

Webinar question and answer document

A webinar for potential applicants for the “Enhancing resilience to wildfires in the wildland-urban interface” funding opportunity was held on Thursday, 9th July 2026. This webinar provided information on the funding opportunity and an opportunity for attendees to ask questions. This document provides the answers to questions submitted by webinar attendees.

If you have a funder-specific question that has not been answered within this document, the contact details for the funders are as follows:

- UKRI: wildfires@nerc.ukri.org
- NSF: wildlandfire@nsf.gov
- Canada tri-agencies: RP-Initiatives-PR@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.

Live questions

Question: will the slides be shared with attendees after the webinar?

Answer: Yes, they will be posted on the UKRI Funding Opportunity web page.

Question: if people did not register their willingness to be contacted via the webinar registration, can they subsequently be included in such follow up and if so, how please?

Answer: Please get in contact with wildfires@nerc.ukri.org with your biography and to update your agreement to share.

Question: with respect to Aim 2 Human Health, is the intention to focus on population and public health or firefighter health? These would be very distinct initiatives. Perhaps both?

Answer: This funding opportunity has not identified a specific health focus beyond what is already described in the scope and aims in the Funding Opportunity. Please ensure you review the text to ensure alignment with the scope and aims.

Question: can co-applicants be researchers with community organizations, rather than academic institutions?

Answer: If the community organisation is eligible to receive funding under this funding opportunity from one of the participating funders, then yes. However, if the organisation is not eligible for funding under this funding opportunity, they can be involved as a project partner. To check if an organisation is eligible, please review the eligibility information on the Funding Opportunity [web page](#) or contact the respective funder. To contact UKRI please email wildfires@nerc.ukri.org. To contact NSF please email wildlandfire@nsf.gov. To contact NSERC (and on behalf of SSHRC & CIHR) please email RP-Initiatives-PR@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.

Question: are there any ways to find potential partners from the US and UK who work on wildfires or share similar interests?

Answer: We will be sharing the contact details and biographies amongst the webinar attendees (where they have given permission to do so) to help facilitate connections for this funding opportunity.

Question: my US partner is a Co-PI on a pending full proposal submission associated with an existing NSF FIRE-WUI program. Does adding this person as the US Project-Lead cause ineligibility for the present collaborative application?

Answer: There are no restrictions on the number of projects a US partner may be listed on. Addition of a US partner as Co-PI on a proposal in response to this call would not impact upon any pending proposals under consideration by NSF's FIRE program.

Question: apologies if I missed it, but how much funding is NSF contributing in total and per project?

Answer: US costs may be requested up to \$2 million for the US component of the project, although all awards will be made subject to availability of funds.

Question: can non-academic partners (from US, UK or Canada) receive funding in this call?

Answer: If the non-academic partner is eligible to receive funding under this funding opportunity from one of the participating funders, then yes. However, if the organisation is not eligible for

funding under this funding opportunity, they can be involved as a project partner. To check if an organisation is eligible, please review the eligibility information on the Funding Opportunity [web page](#) or contact the respective funder. To contact UKRI please email wildfires@nerc.ukri.org. To contact NSF please email wildlandfire@nsf.gov. To contact NSERC (and on behalf of SSHRC & CIHR) please contact RP-Initiatives-PR@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.

Question: can the academic research leads be from any domain relevant to an interdisciplinary proposal? I see Canadian requires natural sciences, engineering, social sciences, humanities, health disciplines. Is it similar for US and UK research leads?

Answer: The US Project Lead can be from any science area that is within NSF remit for this Funding Opportunity. These include Biological Sciences, Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Engineering, Geosciences, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, STEM Education. The UK Project Lead can be from any science area that is within a UKRI Council remit for this Funding Opportunity. These include Natural Environment Research Council, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Economic and Social Research Council, Arts and Humanities Research Council, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and Medical Research Council Science and Technology Facilities Council, Science and Technology Facilities Council.

Question: do NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR make their decisions independently or jointly?

Answer: This Funding Opportunity will implement a joint assessment process. One Assessment Panel will be convened to assess and score all applications. Participating funders have agreed to one assessment process and one decision making process.

Question: are Canadian research colleges eligible for this program?

Answer: The Canadian project lead must be a Canadian university researcher who is eligible to receive NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR funds. Their primary affiliation must be a Canadian university. The Canadian project lead is the primary applicant for the NSERC, SSHRC and/or CIHR grants.

However, college researchers may be co-applicants if they and their institution meet NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR eligibility requirements to hold funds depending on which agency supports the research activities.

Question: for the Canada component, can project budgets include funding to support MSc and PhD students as research trainees under the Tri-Agency agencies (NSERC/SSHRC/CIHR), given that the UK component explicitly excludes PhD studentships?

Answer: Yes, funding from all three Canada agencies can support salary for research trainees (undergraduates, graduates and postdoctoral researchers) to perform research and related training. For more information, please visit [Canada-UK-US call for proposals: Enhancing Resilience to Wildfires in the Wildland-Urban Interface | Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada](#). Please also visit [Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration | Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada](#).

Question: is there a page limit for the Expression of Interest or standard 1-2 pages?

Answer: To submit an Expression of Interest for this Funding Opportunity, an online form will need to be completed. The direct link to complete this form is [Expression of Interest: OPP1118 Enhancing resilience to wildfires in the wildland-urban interface - UK Research and Innovation - Citizen Space](#).

Question: when will the outcomes/funding decisions be made? Will there be an interview round? If yes, when?

Answer: The Assessment Panel will be held in November 2026, with outcomes coming in the new year if not before. The Assessment process does not include an interview stage or any applicant response stage.

Question: does a successful UKRI application provides any assurance of funding consideration for US and Canadian partners?

Answer: This is a joint Funding Opportunity for which UKRI is administering. Applications submitted to UKRI for this Funding Opportunity must be collaborative applications that detail the UK, US and/or Canada contributions to the project. This Funding Opportunity will implement a joint assessment process. One Assessment Panel will be convened to assess and score all applications. Participating funders have agreed to one assessment process and one decision making process which will consider budget availability across partners. Successful applications will receive funds from the respective funders.

Question: within this call, is there also consideration of emergency services preparedness, management, response etc., or is the focus solely on the general population?

Answer: It is the responsibility of the applicants to demonstrate how the proposed research area or focus addresses at least two of the 3 aims of the programme (with aim 3 mandatory) through the published assessment criteria under the 'Application Questions' against the vision, approach, applicant and team capability to deliver sections.

Question: do we need to submit a detailed resource breakdown at the EOI stage?

Answer: No, just an approximate figure for each participating country.

Question: should there be one partner from each country as a minimum?

Answer: Applications to this Funding Opportunity can be either bilateral or trilateral. Projects must include a UK component, and therefore projects must be one of the following collaboration configurations:

- UK-US-Canada
- UK-US
- UK-Canada

Question: how can we find a suitable UK team to join?

Answer: We will be sharing a list of webinar attendees and their biographies to help facilitate connections for this funding opportunity. You may also choose to contact any researchers who may have similar interests or complementary expertise to discuss the potential to collaborate to address the aims of the programme.

Question: if a partner from Canada has a multidisciplinary team that includes e.g. both engineering and social sciences researchers, can they request funding from both NSERC and SSHRC within the same application?

Answer: Yes, for eligible team members that fall into NSERC's remit, you must request their funding from NSERC, for eligible team members that fall into SSHRC's remit, you must request their funding from SSHRC (and the same for CIHR). There is a budget and justification form for each Canadian funding agency, and you can request funding from one, two or all three.

Question: is there some guidance for the format and expectations of the EOI? Such as page length and expectations of literature review etc.

Answer: To submit an Expression of Interest for this Funding Opportunity, an online form will need to be completed. The direct link to complete this form is [Expression of Interest: OPP1118 Enhancing resilience to wildfires in the wildland-urban interface - UK Research and Innovation - Citizen Space](#)

Question: for the UK and Canada there is inclusion of health. Would the NSF also entertain a health-focused proposal?

Answer: Requested funds for the US project component must be for activity within NSF remit; this excludes medical research.

Question: what does 'interdisciplinary' specifically mean? does it refer to the applicant's academic background? or the focused science or the impact areas?

Answer: When we ask for interdisciplinary applications, this does not refer to an individual applicant's academic background. Instead, we are looking for collaborative applications that integrate multiple disciplines, so expertise from multiple fields of study are brought together to address complex problems.

Question: does the US side need to separately apply within NSF or is it, similar to the Canada side, not requiring that and one application within UKRI would be fine?

Answer: One collaborative application should be submitted by the UK project lead to UKRI, detailing the UK and US, Canada, or both, contributions to the project. The US and/or Canada project lead should be added to the "Core Team" application section as international co-leads with £0 cost. All US/Canada project team members and costs should be captured in the "US Component" and "Canada Component" sections of the application to UKRI. Following the assessment process and communication of outcomes, the US and/or Canada component of a successful application will be contacted by their respective funder with instructions for how to receive funds, such as submitting a simplified application for grant payment.

Question: there are 11 pages to complete for EOI. Do you know if it's possible to download a copy of all the questions required for EOI for this call?

Answer: While the EOI is 11 pages, there are no more than 3 questions per page. Each page splits the EOI form into short sections and allows you to regularly save and come back to your submission. For a PDF version of the EOI form, please contact wildfires@nerc.ukri.org however, only applications made through the online portal are accepted as a formal submission of an EOI.

Question: the UK component must incorporate at least 2 RC remits. The guidance states that the EOI is not considered finalised and additional co-leads can be added at a later stage, but I think you mentioned that Eois could fail eligibility checks. So, if an EOI only include 1 UK applicant (within 1 RC remit), would that fail the checks, or will it be possible to add a second applicant with remit in another RC at full application stage?

Answer: There will not be a failing at the EOI stage. We would check the EOI against eligibility criteria and fit to scope, and informal feedback will be provided to those which do not meet the eligibility criteria at that stage to suggest where applicants might like to consider changes or additions. The full applications will undergo formal eligibility and remit checks after the closing date of 1st October 2026 and will be rejected at this stage if they do not meet the eligibility requirements.

Question: human health was stated as an impact within the call scope but was entirely absent within the exemplars given in the slides, nor are MRC represented today. To what extent are human health impacts included in the call?

Answer: Human health impacts are included in the call, as per the published scope. For the UK component, this remit is included through UKRI funding to eligible individuals/organisations.

Question: given the historically somewhat different assessment criteria and priority in national proposals between US and Canada could this be a potential hurdle for proposals with UK, US and CAN teams?

Answer: All participating funders have agreed to a joint set of assessment criteria, a single joint assessment process and a single decision-making process for this joint funding opportunity.

Question: can Indigenous collaborators be compensated for their time from this funding?

Answer: For Canadian expenses, compensation in the form of an eligible expense may be paid to Indigenous Elders, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, or Indigenous Peoples affiliated with public or not-for-profit organizations who are not already being compensated for conducting research.

For more information on the eligibility of Indigenous Collaborators, consult the [Tri-agency guideline on remuneration for Indigenous People participating in funded projects](#). If you have questions regarding the use of grant funds for a specific expenditure, we recommend contacting the agency that would be supporting the expense:

- CIHR: support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
- NSERC: usegrantfunds@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
- SSHRC: usegrantfunds@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

You're also welcome to send us more information at RP-Initiatives-PR@nserc-crsng.gc.ca regarding your specific proposed wildfires project and your proposed Indigenous expenses, and we can look further into the situation if it is not already covered in the Tri-agency guidelines above.

Question: did I understand correctly that current or future NSF FIRE - funded projects are completely separate from the matching that NSF will do?

Answer: NSF is interested in supporting this international activity as part of a broader approach to NSF's overall FIRE program.

Question: will there be the option to submit letters of support and is this encouraged?

Answer: Letters of Support are not required for the application process.

Question: what would happen if there were an unforeseen funding gap at one funder that arises prior to submission or after proposal acceptance. Will this 'kill' the overall proposal/grant?

Answer: All funders have agreed to their support of the programme.

Question: if there is no favoured weighting on partners or disciplines, what is the priority for evaluating proposals? Is it about science, innovation, or impact? Is there a priority among those aspects? (e.g. is the focus here the solutions and interventions of Aim 3?).

Answer: Applications will be assessed against the published assessment criteria. Notably the vision, approach, applicant and team capability to deliver, ethics and responsible research and innovation, resources and cost justification (including US and Canada components).

Question: can someone from a US for-profit company be the US lead or does a US academic institution need to be the US lead?

Answer: For the U.S. component, general NSF eligibility criteria apply. In some limited circumstances, for-profit companies may be eligible according to guidelines. For information,

please visit [Chapter I: Pre-Submission Information - Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\) \(NSF 24-1\) | NSF - U.S. National Science Foundation](#).

Question: are there any formal mechanisms or programs for identifying and connecting with collaborators in the UK?

Answer: While not a formal mechanism or program, we will be sharing a list of webinar attendees and their biographies to help facilitate connections for this funding opportunity.

Question: the pool of scientists working in fire science is small. How will you ensure that the review process is free from conflicts of interest, particularly where reviewers may also be applicants or members of teams that have submitted proposals? In addition, priorities related to fire sciences vary between countries. How will proposals be evaluated fairly, considering these differing (inter)national priorities? What criteria will be used to assess and balance these differences during the evaluation process?

Answer: There will be a single, joint assessment process for all applications, and these will be scored and assessed against the published assessment criteria, and projects will be required to highlight the relevance and benefits the research will bring to the relevant funding partners countries. The Assessment Panel will be convened across international experts and will adhere to UKRI conflict of interest policies. For more information, please visit [Declaration of interests: guidance for assessors, reviewers and panellists – UKRI](#).

Question: the final decision-making process is not very clear to me. Say, UKRI scores our proposal very high - but what will happen after that? Will they be independently evaluated again in Canada and USA? Or will they just go through a 'light touch' review and yes/no decision?

Answer: There will be a single joint assessment process by a panel of independent experts who will make funding recommendations to the Funders. There are no additional Canadian/US evaluations.

Question: will UKRI be circulating a list of those who are interested divided by discipline/area of expertise?

Answer: We will be circulating the webinar attendees' details and biographies (where consent has been given to do so) to all attendees of the webinar.

Question: in the collaborative application all the relevant costs for US and Canadian component should be made, however, UK component is limited to £1.5M? Is that correct?

Answer: There are maximum fund request amounts for each participating funder. From UKRI, an application can request up to £1,575,000. From NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR, this is \$3M (CAD) each per application. For NSF, this is \$2M (USD) per application.

Question: is there a requirement to have non-academic partners? In other words, how much weight will be there on impact/pathway-to-impact?

Answer: No, it is not a requirement to have non-academic partners. Applications should demonstrate how their proposed project addresses the programme's aims.

Question: are US Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) eligible to become project partners because this is an international collaboration?

Answer: For the U.S. component, the same rules apply for FFRDCs as they do for all NSF programs. Since FFRDCs receive their own dedicated funding, there are special considerations described in the PAPPG. NSF does not normally support research or education activities by scientists, engineers or educators employed by Federal agencies or FFRDCs. For specific questions, you may reach out to wildlandfire@nsf.gov.

Question: can an applicant for the NSF side be on multiple grants applications?

Answer: There are no restrictions on the number of proposals a U.S. applicant may be listed on.

Question: is there the expectation for matched contribution of efforts across the UK and Ca/US? i.e., if we request £1.5M from UKRI, do we then need to request the equivalent across both Ca/US?

Answer: There is no requirement for an absolute match. Projects are, however, required to demonstrate that they are a true collaborative partnership across the relevant teams in order to achieve the best outcomes.

Question: given current NSF cuts, if the NSF is involved on the US side and then that funding is cut, can the project still go ahead via UKRI (and possibly Canadian councils)?

Answer: All funders have agreed to their support of the programme.

Question: the UK component should start by Feb 2027, is there is similar start date for US and Canadian component?

Answer: Ideally, start dates for the various components to be awarded would be in general alignment. However, due to differing administrative and fiscal year cycles for the funding partners, it is not required that awards be made at the same time.

Question: can a UK academic participate in two different proposals? One with Canada, one with the US - the area of focus will be very different of course.

Answer: Applicants based at an eligible UK research organisation may be involved in no more than two applications submitted to this funding opportunity. Only one of these can be as project lead. You are free to utilise this maximum however best suits your requirements.

Question: asking why the AHRC wasn't present on the call?

Answer: AHRC is a part of the programme, unfortunately personal circumstances meant that our AHRC colleague was unable to attend the webinar.

Pre-submitted questions

Question: when considering partners can we involve European partners and specifically European site test cases?

Answer: Funding can only be used for team members who are eligible for funding by UKRI, NSF, NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR. In the case of UKRI this is only researchers based in the UK except for specific costs for project co-leads from Norway. The UKRI international project co-lead policy is not applicable to this funding opportunity. Researchers that do not meet these criteria can be involved in projects but as project partners who are self-funded.

If you are a Canadian university researcher eligible to receive NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR funds, you can apply (as Canadian project lead in the UKRI application) either independently or as part of a team, with co-applicants who must also meet eligibility requirements. Collaborators and partner organizations from outside academia (industry, public, not-for-profit) are permitted.

No geographic location is specified. However, projects will be required to highlight the relevance and benefits the research will bring to the funding partners countries.

Question: would be great to hear more about how the intended overall coordination of the funded projects might be envisaged and resourced.

Answer: Co-ordination through dedicated UKRI funds is something which we are planning to be part of overall programme management, although we do not have any details yet. We expect this to include one annual cross-programme meeting per year, which will bring together all awarded projects for the purpose of knowledge sharing and identifying potential cross-programme collaboration opportunities.

NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR will not be providing additional funds or resources beyond the grants themselves. All necessary expenses (including budget to travel to annual cross-program meeting mentioned above) should be included in the budget and follow the Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration. For more information, please visit [Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration | Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada](#)

Question: to what degree is the focus of this call focused on human resilience and survivability. Particularly in reference to translational intervention strategies.

Answer: Projects will need to ensure that they demonstrate how they will achieve all the assessment criteria and address the programme aims. Applications are required to demonstrate how they will advance knowledge and produce solutions focused outcomes against the programme aims. Applications must address at least two of the listed programme aims, of which one of these must be aim three.

As such, no specific scientific or research area is a particular focus of the call. As long as the scientific area is within the respective funders' remit, this is open to applicants.

Question: can a postdoc serve as Project Co-Lead?

Answer: For UKRI, yes, a post-doc can serve as a Project Co-Lead, although they must meet the individual eligibility requirements. For more information, please visit [Individual eligibility – UKRI](#).

If you are a Canadian university researcher eligible to receive NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR funds, you can apply (as Canadian project lead in the UKRI application) either independently or as part of a team, with co-applicants who must also meet eligibility requirements.

For projects involving NSERC or CIHR: No, postdocs are not eligible to be the Canada Project Co-Lead, i.e., NSERC / CIHR applicant. They are not considered independent researchers as per eligibility rules.

For projects involving SSHRC: Yes, postdocs are eligible to be SSHRC applicants if they have formally established an affiliation with an eligible institution by the grant start date and maintain such an affiliation for the duration of the grant period. Before applying, postdoctoral researchers must confirm with their institution, usually through the research grants office, that the institution can administer the funding if awarded.

For projects involving NSF: Postdocs are not eligible to serve as a U.S. project lead. However, postdoctoral researchers may be included as other personnel on a project.

Question: what support will UKRI give successful research teams to ensure coordination and collaboration towards addressing multi-region policy and practice priorities?

Answer: Co-ordination through dedicated UKRI funds is something which we are planning to be part of overall programme management, although we do not have any details yet. We expect this to include one annual cross-programme meeting per year, which will bring together all awarded projects for the purpose of knowledge sharing and identifying potential cross-programme collaboration opportunities.

NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR will not be providing additional funds or resources beyond the grants themselves. All necessary expenses (including budget to travel to annual cross-program meeting mentioned above) should be included in the budget and follow the Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration. For more information, please visit [Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration | Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada](#).

Question: how will the applications work on the US / Canada sides?

Answer: One collaborative application should be submitted by the UK project lead to UKRI, detailing the UK and the US and/or Canada contributions to the project. The US and/or Canada project lead must be added to the “Core Team” application section as international co-leads with £0 cost. All US/Canada project team members and costs should be captured in the “US Component” and “Canada Component” sections, through completing and uploading participating funders’ budget and justification forms. Following the assessment process and communication of outcomes, the US or Canada component of a successful application will be contacted with instructions to receive funding, such as submitting a simplified application to the respective international funder for grant payment.

Question: we plan to collaborate with one Canadian partner and one US partner. Does this call encourage two partners? I guess only one proposal is to be submitted, and only one panel meeting for assessing these applications is to be arranged?

Answer: There is no weighting applied to whether the project has two or all three countries involved, projects are required to demonstrate how they are a truly collaborative interdisciplinary international team addressing the programme aims in the most suitable approach. One joint application should be submitted by the UK project lead detailing the UK and US, Canada, or both, contributions to the project. These will undergo a joint assessment process.

Question: how much 'weightage' will be there on having non-academic partners?

Answer: There is no weighting applied, applicants should design their projects to address the aims of the programme as set out in the funding opportunity.

Question: will proposals that combine engineering, hydrology, governance, social sciences, Indigenous/community knowledge, and participatory approaches be viewed favourably, and are there expectations regarding the balance between natural science and social science components within interdisciplinary teams?

Answer: Projects must be interdisciplinary. On the UK side all applications must cover at least two UKRI council remits. Disciplines must be within remit of the respective funder you are requesting those costs from. Disciplines are not weighted. How projects are designed to address the aims of the programme is open for applicants to decide, projects will need to ensure that they demonstrate how they will achieve all the assessment criteria.

For the Canadian component, interdisciplinary projects (i.e., those involving >1 of the Canadian funders' mandates) are welcomed but not required. Projects may request budget from one, two or all three Canadian funding agencies. Each agency's maximum budget request for a project is \$750K total (\$250K per year, per agency). The maximum level of Canadian support for a three-year interdisciplinary project would be \$2.25M if the maximum budget was granted from NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR.

For the U.S. component, interdisciplinary projects are encouraged that include any areas of science and engineering that fall under NSF remit.

Question: if we have partners in the three countries, do they submit proposals for their national partners to their respective funding authorities (NSF, NSERC and UKRI) and then cross-reference to the other national proposals to show a choreographed approach, or do they effectively send the same proposal to each authority with the national funding requirements specified?

Answer: One collaborative application should be submitted by the UK project lead to UKRI, detailing the UK and the US and/or Canada contributions to the project. The US and/or Canada project lead must be added to the “Core Team” application section as international co-leads with £0 cost. All US/Canada project team members and costs should be captured in the “US Component” and “Canada Component” sections, through completing and uploading participating funders’ budget and justification forms. Following the assessment process and communication of outcomes, the US or Canada component of a successful application will be contacted with instructions to receive funding, such as submitting a simplified application to the respective international funder for grant payment.

Question: how will the work be divided among countries involved?

Answer: It is open to applicants how to organize their project teams to best deliver the research and address the aims of the programme. Projects are however required to demonstrate that they are a true collaborative partnership across the relevant teams to achieve the best outcomes.

Question: can private companies be involved?

Answer: For the UK component, private companies are not eligible to receive funding but can be involved in the application as a project partner. A project partner is a collaborating organisation that will have an integral role in the proposed research. This may include direct (cash) or indirect (in-kind) contributions such as expertise, staff time or use of facilities. Project partners may be in industry, academia, third sector or government organisations in the UK or overseas.

For the Canada component, private companies are not eligible to receive funding but can be involved in the application as a project partner. If the NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR supported research will involve a private company as a partner organization, a Risk Assessment form must be submitted in the Canada component attachment. For Canadian details, please see [Canada–](#)

[UK–US call for proposals: Enhancing Resilience to Wildfires in the Wildland-Urban Interface | Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.](#)

For information concerning NSF eligibility of for-profit organizations, please visit [Chapter I: Pre-Submission Information - Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\) \(NSF 24-1\) | NSF - U.S. National Science Foundation.](#)

Question: is there a preferred or encouraged configuration of disciplines involved? E.g. Is including environmental science a must, or would environmental science be expected to lead if the project involved engineering and developing technological capability?

Answer: Projects must be interdisciplinary across the collaborative components. On the UK side all applications must cover at least two UKRI council remits. For the Canadian component, interdisciplinarity within the Canada team (i.e., those involving >1 of the Canadian funders' mandates) are welcomed but not required. Projects may request budget from one, two or all three Canadian funding agencies.

Disciplines must be within remit of the respective funder you are requesting funds from. Disciplines are not weighted and environmental science is not a must and is not expected to lead. How projects are designed to address the aims of the programme is open for applicants to decide, projects will need to ensure that they demonstrate how they will achieve all the assessment criteria.

Question: can Canadian colleges, polytechnics, and applied research centres participate as eligible Canadian applicants under this call, or is eligibility limited to university-based researchers? If colleges/polytechnics cannot apply directly, can they participate as collaborators, partner organizations, subcontractors, or through a university-led Canadian team?

Answer: No, the Canadian project lead must be a Canadian university researcher who is eligible to receive NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR funds. Their primary affiliation must be a Canadian university. The Canadian project lead is the primary applicant for the NSERC, SSHRC and/or CIHR grants.

However, college researchers may be co-applicants if they and their institution meet NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR eligibility requirements to hold funds depending on which agency supports the research activities. Collaborators and partner organizations from any sector are also allowed (typically do not hold/access grant funds directly). For Canadian details, please see [Canada–](#)

[UK-US call for proposals: Enhancing Resilience to Wildfires in the Wildland-Urban Interface | Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada](#) or email us at RP-Initiatives-PR@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.

Question: would applied research involving RPAS/drone-based data collection, remote sensing, geospatial analytics, wildfire risk mapping, WUI infrastructure assessment, or post-fire impact assessment be considered within scope?

Answer: Yes, to all, as long as the project is addressing the programme aims as set out in the funding opportunity (must include aim 3). For any scientific scope questions, it is for project teams to demonstrate how they will construct their approach to answer the programme aims. If you feel that you are within the scope as published and can demonstrate this against the programme aims and then you will be assessed against the published assessment criteria.

Question: what is the expected role of Canadian participants within the UK-led application structure, and what Canadian institutional approvals or documents are required at the application stage?

Answer: There is no specific expected role. Researchers can choose how to organize their collaborative research activities. Please see the UKRI Funding Opportunity webpage, under “Canada Component” for instructions. See also the NSERC webpage, in particular the How to Apply section for information on how to fill out the Canada Component of the collaborative UKRI application. To view this webpage, please visit [Canada-UK-US call for proposals: Enhancing Resilience to Wildfires in the Wildland-Urban Interface | Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada](#). You need to provide to UK project lead:

- a budget form for each Canadian funder you are requesting budget from, using relevant template (note 2 tabs, one for budget and justification and second for listing team members involved)
- risk Assessment forms if research involves a private sector partner)
- STRAC attestations if research advances a sensitive technology research area

Nothing else is needed in terms of Canadian institutional approvals/documents at the UKRI application stage.

Once successful projects are selected (based on the UKRI applications), NSERC will contact the Canadian project lead if needed to submit a simplified (Canadian) application for any last details/forms/etc. before grant payment.

Question: for the Canada component, are municipal, emergency management, Indigenous, industry, public-sector, or applied research partners encouraged, and can their in-kind contributions, field access, operational expertise, data, or demonstration sites be included?

Answer: Collaborators and partner organizations from outside academia (industry, public, not-for-profit) are permitted, but not required, for this funding opportunity. Involve the collaborators or partner organizations who make the most sense for your proposed research project – where appropriate, projects are encouraged to directly engage with relevant stakeholder groups outside of academia to strengthen impact.

Where appropriate to the proposed research questions/activities, research should be informed by local knowledge, lived experience and understanding of wildfire and wildland fire events, such as from disproportionately impacted populations and Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) perspectives. Projects are encouraged to engage a variety of communities, Knowledge Holders, first responders and decision makers to promote innovative and forward-looking approaches to wildfire and wildland fire science.

Follow the UKRI guidance for including the contributions from these partners in the collaborative application. List the partner organizations in the Canada component budget templates (tab 2). Include a Risk Assessment form if there is a private sector partner.

Question: must co-PIs study sites be in their local country? Or the study sites can be anywhere in the UK, Canada or US and the co-PIs can be based anywhere?

Answer: No geographic location is specified. It is permissible that research and research outputs might be applicable to other countries. However, projects will be required to highlight the relevance and benefits the research will bring to the funding partners countries, and project teams must meet all of the relevant published eligibility criteria across the participating funder countries.

Question: what is the mechanism for Canadian partners interested in joining a team (as collaborators- not leads- on a grant application?).

Answer: We will be sharing a list of webinar attendees and their biographies to help facilitate connections for this funding opportunity.

Question: what is the expectation of collaboration with US and Canadian Universities? As both US and Canadian partners have to put in their individual applications, what collaboration costs can be included and what cannot be included?

Answer: US and Canadian partners do not have to put in their individual applications. One collaborative application should be submitted by the UK project lead to UKRI, detailing the UK and the US and/or Canada contributions to the project. The US and/or Canada project lead must be added to the “Core Team” application section as international co-leads with £0 cost. All US/Canada project team members and costs should be captured in the “US Component” and “Canada Component” sections, through completing and uploading participating funders’ budget and justification forms. Following the assessment process and communication of outcomes, the US or Canada component of a successful application will be contacted with instructions to receive funding, such as submitting a simplified application to the respective international funder for grant payment.

It is open to applicants how to organize their project teams to best deliver the research and address the aims of the programme. Projects are however required to demonstrate that they are a true collaborative partnership across the relevant teams in order to achieve the best outcomes.

Question: could you clarify whether the scope of the call is primarily focused on public health (vulnerabilities, health impacts, etc.), or whether it also includes emergency services aspects (such as operational response/management/mitigation etc.)?

Answer: There is no primary focus of this Funding Opportunity. For any scientific scope questions, it is for project teams to demonstrate how they will construct their approach to answer the programme aims. If you feel that you are within the scope as published and can demonstrate this against the programme aims and then you will be assessed against the published assessment criteria.

Question: how can Norway institutions participate?

Answer: For the UK component, eligible costs for project co-leads (international) (PcL (I)) from Norway would be funded at 100% FEC. Read more about this in the agreement between UKRI and Norway. For more information on this agreement, please visit [Collaborate with researchers in Norway – UKRI](#).

Question: it would be useful to clarify the budgeting and application process. I presume there is a single application with separate, national Justifications of Resources for each component national portion, which will be separately funded (if the applicants are successful), but the various national caps are slightly hard to follow.

Answer: One collaborative application should be submitted by the UK project lead to UKRI, detailing the UK and the US and/or Canada contributions to the project. The US and/or Canada project lead must be added to the “Core Team” application section as international co-leads with £0 cost. All US/Canada project team members and costs should be captured in the “US Component” and “Canada Component” sections, through completing and uploading participating funders’ budget and justification forms.

Maximum budget for UK component (UKRI): £1,575,000

Maximum budget for US component (NSF): \$2M

Maximum budget for Canada component (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR): Each agency’s maximum budget request for a project is \$750K total (\$250K per year, per agency). The maximum level of Canadian support for a three-year interdisciplinary project would be \$2.25M if the maximum budget was granted from NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR.

Question: can the designated project lead serve as project lead for more than one project? Are there any restrictions on for-profit participation?

Answer: For the UK component, applicants based at a UK research organisation may be involved in no more than two applications submitted to this funding opportunity. Only one of these can be as project lead. There is no limit on the number of project partners for the UK component, however applications should detail how the inclusion of project partners adds value to the project in addressing the aims of the programme.

For the Canada component, each Canadian team should submit only one application to this call. You may participate as Canadian project lead (NSERC, SSHRC and/or CIHR applicant) on only one application, but you may be a co-applicant or collaborator on multiple applications.

Question: many wildfire resilience solutions demonstrate value at a local or pilot scale, but what specific considerations does this funding opportunity place on scalability and integration into existing infrastructure management and decision-making processes? In particular, how important is demonstrating a clear pathway from research outputs to operational deployment and adoption by infrastructure owners and operators?

Answer: All applications submitted to this funding opportunity must demonstrate how the project addresses at least two of the listed programme aims, of which one of these must be aim three. Aim three is to develop interventions and solutions for adaptation, mitigation, and recovery to wildfire in the WUI.

Question: do we need LoS at Eol submission stage? Does the diversity of team members influence the success of Eol, or it is mainly based on the quality of Eol?

Answer: No, you do not need to provide Letters of Support at the EOI stage, nor the Full Application stage. Applications will not be rejected at the Eol stage. We would check the Eol against eligibility and fit to scope, and informal feedback will be provided to those which do not meet the eligibility criteria at that stage to suggest where applicants might like to consider changes or additions. The full applications will undergo formal eligibility and remit checks after the closing date of 1st October 2026.

Question: given the difference in the WUI contexts of Canada and UK, what does the programme envision as transferable between the two countries, tools, methodologies, models?

Answer: There are no pre-conceived expectations on this. Projects are free to determine and present these themselves as part of their applications.