

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Research and Partnership Hubs for a Healthy Society

Frequently Asked Questions, including questions asked and answered in
the webinar on 22 July 2025

CORE TEAM AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Am I eligible to apply?	Standard EPSRC eligibility rules apply. You can check if your organisation is eligible for funding and for individual eligibility on our website Check if you're eligible for funding – EPSRC – UKRI
Can we change the Project Lead between the Outline and Full Stage?	Whilst some alterations can occur to the team between outline and full proposal, the hub director and majority of the core team should remain the same between outline and full proposal. The applicant and team ability to deliver is one of the assessment criteria at outline stage.
What is the 'Resubmission Policy'?	We will not accept uninvited resubmissions of projects that have been submitted to UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Find out more about EPSRC's resubmissions policy .
What is the minimum and maximum time length the award should be?	The maximum award length is 6 years. Whilst there is no minimum award value or length specified, you should justify how an application (including of significantly lower value or length) will demonstrate meeting the core objectives of the funding opportunity.
Does the opportunity allow for more than one application from one research organisation?	Yes.

Will it jeopardise applications if two lead applications come from one organisation?	Applications will be judged on their individual merit and fit to assessment criteria. At both the outline and invited full proposal stage, the expert panel and interview panel will provide advice on the selection of a balanced Research and Partnership Hub portfolio. This will inform the final funding decision, which will be made by EPSRC. We will look to support hubs across the three priority areas from the highest quality proposals which do not duplicate substantial investments already made.
Can a Project Lead be involved in more than one application?	The project lead can be involved in more than one application for this opportunity but should only be in the role of project lead for one application. Given these awards are for larger scale investments and the investigator time on the awards is expected to be higher than other funding opportunities, applicants should consider the balance of their time costed on awards if they are involved in more than one application.
What is the maximum number of co-leads allowed, and can there be multiple co-leads from the same institution?	There is no maximum number of co-leads allowed. Co-leads can be from one or more eligible institutions.
Do Hub Directors have to come from an EPSRC discipline area?	There is no requisite for hub directors to be from an EPSRC discipline area. The relevant expertise of the team to develop and deliver the proposed research programme will be assessed at outline stage. Applicants should also detail the relevant skills and expertise of the hub director for this role.
The website states that the hub director should have a proven track record of managing large investments. Can you define what you mean by 'large investments'? Would these be equivalent to similar sized hubs/centres?	Hub directors should demonstrate how they have expertise to manage investments of this type and scale. This can either be through leadership of a similar sized investment or through detailing the necessary skills the individual has from one or more relevant positions. The panel will assess the necessary skills which are required for managing a large, multidisciplinary project of this type. These can be

	evidenced in any way you feel appropriate.
Although the hub can be virtual or physical, will those that can provide a physical base for their hub be viewed more favourably at evaluation?	There are no specific criteria around a virtual or a physical hub. Applicants should justify and explain your chosen approach in the application.
Are there any specific criteria or support mechanisms for selecting advisory board members?	<p>An independent advisory board must be established to help oversee the hub. The exact format of this and other advisory structures applicants deems appropriate are for you to justify in your proposal. EPSRC deems an advisory board independent if it is at least 50% independent in membership and has an independent Chair. Membership should be agreed with the EPSRC after an application is successful in being funded.</p> <p>The purpose of an Independent Advisory Board, or equivalent body, is to oversee the running of the project and provide advice on the strategic direction and activities of the project.</p>
Is there a preferred ratio or format for academic vs. professional support staff?	No, this is for applicants to apply for and cost as they feel is most appropriate to meet the aims and objectives of the hub.

REMIT AND SCOPE

What TRL level are you looking in this proposal call?	This funding opportunity will operate within TRL 1-3/4
What is the difference between a EPSRC Hub and a EPSRC Programme Grant ?	<p>The hubs have two key elements – research and partnership.</p> <p>Research: the hubs should have a core multidisciplinary research programme of world leading research. Hubs should drive forward the national research agenda to actively build a wider research and innovation ecosystem in their chosen research area.</p> <p>Partnership: the hubs should support partnerships across the wider research and health landscape. These</p>

	<p>partnerships should span all scales, building on the successes of previous similar investments to deliver impact in regional economies while also playing a national role in an international context.</p> <p>The hub is expected to deliver added value, be more than the sum of its parts, by demonstrating strong connectivity between all hub partners and where appropriate the wider UK community and offering additional facilities, training and development than that which is already provided by individual institutions.</p> <p>We have detailed clear expectations of a hub for this specific opportunity – including embedding PPIE, having a clear route to translation, skills development for hub members and onward sustainability plans.</p>
Can a national hub have a 'place' focus to develop research/best practice that could be potentially applied to other areas of the UK?	Hubs can have a place focus, although this is not mandated. Hubs should demonstrate how they are building on current/past strengths to deliver impact in regional economies while also playing a national role in an international context. The focus and partnership plan the hub adopts should be well justified for peer review/panel.
How strictly should proposals align with EPSRC's health technologies strategy?	The application should align with one or more of the strategy challenge areas highlighted. Hub applications should also look to address aspects of the health technologies strategy , such as enablers, where appropriate.
Can a hub span multiple priority areas (e.g., prevention and early diagnosis)?	Hub applications can span more than one challenge area. Hubs should clearly identify the primary challenge area they are addressing.
Many of the currently funded hubs focus on a technology with a range health/healthcare applications. Is it in scope for a hub to focus on a clinical challenge with a range of technologies?	Yes – the approach for addressing one or more of the challenges in this funding opportunity is open for applicants to address in any way they feel most appropriate. The hub approach and model should be fully justified in your

	application to detail how it will meet all the funding opportunity objectives.
One of the past hubs seem to be about supporting learning more so than research - title: LEAP (Leadership Engagement Acceleration & Partnership). Could you unpack a bit how that learning focus was Ok for a research hub?	This hub in question was funded through the EPSRC digital health hub opportunity. This had a different focus and set of objectives to those outlined for the research and partnership (R&P) hubs. Whilst skills development should form part of the R&P hub applications, there must be a core research programme for the hubs.

FUNDS

Can funds for equipment purchase be requested?	Yes, you can include costs for equipment in value of £10,000 - £400,000 (inclusive of VAT) as part of the application to this funding opportunity. Further information on requesting equipment costs can be found here
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ASSESSMENT PROCESS

What is the timeline for assessment?	<p>The deadline for outline submission is 21st October 2025 at 4:00pm. Outlines will be assessed by an outline panel which will convene in mid-December 2025. Outcomes of the outline stage will be communicated by early January 2026.</p> <p>Invited full proposals will have 10 weeks to prepare and submit their application from the date of being informed they are successful at outline stage.</p>
What is the expected start date for projects?	We anticipate making awards in August 2026, start dates can be any time after this date.
Is there an expectation to consider research translation in the outline proposals?	A translation and impact plan for hub applications will be required at full proposal stage. There is no direct assessment criteria for the translation plans at the outline stage.

PARTNERSHIP AND PPIE

In terms of population health, EPSRC-relevant science often solely communicates with government (local and national) organisations/agencies, rather than the general public. In this	We expect PPIE to be different for each project and assessment will look at what is appropriate for the hub proposed. There is no one size fits all for PPIE and therefore the assessment criteria centres around whether the PPIE proposed is
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<p>situation, what might a PPIE strategy look like?</p>	<p>appropriate and fit for purpose. We define PPIE broadly so plans to engage Local Authorities and government should be included in your PPIE plan.</p> <p>There's some guidance on UKRI web here.</p>
<p>Would it be possible to include an international collaborator in the proposal, for example, from the US or Europe?</p>	<p>To be listed as a project lead or co-lead you must meet standard EPSRC eligibility criteria. This includes being employed by an eligible UK institution and satisfying EPSRC's current regulations on investigator eligibility.</p> <p>International collaborators can be included in a number of ways. Co-leads can be employed by Norwegian institutions, subject to the conditions in the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Research Council of Norway (RCN) money follows cooperation agreement.</p> <p>You can include individuals from international organisations as a visiting researcher (support may be requested for visits by scientists and engineers of acknowledged standing from within the UK or abroad to the investigator's organisation). International organisations can also be included as project partners (but are not eligible for receipt of funds).</p> <p>You can find more information on international collaboration here.</p>
<p>What are the expectations in terms of collaborations across institutions? E.g. number or location</p>	<p>There is no expectation in terms of number or location. The objectives for partnership and the hubs themselves are clearly outlined in the funding opportunity. It is for applicants to justify how their partnership approach and plans meet these objectives.</p>
<p>Is it ok for the team to grow - with partners and collaborators between the outline and full proposal stage as long as within estimated budget?</p>	<p>Yes, hubs may change/add collaborators and co-leads between the outline and full proposal stages so long as the overall balance of skills and expertise is not significantly altered (as applicant and team ability to deliver is part of the</p>

	<p>outline assessment stage). If the core-team is likely to significantly alter between outline and full proposal stage, we recommend that you get in touch with us to discuss this.</p> <p>The hub director cannot alter between outline and full proposal stage.</p> <p>Project partner details are not required at outline stage and will only be requested at the full proposal stage.</p>
How can we involve UK and Non-UK companies?	<p>UK and international companies can be included as project partners on your application. Details of project partners will be requested at full proposal stage. You can also include expertise from industry and other sectors through advisory board structures if appropriate.</p>
Would you expect match funding from the universities involved?	<p>There is no requirement for match funding from the organisations hosting the project lead, project co-leads or other staff employed on the grant.</p> <p>Due to the scale of these awards, significant collaboration and leverage (cash or in-kind) will be expected from project partners, for example, business, public sector, third sector. Project partner details will not be required at outline stage.</p>