in cash or in kind. 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 be subject to peer review.

Can I collaborate with departments or sectors doing work similar to the UKRI remits but not particularly among the listed ones?

In short yes, but we encourage you to check the remits of the councils. You do not need to have been funded by one of the councils to qualify for being in its remit.

Phase 1 funding – Transdisciplinary AMR networks

Is being part of the phase one funded networks a pre-requisite for applying for this grant or be given any priority? / Are you expecting there to be a link between phase one networks and phase two submissions?

This funding opportunity follows phase one: [Transdisciplinary networks to tackle antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\) – UKRI](#) which invests in the [eight transdisciplinary networks](#) which aims to connect and expand the UK AMR communities. You do not need to be in receipt of phase one funding to apply to phase two.

While not a requirement, will assessment preference be given to applications linked with the previously funded AMR Networks? / To what extent should proposals build on existing previously funded networks?

We will take a quality-driven portfolio approach to making awards, ensuring that we support research across the breadth of the scope of the call and research council remits. The portfolio approach does not include any prioritisation of applications from those in receipt of phase one funding.

Will you be coordinating any match-making activities for potential collaborating researchers, different disciplines, etc.? / How do we get reports of phase one research questions from the networks?

This is something we enabled in phase one via our eight transdisciplinary networks which span across a broad range of themes. These networks are active and open to new members and provide opportunities for networking and collaborations and developing research ideas. We encourage you to join and engage in these networks to find potential collaborators.

Information regarding the AMR networks: [New research networks will tackle antimicrobial resistance – UKRI](#)

Do you have any expectations on how projects will interact / engage with the existing transdisciplinary AMR networks?

We anticipate supporting coordination and engagement between the phase one networks and phase two project grants as well as with some other existing strategic AMR investments.

Remit

Is there a minimum number of research council disciplines that the projects should span?

We've included a requirement that applications must include the disciplinary remits of at least three research councils. The funding opportunity is being delivered by a team that includes membership from all the research councils and partners in Defra and NIHR. All applications will be assessed by this team as to whether they meet the three council remit requirement. In instances where there is overlap between councils, i.e., proposed research is at the interface of two councils' remits, we will look, as part of the assessment process, how the research is being applied to determine whether it is relevant to one or both councils. Please be aware it would not automatically count as relevant to two council remits.

For example, at the interface between ESRC and AHRC, social anthropology is in the remit of both research councils so we will look at whether the project is oriented towards arts and humanities, the social sciences or both. AHRC and ESRC have a joint [statement on subject coverage interfaces between the Arts and Humanities and the Social Sciences](#) which provides further information.

Another example is cell biology which is relevant to both BBSRC and MRC remits, in which case we will look at how it is being applied to determine whether it is relevant to one or both councils. Also note that our co-funders' remits are in scope but given the significant disciplinary overlap between the research councils

and co-funders' remits, we have not included them in the three UKRI research council remit checking system to ensure projects are transdisciplinary. For example, if one discipline is biomedical science this could cover MRC or NIHR remit or both but would only be counted as one council remit. This is similar for other overlaps such as BBSRC and Defra remits.

What is the definition of transdisciplinary with AMR in mind?

For this funding opportunity, we define transdisciplinarity as research that transgresses boundaries between disciplinary knowledge or integrates different bodies of knowledge and actively co-creates knowledge between academic and societal partners such as policymakers or business. The project must develop a coordinated and coherent approach to address an interrelated set of questions across a broad area of research and innovation within the scope of this opportunity.

We encourage projects to build an appropriate team that brings together academic researchers and a range of stakeholders from across UKRI's remit. To be eligible, projects must span the remit of three of UKRI's research councils, using transdisciplinary approaches to bring fresh perspectives to our understanding of antimicrobial resistance. We are looking for innovative and ambitious applications that could not be funded through standard research council opportunities. Applications which do not bring together different disciplines alongside stakeholder involvement will be out of scope.

How important is authentic transdisciplinarity?

Transdisciplinarity is a requirement of this funding opportunity. We are looking for innovative and ambitious applications that could not be funded via our standard opportunities.

We expect projects to work collaboratively with communities, people with lived experience, practitioners and policy makers and other stakeholders (which can include government, industry, charities, NGOs, etc.) where research insights are anticipated to feed directly into policy and practice. Partnerships should be equitable and sustainable with all parties committed to the co-creation and implementation of ideas.

Therefore, applications which do not bring together different disciplines alongside stakeholder involvement will be out of scope and will not be considered for funding.

Do projects need to show novelty in each of the councils' remits projects cut across?

The proposal should look to deliver high quality, impactful, novel research and approaches overall. Projects need to demonstrate a clear link to the research council remits and how this inclusion of disciplines helps to enable your proposal as a whole.

What do you mean by remit from three councils in practical terms - do we need evidence of remit for each?

You will need to evidence how you are incorporating different disciplines, skills, approaches in your application and the alignment to that council remit.

For the purposes of covering the remit of several research councils, do you count Innovate UK as a research council?

Innovate UK is not a funder partner in this funding opportunity.

Does the call require 'academic/discovery research' in scope of at least three research councils or could the discovery elements relate to one or two councils with policy development or stakeholder engagement related to others?

Fundamental and applied research applications and applications that take a combination of approaches would fit the scope of this funding opportunity provided it spans at least three UKRI research council remits.

Academic 'discovery' research can look different across different disciplines and sectors. We are encouraging a breadth of research disciplines and stakeholders be involved to deliver your application

You do not need to have policy researchers involved in your application because the project may cover other research areas and stakeholders that you want to involve.

Scope

Will the solutions regarding AMR be expected to be practical or socially orientated?

We have no expectations in this area, either approach is equally valid, and will be accepted.

Can some of the research take place outside the UK?

Yes, but the project lead needs to be based at an eligible UK institution, but work can be carried out internationally.

Is the expectation that the main focus will be the UK, or would a main or additional focus on LMICs also be considered?

The intention of this call is to fund transdisciplinary research to tackle AMR. We recognise that AMR is not restricted by national boundaries and therefore projects can be relevant to the UK, LMICs, or a global setting.

Is the call aimed at questions that have global relevance or have more place-based based applicability?

Both are in scope and will be assessed on the potential for impact, novelty of approach, transdisciplinary strength of the application and ability to deliver.

Is a disease specific application acceptable? / What specific disease would the fund prioritise?

Applications can be focused on a specific disease or pathogen or can address a generic or wide-ranging issue. It will be important to provide justification for such an approach. Also, applications will be evaluated on their pathway to impact, including scope of potential and ability to tackle the area(s) highlighted whether this be a singular or multi-method/area application.

Are there priority pathogens?

There are no priority pathogens or areas for this AMR funding opportunity.

Do projects have to adopt a one health approach? / Can a proposal just focus on human pathogen/health if no relevance to animal or environmental reservoirs? / Should the project cover all aspects of One Health, or could it focus on one aspect (e.g. animal health)? / Do you need all three OH pillars (human, animal, environment) in a proposal, or are two enough?

Approaches using 'One Health' or, similarly, 'Planetary Health' framing are encouraged where appropriate but not explicitly required. However, projects do have to be transdisciplinary and span across three UKRI research council remits

Would research into AMR and potential human behavioural drivers at the wildlife – environment - livestock interface in LMICs fit?

While we cannot comment on every single proposal's target, proposals looking to bring different disciplines together to address a target area is aligned to this call. All applications must span at least three councils remits and need to demonstrate the transdisciplinary approach being taken to address the area of the application.

Will a One Health approach and collaboration between humans, the environment and veterinary be considered?

Recognising the interconnectedness of these domains is key to understanding the development and spread of AMR and tackling it through a One Health approach. However, we cannot comment on every single proposal's target. Proposals looking to bring different disciplines together to address a target area are aligned to this call. All applications must span at least three councils' remits and need to demonstrate the transdisciplinary approach being taken to address the area of the application.

Can this grant support a single site, transdisciplinary clinical study?

Applications could be focused on a single site, which could be a healthcare setting or clinical sample collection. However, all applications must be transdisciplinary and cross the remits of at least three research councils. We would therefore not expect to support clinical trials in this opportunity, as this later stage of research would not typically involve significant input of three disciplines. Also, there are other well-established opportunities to apply for funding for clinical trials.

Is the use of antimicrobial biomaterials in scope

Yes, as part of a transdisciplinary application and spans at least three UKRI research council remits.

Can surveillance tools and/or diagnostics be part of this call?

Developing innovative new tools, technologies and methods for rapid and large-scale diagnostics for detection and surveillance of AMR is within the scope of this funding opportunity.

However, this funding opportunity is not designed to support the delivery of surveillance or detection systems as this is outside the scope of UKRI as a funding agency, although development of new surveillance approaches could be considered as part of a wider proposal. We also recognise that surveillance data might underpin a significant programme of work and that this may not be readily available in some settings in which case we will allow surveillance as a minor, facilitating component if it's critical to enable a wider holistic programme of research, but in such instances, we would expect evidence of sustainability through relevant government agency or ministry support.

The late-stage development or roll-out evaluation of new interventions including diagnostics, and diagnostic technology platforms is also out of scope.

Will the call fund fundamental research on emerging AMR issues, or only intervention studies?

Fundamental and applied research applications and applications that take a combination of approaches would fit the scope of this funding opportunity provided it spans at least three UKRI research council remits.

Would a high-risk high-reward proposal be suited for this call?

We are seeking ambitious transdisciplinary proposals. UKRI is keen to support high-impact research and innovation, and the onus is on the applicants to convince the panel that the level of risk is appropriately managed and that the proposed impact is realistic.

Can basic research be considered? More specifically, is including policy/social science essential since three UKRI research council remits need to be covered?

Fundamental and applied research applications and applications that take a combination of approaches would fit the scope of this funding opportunity provided it spans at least three UKRI research council remits. Policy and social research are in scope but are not essential to the delivery of all applications.

Is technology readiness required or favoured?

As a research call, we would expect projects to fall within the early Technology Readiness levels and anything towards the end of commercial readiness is not in scope. As such technology readiness is neither required nor favoured.

Can the proposal include research questions on the impact of certain substances on AMR?

Yes, the aims of this funding opportunity are to reduce, replace, optimise, improve access to and innovate the use of antimicrobials by supporting transdisciplinary research that will improve our understanding of and provide new opportunities to prevent and combat AMR. However, proposals must be transdisciplinary and span across the remits of at least three UKRI research councils.

Is research focused on HIV drug resistance considered eligible for this call?

Yes, as part of a transdisciplinary application and spans across the remits of at least three UKRI research councils.

Would remit include E. coli UTI and bacteraemia?

Yes, as part of a transdisciplinary application and spans across the remits of at least three UKRI research councils.

I understand the project can't focus on specific product development, but could it help to move forward a product type as a whole, e.g., gain key information to accelerate vaccine development for a specific pathogen?

Transdisciplinary research investigating early-stage vaccine development is within the scope of this funding opportunity provided it falls within the remits of at least three research councils.

Late-stage development or roll out evaluations of new vaccines and vaccine platforms are out of scope for this funding opportunity.

Is it expected that there could be an overlap in projects with the cross UKRI call for Epidemic Threats?

Antimicrobial resistance is excluded in the funding opportunity for interdisciplinary research to tackle epidemic threats.

If a proposal is focused on an epidemic-potential pathogen which happens to be drug resistant, then that would fall within the scope of the interdisciplinary research to tackle epidemic threats funding opportunity.

If the proposal wants to explore the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance, this falls within the scope of this transdisciplinary research to tackle AMR funding opportunity.