

What level of institutional sign-off is needed from international partner organisations for international co-leads at the application stage?

We don't require or check for institutional sign-off, we take submission of an application as endorsement of all involved organisations and an indication that the lead organisation is happy to work with them should the application be successful.

Our project plan to use our university's HPC cluster and cloud APIs for LLM experiments, but these aren't on the UKRI facility list.

The URI Facilities list is mainly used for external facilities requiring potentially lengthy access procedures, and as the guidance on the Funding Finder says, only facilities on that list should be named in that section of the application form. Using your own organisation's facilities, especially if they aren't listed, does not fall under the purview of the 'Facilities' section, and you can leave it blank.

For the international partner, can the funding go up to £200,000, and for the UK partner £150,000 (i.e., £350,000 total funding, with £200,000 allocated to the international partner)?

No. The maximum amount you can request for international co-lead costs is £100,000, regardless of how the £350,000 is split.

Can you be between two UKRI metascience themes, and show how your research connects to both rather than just one?

Applications do not need to align exclusively with a single theme, and we encourage projects that engage with more than one.

Can research salaries be paid to international partners on academic salaries rather than buy-outs?

UKRI is happy to cover the salary costs of international co-leads, as set out in our [project co-lead \(international\) policy](#). The specifics are down to individual circumstances and at the discretion of the organisations and people involved.

Could you please indicate what events are planned for the MetaScience grant 2 cohort as this was something mentioned in the costings guidance? (e.g. estimated number of in-person events)

We haven't planned everything in advance yet, but we advise budgeting for 2 days per year in London.

Re DPR, are proposals reviewed only by co-applicants to the scheme, and do the reviewed proposals go to a regular grant panel meeting?

The full details of the DPR process are laid out in our [DPR Rules and guidelines document](#), available on the funding finder page. As mentioned during the webinar, the project lead will ultimately be responsible for the review of their assigned applications from a system standpoint, but once reviews have been allocated applicants are free to distribute the reviewing task among the rest of the project team to share the workload and if there is useful expertise there.

How can I get a project lead to apply for the grant as project co lead?

If you need to change an applicant's role on a project and can't do it from within TFS, you should contact the Support team: [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org)

Re theme 2, when Jack mentioned the range of entities included within organisations, are funders included in that definition?

Yes, under theme 2, organisations encompass funders alongside other entities that conduct research and influence how the research system is designed, led, and governed.

If a Research Assistant is already employed full-time by the organisation and contributes 50% of their time to this grant, is it necessary for their salary to be formally allocated or adjusted within the grant budget?

Check with your research office, as we don't have any specific guidance as to how staff salaries are input onto an application.

Do you have any further insights on what you will not fund or common applicant misconceptions from Round 1?

Aside from double-checking your costs to ensure that you are not overbudget (which will get you rejected), we can only suggest that you pay attention to and try to word your application around the 'What assessors are looking for' guidance under each subheading.

Can a project not have an international co-lead?

Yes, projects are not required to have any international partners and can be wholly UK-based. The FEC limit for those applications is £250,000.

Is there a cap on the number of applications per academic/research organisation?

No, as discussed in the webinar we have not put any restrictions on how many applications any one person or research organisation can submit. We do however encourage applicants to focus on quality over quantity, as more applications means more reviews that you will have to do.

Do all applicants i.e. both Project leads and Co-leads have to take part in reviewing?

From a system perspective we are only inviting the project leads as reviewers and they will be responsible for the reviews, but we do encourage the involvement of the rest of the project team if helpful.

Is the £250k ceiling the total FEC or the UKRI contribution? And for the international partner costs above £250k, does UKRI fund 80% or 100% of those?

All cost limits are clearly listed as FEC. All UKRI grants are funded at 80% FEC as standard, and this opportunity is no exception. However, costs related to international project co-leads are awarded at 100% in line with UKRI policy, so whatever amount is allocated to them will be paid at 100%. This will be calculated by TFS automatically when costs are input under the relevant headings.

Can you go through the 'additional 250k' for international partner that you had in the funding slide, and how does that plug to the 350k item above it?

Please reread our guidance and rewatch the webinar for information about cost limits.

Does this funding include the salaries of postdoctoral researchers, research associates, or PhD students?

UKRI only allows studentships on specific grants and they are not eligible for this opportunity. Applications including studentship costs will be rejected. However, other staff salaries are eligible to be included.