

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Health Technologies Connectivity Awards Round 2

**Frequently Asked Questions, including questions asked and
answered in the webinar on 2 July 2025**

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Core team

<p>Are researcher co-leads allowed on these awards?</p>	<p>Yes, you can list the key members of your team and assign them roles from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project lead (PL) • project co-lead (UK) (PcL) • project co-lead (international) (PcL (I)) • specialist • grant manager • professional enabling staff • research and innovation associate • technician • visiting researcher • researcher co-lead (RcL) <p>Only list one individual as project lead.</p> <p>UKRI has introduced a new addition to the 'Specialist' role type. Public contributors such as people with lived experience can now be added to an application.</p> <p>Find out more about UKRI's core team roles in funding applications.</p>
<p>Is it possible to request a research assistant (RA) and/or post-doctoral research assistant (PDRA) to work on some/all work packages?</p> <p>Can a new post-doctoral research assistant (PDRA) be recruited to help deliver some of the research component in the project?</p>	<p>Requesting funds to hire new staff is allowed. However, please note that Career Development is one of the assessment criteria.</p> <p>Within the career development section, we also expect you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ demonstrate that the identified career goals and mentoring arrangements are inclusive of each team member named in the core team section and any unnamed staff such as research and innovation associates
<p>Just for clarity, only Norwegian researchers can participate in the call as an international applicant, be it individual or in a team?</p>	<p>As per UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Research Council of Norway Money Follows Cooperation agreement, a 'project co-lead (international)' can be based in a Norwegian institution.</p> <p>Salaries of international collaborators from outside Norway cannot be costed on this grant. However, international collaborators from outside Norway can be added to the project as project partners.</p> <p>Note: project partners cannot normally receive funding directly from the grant. The two exceptions to this are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. where a project partner is providing services or equipment that will go through a formal procurement process audited by the host research organisation 2. the project partner can receive small amounts of funding from the grant, such as for travel and subsistence to attend project meetings. These will need to be requested by the project lead and will need to be fully justified.

<p>Is this funding opportunity open to any career stage?</p> <p>What career stage of researchers can apply for this award or how will this award support the researchers' career development?</p> <p>Can early career researchers lead on an application?</p>	<p>This scheme is open to all career stages.</p> <p>Standard eligibility applies - project leads must be academic employees – lecturer or equivalent – of an eligible organisation and must be resident in the UK, except under specific conditions.</p>
<p>My research team consists of 4 faculty members from Engineering backgrounds working with an NHS research centre. Is it allowed to cost more than one researcher to have a short stay in the NHS?</p>	<p>Yes, this scheme is open for teams as well as individuals to apply. If you choose to apply as a team, then we would expect you to describe how each of the team members will benefit from this award.</p>
<p>Can researcher co-leads be post-doctoral research assistants (PDRAs)?</p>	<p>Standard eligibility and roles apply including researcher co-leads. Please find more details here.</p>
<p>Will I be eligible to apply for EPSRC New Investigator Award if unsuccessful in this funding opportunity?</p>	<p>Please note that you will no longer be eligible to apply for EPSRC New Investigator funding opportunity if you apply as project lead to this funding opportunity (even if unsuccessful).</p>
<p>Are researchers currently holding non-academic posts eligible to be a project lead on an application? With or without an academic co-lead?</p>	<p>Standard eligibility applies for this funding opportunity. To see whether you would be eligible to be a project lead or co-lead, please go to: Check if you're eligible for funding – EPSRC – UKRI</p>
<p>Are research technical professionals eligible to be a project lead or co-lead?</p>	<p>Standard eligibility applies for this funding opportunity. To see whether you would be eligible to be a project lead or co-lead, please go to: Check if you're eligible for funding – EPSRC – UKRI</p>
<p>About PhD students, I understand they cannot be funded, but can they be part of the team?</p>	<p>Although PhD studentships cannot be funded through this award, PhD students can be part of the team. However, we would expect you to evidence in your application how you would follow any policies and requirements regarding extra-curricular work for PhD students.</p>
<p>If the project involves recruiting a PhD student, do we need to show there is other source of funding to support this PhD?</p>	<p>Yes, we would expect you to evidence other source of funding to cover any PhD studentships.</p>

Working Pattern

<p>Is there a minimum % of time project lead (PL) is expected to work on the project?</p>	<p>There is no minimum % of time a project lead is expected to work on the project; however, we expect applicants to immerse themselves in the new environment (provided by the host organisation) for time appropriate to their specific training needs and pilot project(s).</p> <p>Pattern of work can vary and can change during the duration of the grant. This means, you can for example, work with your collaborator part time for several months and then switch to full time for some time and so on.</p>
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Can you request to work full-time (fully embedded) within the host organisation (a different department in the same university as my home department) for up to 3 years?	Yes, the working pattern is flexible. Please note your working pattern will have to be supported by both home and host organisations (see assessment criterion: Home and host organisations support).
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Remit, scope, and pilot project(s)

Does the project have to deliver something novel?	<p>Novel engineering and physical sciences (EPS) research contributing to the delivery of the health technologies strategy must comprise a proportion of the placement.</p> <p>Any of the pilot project(s) proposed in your application need to be within EPSRC Health Technologies remit. Research projects should address one or more of the three challenges listed in the health technologies strategy. We are particularly interested in projects which address our ‘population health and prevention’ challenge.</p> <p>We aim to fund a diverse range of projects across the health technologies portfolio and to complement the previous round of this funding opportunity.</p> <p>View the successful applications awarded at the first round of this funding opportunity, see PAN796 (held in Dec 2024).</p> <p>Details about the EPSRC remit can be found here: EPSRC remit – EPSRC – UKRI</p>
Should the project be linked to a specific health outcome or can it be a development of foundational work that could have an impact on a number of health outcomes?	We do not prefer one over the other as we recognise that it depends on the nature of the research you propose to carry out. Development of foundational work that could have an impact on a number of health outcomes is within remit of the opportunity as well as projects linked directly to one specific health outcome/impact. You can demonstrate how your work can impact the health technologies field in both Vision and approach and Added Value sections.
Could you advise on what balance should be there regarding career development among the team members? For example, would it be better for the research and innovation associate to spend time at the host institution or for the project lead?	We expect the career development to be inclusive of any team members named in the core team section and any unnamed staff such as research and innovation associates. The balance will depend on the nature of your proposed research and pilot project(s) and it is up to the applicant to justify their approach.
How do you define being "immersed" in the project?	We appreciate that this will look different for each applicant depending on the nature of their research. However, we would expect the applicant and if applicable their team to embed themselves in the host organisation’s environment and form strong collaborations with the host organisation(s). We would expect the applicants to spend enough time in the host organisation to develop the new skills and learnings proposed in the application.

Would the call support non-EP SRC researchers who have identified unmet need to a health/clinical area transition into an EP SRC field? Even if applicant has no previous experience in an EP SRC technical area?	Yes, applicants coming from non-EP SRC fields who would like to develop EP SRC related skills are welcome to apply for this award. However, please note novel EP research must comprise a significant proportion of the placement and the research projects should address one or more of the three challenges listed in the health technologies strategy .
Can applicants outside the healthcare area get support in finding healthcare participants (e.g. for the development of use cases)? Or is it a requirement for the applicant to have prior collaboration in healthcare?	EP SRC doesn't provide any support with finding suitable collaborations. However, this award supports new collaborations and therefore prior (pre-award) work with the collaborators in healthcare field is not a requirement. We recommend getting in touch with your Research Office to see whether they could support you with finding the right collaboration and/or for example with Patients and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE).
If someone has prior experience of healthcare collaborations, are they still eligible to apply?	Yes. However, we expect applicant to spend time in a new research or user environment and to develop new skills. Therefore, we would expect the applicants to demonstrate how different this environment is to the ones they have previously worked in and what new skills they will develop. Please note that if you already hold any EP SRC or other grant on the core technology, your proposal to this scheme must be substantially different as we cannot double fund you.
Do we need to present preliminary data in the application?	Please see the criteria for assessment - it will be for you to decide how best to make the case for the review process.
Is there a threshold for the funding requested for pilot studies seeking to collect preliminary data?	You will want to consider how best to make the case for your plans and justify the resources. Overall, the full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to £500,000. EP SRC will fund 80% of the FEC.
What TRL level is expected from the proposal?	EP SRC funds up to about proof of concept. Please find more information here .
In terms of the new skills the funding scheme will support the researchers to develop, how different the new skills should be comparing to the researchers' current discipline? For example, if a researcher has been working on biological signal processing, can she/he apply the funding to develop skills in the discipline of physiology or computational modelling which is also in the field of Engineering?	As long as you can justify why you cannot gain these particular skills in your current environment and why you need to go into your host's environment, then we would consider this to be sufficiently different environment. Different department within your home organisation can also be an eligible host organisation.

<p>Engagement with clinicians to shape technological solutions better to address unmet clinical needs is a key aim of the call. How formed should the solution be at this stage considering a key aim is better understanding of unmet clinical need? Is there a risk of putting a square peg in a round hole? Is there flexibility to adapt things within the call as successful applicants understand the clinical need better?</p>	<p>The solution does not need to be formed at this stage. One of the purposes of the award is to understand that unmet clinical need and understand that clinical environment. So, this award is an opportunity for you to start investigating these topics and to obtain some preliminary data to see whether it's worth exploring further or not. We would also expect you to identify potential risks and outline how you would mitigate these.</p>
<p>Could you say a little more about the balance between skills development for the project lead and novel research. Of course, we might expect those to overlap, but one could imagine scenarios where they may point in separate directions.</p>	<p>The focus of this scheme is on the skills and collaborations development. However, we do not impose any limits on how much time should be spent on research and how much on the skills development as this will be individual to each proposal. We expect that you will develop new skills which you will be able to use independently at the end of the award in order to work on your pilot project but also beyond the duration of this award. Therefore, it would be understandable that you would for example, spend more time on skills development at the beginning of the project and more on research towards the end of the project. However, the split in between skills development and research will be individual to each proposal and it will depend on how well you will justify your approach.</p>
<p>Can the new skills and knowledge acquired be less academically relevant but more industrially relevant? This may help with translational potential.</p>	<p>Yes, the skills and knowledge can be industrially relevant. However, please note that the proposal will need to be within EPSRC remit, and you should clearly address the health technologies strategy in your proposal.</p>
<p>Award will support (1) person in EPSRC field going to non EPSRC field and (2) non-EPSRC field to EPSRC. Do you prioritise one option over the other?</p>	<p>No, we don't prioritize either option over the other. Both options will be equally assessed against the assessment criteria.</p>
<p>When you say skills development, is it meant to be technical skills development or could it also be "softer" more translational skills such as patient engagement, medical device regulation, human factors etc. that expedite translation?</p>	<p>Yes, skills such as public and patient involvement and engagement, medical device regulation, translation etc. can be developed as part of this award. We will also welcome involvement of social sciences, health economics, and similar areas.</p>

As you mentioned, this award is mainly targeted at preliminary data collection. Is in-depth analysis of data that are already collected acceptable? The skills to be acquired is more on how to translate the potential findings into practice.	As long as the proposal is within EPSRC remit and you address the EPSRC health technologies strategy , then this should be acceptable. We would also expect you to justify why these new skills are not available to you in your current environment and why you need to move into different environment.
The page on funding finder states "We are particularly interested in projects which address our 'population health and prevention' challenge" - is this a priority for this call would early detection or other challenges be equally considered	The reason why we highlighted Population health and prevention is that this portfolio is currently underrepresented. We would like to inspire people to apply within this area. But we will assess proposals in all three challenges equally. There isn't any assessment criterion which prioritises Population health and prevention challenge. Please find more details on each of the three challenges in the EPSRC health technologies strategy .
We have filed some patents on some novel concepts of surgical robots. Can we use this call to validate these concepts in the patents?	If you've already patented the technology, then this sounds like a higher technology readiness level than EPSRC would normally fund. Therefore, this proposal may not be within remit for this scheme. But please do reach out to us – you can email us at healthcare@epsrc.ukri.org and give us more detail on your idea. We will have a look at the remit of your application and if it's not relevant to our scheme, we can share it with other research councils and see if there's a relevant opportunity that you can apply to.
Is Brain Computer interface research domain fine for this call?	Yes, as this domain is within EPSRC remit. However, please note that your proposal needs to address the assessment criteria and that it needs to align with the EPSRC health technologies strategy .
We have an early diagnostics device and AI technology that could be used in cancer and brain therapeutic areas. Can we submit two applications? or better to combine them into one?	This would be at the discretion of the applicant. Please see the criteria for assessment - it will be for you to decide how best to make the case for the review process.
I can see that the majority of the successful projects last year have medical theme in them. What about other areas related to population health and safety such as improving food safety, detecting toxins in food etc. are these covered in this call?	This sounds it could be in remit as long as a specific health objective such as eliminating or preventing disease will be addressed through the proposal. However, please email us at healthcare@epsrc.ukri.org with more details if you need further advice on the remit.
Are projects involving mental wellbeing included in the remit?	Yes, addressing mental health and wellbeing is within remit as long as the project involves majority of engineering and physical sciences research. For more details on EPSRC remit, please see EPSRC remit – EPSRC – UKRI .
Is it desirable or undesirable for the project lead to have previously had EPSRC grant on the core technology?	We will not prioritise one option over the other. However, please note that if you already hold any EPSRC or other grant on the core technology, your proposal to this scheme must be substantially different as we cannot double fund you.
Is using ToF cameras and AI identification for use in virtual wards within the scope of this call?	This sounds like it would be within EPSRC health technologies remit and therefore within remit of this scheme. However, please email us at healthcare@epsrc.ukri.org with more details if you need further advice on the remit.



How is this scheme different than say an EPSRC fellowship?	This scheme is more about somebody trying to find new collaborations and trying to develop new skills. It's almost like the start of a research project journey. So, what we would expect as an outcome of this award is that you would develop or strengthen a collaboration and learn new skills and then you would be able to apply for bigger grants afterwards. Whereas an EPSRC fellowship is more for somebody who's already got an established research idea and established vision. And it's more about the individual that will be taking forward that research.
Does this mean the project does not necessarily need to lead to a novel outcome in terms of scientific/technological discovery?	Although the focus is on skills and collaborations development, novel engineering and physical sciences (EPS) research contributing to the delivery of the EPSRC health technologies strategy still must comprise a proportion of the placement.
Can we send synopsis to you to check if the proposal is within the scope?	Yes, please email us at healthcare@epsrc.ukri.org with brief summary and we will help you decide whether your proposal is within remit.
Is the skills development more important (more highly weighted in the assessment) in this funding scheme than the research work itself?	All assessment criteria are equally weighted in this funding opportunity.
When you say you aim to complement the projects funded in previous round of the opportunity, does it mean you wouldn't fund projects in the same topics in the second round?	If scored highly across the assessment criteria, we will fund projects in the topics which have been already addressed in the previous round. However, novelty is part of the assessment criteria and therefore, the projects submitted to the current round must be substantially different to the projects funded in the previous round.

Eligible costs

What expenses can be claimed?	<p>We will fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - salary of the core team - project co-lead(s) at the host institution (see home and host organisations section for definition of host institution) to provide the necessary training and guidance, subject to EPSRC's eligibility for funding - travel and subsistence while away from the home institution - training courses or development opportunities, including those for commercialisation and knowledge exchange - consumables to carry out the research - spending on broadening the impact of the award and maximising collaborative work between other disciplines - equipment (Between £25,000 and £400,000 per item) - Quotes for equipment do not need to be included in your application, but please retain quotes for equipment costing more than £138,000 as we may ask for these at post-panel stage before releasing funds. <p>If the host organisation is eligible to receive EPSRC funding, your host can be listed as project co-lead on the application.</p>
Can home organisation overhead costs be covered?	Yes, standard grant arrangements apply. If your host(s) is based in an organisation which is eligible to receive funding from EPSRC, then they can be listed in your core team as project co-lead and their salary can be costed on your proposal. Please find more information here (see Estates costs and Indirect costs).
Can host organisation overhead costs be covered?	If the host organisation is eligible to receive EPSRC funding, then overhead costs can be costed for this organisation as well. Please find more information here (see Estates costs and Indirect costs).
What share of overhead is assigned to the host?	If the host organisation is eligible to receive EPSRC funding, you can request overhead costs necessary for your research project. Standard rules apply – please find more information here (see Estates costs and Indirect costs).
Can project lead include % salary to cover teaching time?	One of the assessment criteria of this award is Home and host organisation support and as part of this question, we expect you to address how the home organisation will ensure your time commitment to the award is protected. Therefore, we would expect the project lead will form an agreement with the home organisation on how their teaching time will be covered.
Is there any split of funding constraint between home and host institution?	There are no funding constraints from EPSRC for this. It depends how you justify what costs you need on your projects and how you will negotiate between the two organisations about how they will support you appropriately (what resources you need from each organisation to help you deliver your projects).

<p>The host organisation has some equipment. Could similar equipment (~7k) be charged to the costing so that this equipment can also be used at the home organisation?</p>	<p>If you can fully justify this cost, then this should be permissible. Please note that the 'Resources and cost justification' is one of the assessment criteria.</p>
<p>Can we request funding for travel of partners to our institution to put together experimental rigs and capabilities?</p>	<p>The available roles include visiting researchers and you can apply for T&S for any visiting researchers. Please note funding for visiting researchers is limited to 12 months per individual. The research organisation should include estate costs and indirect costs for any visiting researcher regardless of whether the support being requested includes a salary contribution or is only travel and subsistence.</p> <p>If the collaborator is a project partner, you may want to check the information here: Project partners letter of support – UKRI.</p> <p>Note: project partners cannot normally receive funding directly from the grant. The two exceptions to this are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. where a project partner is providing services or equipment that will go through a formal procurement process audited by the host research organisation 2. the project partner can receive small amounts of funding from the grant, such as for travel and subsistence to attend project meetings. These will need to be requested by the project lead and will need to be fully justified.

Home organisation support

<p>Do we need support letter from the home organisation to show the support for academics to spend time in other organisation, like reduce teaching working load?</p>	<p>No, we don't require letters of support from the home organisations. However, we would expect you to describe their support in the Home and host organisations support section.</p>
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Host organisation

<p>I work in School of Engineering. Is Medical School of the university I work at considered an eligible host?</p> <p>Can host and home organization be the same?</p>	<p>Yes, different department in your organisation is also an eligible host.</p>
<p>Can the host be a different department within the same organisation?</p>	<p>In short - yes. Please bear in mind the criteria that it will be assessed against.</p>

<p>Can the industry partner (e.g., pharma) be a host?</p>	<p>We welcome applications with industrial host organisations. However, industrial organisations are not eligible to receive funding from EPSRC and therefore, they will need to be listed as project partners. You will need to provide a letter of support outlining your project partner's in-kind contributions to the project.</p> <p>Note: project partners cannot normally receive funding directly from the grant. The two exceptions to this are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. where a project partner is providing services or equipment that will go through a formal procurement process audited by the host research organisation 2. the project partner can receive small amounts of funding from the grant, such as for travel and subsistence to attend project meetings. These will need to be requested by the project lead and will need to be fully justified.
<p>Is an NHS trust an eligible host, and can it receive funding?</p>	<p>Many NHS Trusts have completed the registration with UKRI for research grants are eligible - you might need to check with the relevant NHS trust whether they have completed this process. More information on NHS eligibility can be found here: Eligibility as an organisation – UKRI.</p>
<p>Is there a priority order in host organisation? Academic institution, NHS, industrial partner?</p>	<p>No - but do please look at the criteria and how you would address these in your proposal.</p>
<p>Are we expected to work with one partner organisation or, having selected an area of focus, working with multiple partners?</p>	<p>This scheme allows for multiple host organisations to be involved. These collaborations can feed into one or multiple pilot project(s). Please note, we expect applicants to immerse themselves in the new environment (provided by the host organisation) for time appropriate to their specific training needs and pilot project(s).</p>

<p>Can we choose more than one host organisation? Can one be from the UK and one from outside the UK? Can these host organisations get funding?</p> <p>How many host organisations can be included?</p>	<p>Yes, this scheme allows for multiple host organisations to be involved. There is no limit on the number of host organisations involved. These collaborations can feed into one or multiple pilot project(s). Please note, we expect applicants to immerse themselves in the new environment (provided by the host organisation) for time appropriate to their specific training needs and pilot project(s).</p> <p>If the UK based organisation is eligible to receive funding from EPSRC, then costs can be requested for this host. Organisations outside the UK are eligible to receive funding from EPSRC only if they are Norwegian institutions under the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Research Council of Norway Money Follows Cooperation agreement. International institutions outside Norway cannot be costed on this grant. However, international collaborators from outside Norway can be added to the project as project partners.</p> <p>Note: project partners cannot normally receive funding directly from the grant. The two exceptions to this are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. where a project partner is providing services or equipment that will go through a formal procurement process audited by the host research organisation 2. the project partner can receive small amounts of funding from the grant, such as for travel and subsistence to attend project meetings. These will need to be requested by the project lead and will need to be fully justified.
<p>Can local authorities such as city councils receive funding as a host organisation?</p>	<p>We welcome applications with local councils. However, they are not eligible to receive funding from EPSRC and therefore, they will need to be listed as project partners. You will need to provide a letter of support outlining your project partner's in-kind contributions to the project.</p> <p>Note: project partners cannot normally receive funding directly from the grant. The two exceptions to this are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. where a project partner is providing services or equipment that will go through a formal procurement process audited by the host research organisation 2. the project partner can receive small amounts of funding from the grant, such as for travel and subsistence to attend project meetings. These will need to be requested by the project lead and will need to be fully justified.

<p>Do I need to get supporting letter from the host organization?</p>	<p>This depends on whether the host organisation is eligible to receive EPSRC funding or not.</p> <p>We would not expect letters of support from host organisations which are eligible to receive EPSRC funding.</p> <p>In case of host organisations ineligible to receive EPSRC funding, we would recommend to list these as host organisations in the Host organisations section. You can then describe their support in detail in the Home and host organisations support section. And finally, we would recommend to list them as project partners as well in the Project partners section as they will most likely provide some in-kind contribution to the project. In that case, we would also expect you to attach a letter of support from them in the Project partners: letters (or emails) of support section.</p> <p>Note: project partners cannot normally receive funding directly from the grant. The two exceptions to this are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. where a project partner is providing services or equipment that will go through a formal procurement process audited by the host research organisation 2. the project partner can receive small amounts of funding from the grant, such as for travel and subsistence to attend project meetings. These will need to be requested by the project lead and will need to be fully justified.
<p>Should we list the host organisations as project partners?</p>	<p>You can list the host organisations as project partners if they are ineligible to receive EPSRC funding or if you choose to not include them on your core team.</p> <p>In case of host organisations ineligible to receive EPSRC funding, we would recommend to list these as host organisations in the Host organisations section. You can then describe their support in detail in the Home and host organisations support section. And finally, we would recommend to list them as project partners as well in the Project partners section as they will most likely provide some in-kind contribution to the project. In that case, we would also expect you to attach a letter of support from them in the Project partners: letters (or emails) of support section.</p> <p>Note: project partners cannot normally receive funding directly from the grant. The two exceptions to this are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. where a project partner is providing services or equipment that will go through a formal procurement process audited by the host research organisation 2. the project partner can receive small amounts of funding from the grant, such as for travel and subsistence to attend project meetings. These will need to be requested by the project lead and will need to be fully justified.

Mandatory Intention to Submit

What is the information requested in the Mandatory Intention to Submit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the project lead • Email address of the project lead • Home organisation (where would the grant be held) • Draft title of your Connectivity award • List of key words describing the Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) research areas addressed by your Connectivity award • List of your intended hosts and host organisations • List of your intended project partners
Will the Intention to Submit be assessed?	No, information provided as part of the intention to submit will not be formally assessed. We will use this information to help plan the proposal assessment, for example to understand expected submission levels and the spread of applications, and to identify potential pool of expert panel members.
Can the information in the Intention to Submit differ to the final application?	You are not required to have finalised all the details of your application by the time the intention to submit is made. We recognise that information provided in the full proposal, including the names of the partners, may differ from the information provided in the intention to submit form.
What would you recommend to do when we are not sure who from the team will be the project lead?	We would recommend to either submit the Intention to Submit closer to its deadline (18 September, 2 weeks before the funding opportunity closes) or for each potential project lead to submit their individual form separately.

Assessment process

Could you please clarify what is the peer review/assessment process? How is this different to review process for common EPSRC grants such as standard grant?	<p>We will build a panel of experts most suitable to assess the received proposals. These experts will first act as reviewers and provide you with the comments against the assessment criteria to which you will be able to reply in a project lead response. The same experts which will have provided you with the comments will then sit on a prioritisation panel. They will discuss your proposal and your project lead response and rank it alongside other applications.</p> <p>When compared to the assessment process for EPSRC standard grant, the main difference is in the fact that the panellists act also as reviewers. This means the same experts who will provide you with the comments will also read your project lead response and then rank your proposal at the panel.</p>
Will the panel be made of those with engineering and physical sciences expertise, or will it also include clinicians?	Based on the received applications, we will invite most suitable experts from multiple sectors such as academia, clinical practice, industry, etc. We will also include experts on training and collaborations development.

Feedback

Will you provide feedback?	Prior to the expert panel, you will receive a set of expert comments to which you will be able to reply in a project lead response. After the panel, we will give you brief feedback summarising the key points from the expert panel discussion together with the outcome of your application.
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Trusted Research

<p>What are EPSRC expectations for Trusted Research assessment?</p>	<p>An appropriate due diligence assessment should be undertaken of potential financial and non-financial collaborative partner organisations and/or individuals. Examples of factors that could be taken into consideration when identifying risk are the nature of the project activity and the envisaged outputs; the potential for unethical or dual-use of project information and/or outputs; the potential for fraud, bribery and corruption; and the collaborating partners. Where a risk to the project findings and the potential usages is identified, reasonable and proportionate mitigations should be implemented in line with the UKRI funded organisation's risk appetite prior to the collaboration being agreed. If a change to a partner organisation's circumstances becomes known, the UKRI funded organisation should consider undertaking further due diligence in line with its risk appetite. A record of this assessment should be held by the UKRI funded organisation in line with their own retention policies.</p> <p>Please find more here: UKRI trusted research and innovation principles – UKRI</p>
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Intellectual Assets

<p>Can the IP generated from the project stay with the host?</p>	<p>EPSRC makes no claim to the intellectual assets (IA) arising from the research and training that it supports. Since EPSRC has no research institutes of its own, responsibility for managing intellectual assets arising from the research and training that we support is delegated to the funded organisation.</p>
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Industrial support

<p>Is industrial support needed for these projects?</p>	<p>No - collaborations should be appropriate for what you are planning to do.</p>
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Start date of the award

<p>When would you be expected to start the project, after communications of outcomes in Mar-Apr 2026, if successful?</p>	<p>You can select a starting date which is most suitable for your project. This will be then shown on your Grant Agreement if successful. The Official Start Date may be delayed by up to 6 months from the start date shown in the Grant Agreement; at UKRI's discretion the start of the Grant may precede the start date shown in the Grant Agreement but must not be earlier than the issue date of the Grant Agreement itself.</p> <p>Considering we expect to communicate the outcomes in March – April 2026, we would expect the earliest start of the awards could be in May 2026.</p>
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Current budget and future rounds

Is it possible to know (roughly) the number of awards available?	We have currently a total budget of up to £4 million. Each of the award can be up to £500,000 (FEC). Therefore, we expect to fund around 8 – 10 awards, depending on the quality and excellence of the applications submitted.
Will there be any future rounds for this scheme?	This is subject to the results of the outcomes evaluation (of both rounds of this opportunity) and the budget allocations.

Demand management of this opportunity

Is there any limitation to how many individual applications a home institution can submit? Do you pose a limit to the number of applications from each host institution?	<p>We haven't imposed any limits on the number of applications. So, any number of applications can come from the same institution (both home and host).</p> <p>Please note that in the event of this funding opportunity being substantially oversubscribed as to be unmanageable, EPSRC reserve the right to modify the assessment process.</p>
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Timeline

What is the timeline for the opportunity – when to expect reviews and outcomes?	<p>The timeline for this scheme is as follows. Please note, the timeline for the assessment process (expert review period and onwards) is an expected timeline and therefore can change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call opens: 19 June 2025 • Webinar: 2 Jul 2025 • Mandatory Intention to Submit: 18 Sept 2025 • Call closes: 2 Oct 2026 • Expert Review Period: Nov – Dec 2025 • Project Lead Response Period: Jan 2026 • Expert panel: Feb 2026 • Award outcomes and panel feedback: Mar – Apr 2026
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Further information and help

Will the webinar slides and recording be shared?	Yes, but it may take a few days for it to appear on the website: under the "additional information" section of the funding opportunity.
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