



CHINA UK ONE HEALTH RESEARCH FOR EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND AMR

CALL-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

UK applicants

This guidance supplements the [standard MRC Guidance for Applicants](#). Please consult the [standard MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) for further information such as preparing the UK budget for your application.

This call-specific guidance document provides additional information specific to this call. Where guidance in the present document differs from that in the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants, it is important you follow the guidance in this present, scheme specific, document.

China applicants

This call-specific guidance document provides information specific to this call. It is also important that China researchers are aware of all relevant guidance provided by the MoST.

Contents

1. Important application information	3
1.1 Start Date and Duration	4
1.2 Key dates	5
2. Who can apply?.....	5
2.1 Who is eligible to apply to MRC.....	5
2.2 People named on the grant (UK)	6
2.3 Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)	7
3. Application process	7
3.1 Expression of Interest (EoI)	7
3.2 Full application: process overview.....	8
3.3 Full application: summary of components.....	9
3.4 The Case for Support.....	11
3.5 Justification of Resources (JoR)	12
3.6 Trusted Research and Innovation Attachment	13
3.7 Creating a Je-S account and application	13
3.8 Budgets	14
4. Assessment process and criteria	16

5. UK Agreements and ethics	17
5.1 Collaboration Agreement	17
5.2 Intellectual Property.....	17
5.3 Material Transfer Agreements	18
5.4 Ethics.....	18
5.5 Use of humans/human tissue	19
5.6 Use of animals	20
5.7 Use of Stem Cells	21
6. Terms and conditions for UK applicants	21
7. Contacts and Guidance	22
Annex 1: External peer review scoring system	23
Annex 2: MRC-MoST Case for Support Guidance.....	25

1. Important application information

The [Medical Research Council \(MRC\)](#) on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the [Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China \(MoST\)](#) are pleased to invite proposals to the China UK One Health Research for Epidemic Preparedness and AMR Call.

This initiative builds on previous engagement between the UK and China and represents the 3rd Flagship Challenge between the two countries, to work together to enrich the science and innovation collaboration between their research communities. This initiative will be funded by UKRI under the International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) and will provide bilateral funding for high quality collaborative research partnerships between China and the UK. It will be focused on addressing the growing global burden of antimicrobial resistance, and infectious disease with epidemic potential.

The International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) is designed to enable potential and foster prosperity. It will support UK researchers and innovators to work with international partners on the major themes of our time, and to help them create new knowledge and technology for the world. It is managed by the Department for Science, Innovation Technology. Delivered by a consortium of the UK's leading research and innovation bodies including UK Research and Innovation.

Background

The ongoing global pandemic has demonstrated the enormous global costs that infectious disease outbreaks can incur, measured both in human health and economic terms. There is a critical need for global initiatives to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disease outbreaks and the slow-moving epidemic of antimicrobial resistance.

Epidemics are defined by complex interactions between microbes, hosts and ecosystems, often starting with a pathogen making the jump from an established host into a new, vulnerable species. Further understanding the drivers of these jumps, and the physiological impact of emerging pathogens, is critical to guide preparedness for emerging disease outbreaks.

For already established pathogens, increasing levels of bacterial and fungal resistance to antimicrobials represents a critical global challenge that threatens routine delivery of healthcare and food security. Without effective antimicrobials, treatment of infection in humans, animals, livestock and agriculture will become progressively more challenging. Building understanding of how resistance emerges, and spreads will enable future mitigation of this growing problem, alongside important policy work in reducing our unintentional exposure to and reliance on antimicrobials.

Past outbreaks have also highlighted the vital role international collaboration has to play in addressing these threats and any future health emergencies. By sharing knowledge, best practice and building on each other's complementary capabilities, such emerging threats can be better understood, mitigated, or even ultimately be prevented.

Tackling emerging diseases and AMR are priorities for both the [UK](#) and [China](#), recognising the health and economic risk they present. Both problem-solving and burden-sharing nations with a global perspective, we mutually benefit from joining efforts to combat this international risk together. There is a true opportunity to bring the UK and China research communities together, building on and complementing the capabilities in each country to address this common threat of disease outbreaks and AMR. The added value of this cooperation has clearly been demonstrated by past mutual investment in research, leading to the [ban of colistin use](#) in China for instance.

For further information on the scope, aims and objectives, please see the [call webpage](#) for UK applicants and MoST webpage for China applicants.

Call Details

Researchers will be responsible for developing their own collaborations and, once a research proposal is developed, UK and China applicants must apply jointly for funding. For administrative purposes, all projects will have a Principal Investigator (PI) at a UK Research Organisation (RO) and a PI at a China RO.

Co-PIs will be responsible for leading the whole teams from their respective countries, and those teams may (but do not have to) comprise several research groups from the same or different institutions, each with their own group leader.

UK and China applicants must apply **separately** to their respective funding agencies for the funding component requested within each country. The applications must be equivalent, **jointly** prepared by both UK and China applicants and based around a common research plan and vision.

We will therefore require the submission of a partnership letter signed by both PIs confirming their commitment to the joint research project, and submission of equivalent proposals to both funders. More detail can be found in [section 3.3 below](#) under letters of support.

1.1 Start Date and Duration

MRC will provide matched funding and bi-lateral support with MoST for three-year projects.

The UK side of the grant must start by the 7 February 2024. The start of the project may not be delayed beyond this date.

The Funding available for this call is as follows:

MoST and MRC will jointly provide bi-lateral support for three-year projects to intensify productive collaboration in One Health Research for Epidemic Preparedness and AMR between leading researchers in the UK and China. In total, MRC will make up to £6 million available in support of the UK components of the collaborative projects, with matched equivalent resource provided by MoST in support of the China components.

Please see the [call webpage](#) for further details and below for the breakdown of the expected UK contribution:

Theme one: (Budget approximately £1.5 million): Study of infectious disease pathogens with epidemic potential (maximum amount per project is £0.5 million, matched by MoST for China component)

Theme two: (Budget approximately £1.5 million): Mechanisms of pathogen resistance, from generation to evolution (maximum amount per project is £0.5 million, matched by MoST for China component)

Theme three: (Budget approximately £3 million): Identifying the drivers of multi-resistant pathogens £3 million (maximum amount per project is £1.5 million, matched by MoST for China component)

The award of a MRC-MoST Grant does not guarantee any further commitment to funding by MRC or MoST.

Please make it clear within your jointly prepared Case for Support and partnership letter which theme you are applying to. This must match the theme requested in your MoST application.

1.2 Key dates

Stage	Date
Deadline for Expression of Interest (Eoi) (to be submitted to MRC only)	11 May 2023
Deadline for applicants to submit proposal	7 June 2023
Decision Panel Meeting	W/C 20 November 2023
Funding start date	7 February 2024

2. Who can apply?

For support under this call, applicants and organisations must be eligible to apply for funding from their respective country's funding agency. The expectation is that the UK-based PI and associated costs for UK research would be funded by the MRC, while the China-based PI and associated costs for China research would be funded by MoST. The UK and China applicants will need to meet the requirements of their respective funding agencies.

For more information on the MRC requirements, check the following:

- [the MRC eligibility guidance for applicants](#)
- [the eligibility of your organisation](#)
- [your eligibility as an individual](#)

2.1 Who is eligible to apply to MRC

To be eligible to apply for this opportunity you must:

- be a researcher employed by an [eligible research organisation](#)
- have at least a postgraduate degree, although we expect most applicants to have a PhD or medical degree
- show that you will direct the project and be actively engaged in the work

Both new partnerships and proposals building on existing collaborations are encouraged.

The funders are not seeking to support additional partners outside of the UK and China through this initiative. Please email your relevant contact (see the 'contact details' section) if you are considering involving applicants or partners from a third country in your proposal.

2.2 People named on the grant (UK)

Each grant will require a UK PI and a China PI who will equally share leadership and project management for each project. Each PI will apply for funding to support the specific components of the grant from their respective funding agency.

The Principal Investigators

The proposal should be jointly developed by a UK PI and a China PI. They should develop a common research plan and vision and equally share leadership and project management for each project. PIs may only submit one application to this scheme as PI but may be involved in more applications if listed as a Co-Investigator.

The UK PI and China PI are responsible for the intellectual leadership of the research project and for the overall management of the research. The PI will be the funding agencies' main contact for the proposal.

UK PI

For administrative purposes when completing the UK Je-S form, you will only be able to input one PI; this will need to be the UK PI. The China PI will need to be listed as a co-investigator (Co-I) on Je-S.

The MRC will consider proposals from any UK-eligible researcher who is based at an eligible research organisation and can demonstrate that they will direct the proposed research and be actively engaged in carrying it through. See standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) for further details about UK PI eligibility.

In addition to the MRC eligibility criteria the UK PI must meet the below MoST criteria.

If a UK PI is hired as a China-based PI in an existing bilateral collaborative project between the two nations, the UK PI won't be eligible as a UK PI.

For further information please consult the MoST guidance.

Co-investigators (Co-Is)

The UK PI and China PI may be supported by a number of Co-Is named on the application. A Co-I assists the PI in the management and leadership of the research project. They would

provide intellectual and/or practical input into the research and whose participation may warrant inclusion of their name on any outputs (e.g. publications).

UK Researcher co-investigator role

A researcher co-investigator is expected to make a substantial intellectual contribution to the formulation and development of the application but is not eligible to be either PI or co-investigator in their own right. They do not have a pre-existing contract of employment with the RO of the PI or any of co-investigators. The researcher co-investigator's host RO are required to outline their commitment and support to the individual ensuring success for the research project, and their professional and career development.

Find out more information about the role of [researcher co-investigator](#).

Other support

UK applicants

For information on other parties involved in research including project partners, please see section 1 in the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#).

If a UK project partner is from industry or if any China investigators or project partners are from industry, then applicants must follow the [guidance](#) relating to the MRC Industrial Collaboration Framework (ICF).

2.3 Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

We are committed to achieving equity of opportunity for all funding applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns

Read MRC's [guidance on flexible working and career breaks](#). You can also find out more about [MRC's current EDI initiatives](#) and [equality, diversity and inclusion at UKRI](#).

3. Application process

3.1 Expression of Interest (Eoi)

Researchers planning to submit to this scheme should submit a short [Expression of Interest \(Eoi\)](#) by 11 May 2023 at 11:00pm (UK time) to the MRC. It is the responsibility of the UK PI to submit the Eoi on behalf of the UK/China research collaboration.

Please note, this step does not form part of the review process. The funders will not undertake eligibility checks at this point. Applicants should not await a response from the funders following the EoI submission, but simply continue with the development of the full proposal to be submitted by the deadline. The funders will use the EoI to help prepare for the review process.

Applicants are not expected to submit an EoI to MoST, only to the MRC.

3.2 Full application: process overview

UK and China applicants are required to submit a co-developed application to both the MRC and MoST, based around a common research plan and vision. Please note failure to submit a valid application to both MRC and MoST by the respective deadlines will invalidate both submissions.

A joint letter of partnership should be submitted to confirm the UK and China lead PIs are submitting the same information to both funders. The letter should also confirm the thematic area they are applying to.

MoST and MRC will run a separate but parallel review process based on the jointly prepared proposals submitted to the respective systems.

UK applicants must submit through the UK [Joint electronic Submission \(Je-S\) System](#) by **7 June 2023**. Further guidance can be found in the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) as well as in this present Call-specific Guidance document.

The China applicants must submit through MoST, please see the MoST guidance, the link can be found on the MRC webpage.

The MRC and MoST will conduct a remit check/relevance review to identify applications that are in alignment with the scope of the call. Applications that are deemed not to be eligible or not to be relevant to the call may be withdrawn from the competition.

UK and China researchers should discuss ethics and Intellectual Property before fully developing their proposal and ensure they complete the relevant sections of the application forms and provide the appropriate attachments with their application.

3.3 Full application: summary of components

The following documents must be included in the jointly prepared full application submission on Je-S.

Document	Je-S- Mandatory requirement unless stated as optional
Covering letter	X(optional)
A jointly prepared Case for Support	X
CVs	X
List of Publications	X
Justification of Resources	X
Data Management Plan	X
MoST IP Articles or Agreement	X
Trusted Research and Innovation Attachment	X
Letters of support (dated and signed)	X

- **A completed Je-S form.**
 - All UK and China PIs/Co-Is **MUST** be included.
 - The costing part of the online Je-S form must reflect the UK costs only, so while the China investigators should be included, hours charged on the Je-S form for China investigators should be 0. China costs will be captured in the Justification of Resources document.
- **A cover letter (optional).** [UK applicants] If you have submitted a similar or related proposal to any of the UKRI Research Councils in the last year, please provide details in a cover letter including what has changed since the previous submission. [Both UK and China applicants] The covering letter can be used to cover details such as conflicts of interest and names of conflicted experts that you request not to be used as peer reviewers by the MRC.
- **Trusted Research and Innovation Attachment** (using the call-specific TRI attachment which can be found on the [funding opportunity webpage](#)). Please see [section 3.6](#) for further information. To assist with the assessment of your TRI attachment, it is essential it is submitted separately to your application via email (ISPFattachments@mrc.ukri.org) by Wednesday 7 June.
- **A jointly prepared Case for Support**, including an optional but recommended one-page annex detailing the methodology and experimental design aspects and a project Gantt Chart – please see [section 3.4](#) for further guidance.
- **CVs** (uploaded individually to Je-S) for each of the UK and China Investigators and named research staff on the application. Please see section 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 of the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#).
- **Publication lists** (uploaded individually to Je-S) for each of the UK and China Investigators and named research staff on the application. Please see section 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 of the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants.
- **Justification of Resources** (using the call-specific JoR template which can be found on the [funding opportunity webpage](#)) for the total costs requested for the project (both UK and China costs should be fully justified because this document will be provided to peer reviewers and panel members). Please see [section 3.5](#) for further guidance.

- **Data Management Plan** – please see section 2.2.7 of the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#).
- **MoST IP Articles or Agreement** – Please stipulate “*whether IP articles or agreement have been signed, stipulating ownership, sharing and protection of expected outcomes and IP rights, compliance with international and domestic laws and regulations, practices and ethics. No more than 1000 words*” (taken and translated from the MoST application process). Please consult your China counterpart when completing this attachment to ensure the same information is being submitted to MoST. It must be uploaded to Je-S as a PDF as a Non-UK Component titled ‘MoST IP Articles or Agreement’. Please use Arial 11pt typeface with margins of 2cms on all sides.
- **MRC Industry Collaboration Framework (ICF) form (if required)** – This is needed if industry is involved in the UK and/or in China. Please see the [relevant MRC webpage](#) for further guidance (use the **MICA form** Je-S attachment option).
- **UK National Health Service (NHS) costs (if required)** – please see section 3.5 of the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#).
- **Use of animals overseas form(s) (if required)** please see section 4.4.6 of the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) and the [use of animals overseas section](#) of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) website. This attachment should be uploaded as a ‘Letter of Support’, describing the document as ‘Use of Animals attachment’.
- **Letters of support (dated and signed):**
 - from the UK Research Organisation(s) demonstrating support for the proposed research project.
 - from the China research organisation(s) demonstrating support for the proposed research project.
 - Partnership Letter of Collaboration signed by both the UK PI and China PI confirming they have jointly developed, prepared and submitted equivalent applications to both funders. The letter should also confirm the thematic area they are applying to.
 - from any project partner where an in-kind payment is being contributed.
 - A human participation/human tissue letter signed by both the UK PI and China PI when human/human tissue research is proposed and/or when the China partner or another third party (ANY organisation other than the host UK RO) is responsible for recruitment of people as research participants and/or providing human tissue. See section 5.5.1 of this Guide for Applicants for further information.
 - Use of Animals letter (if applicable, 2 sides of A4 max) – see section 5.6.1 of this Guide for Applicants for information. This should be signed by both the UK PI and China PI.

All attachments should be completed in 11-point Arial typeface, with a minimum of 2cm margins. Applications will not be accepted where smaller or narrow typefaces have been used.

Page lengths (A4 size):

<i>Document</i>	<i>Maximum length (Maximum)</i>
Covering letter	2 pages
A jointly prepared Case for Support	8 pages (including illustration, references and a project Gantt Chart) + optional additional 1 page for the reproducibility and statistical design annex
CV	2 pages per CV
List of Publications	1 page per List of Publications
Justification of Resources	Please refer to the call-specific template for information about page limits which can be found on the funding opportunity webpage
Data Management Plan	3 pages
MoST IP Articles or Agreement	2 pages
Trusted Research and Innovation Attachment	See document
Letters of support (dated and signed)	2 pages each

Further guidance and details for all of the above content can be found in the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#).

3.4 The Case for Support

A jointly prepared Case for Support must be uploaded as a PDF to Je-S. The case for support may be up to 8 A4 pages in length (including illustrations, references, and a project **Gantt chart**) plus an optional additional one-page reproducibility and statistical design annex, using Arial 11pt typeface with margins of 2cms on all sides.

In your case for support you should clearly state **which theme of the scope** you are applying under, and address each of the following headings:

- 1 title
- 2 importance of the research (including synergistic effects of the collaboration)
- 3 scientific potential
 - 3.1 people and track record (including plans for the participation of early career researchers)
 - 3.2 research environment
 - 3.3 research plans and deliverables
- 4 ethics and research governance
- 5 exploitation and dissemination.
- 6 Project Partners

Further guidance on content under each of these headings can be found in [Annex 2](#).

Research Misuse

Biomedical research that involves disease pathogens, while having potential to greatly benefit society, carries the risk that the research outcomes or technologies used in research could be deliberately misused or unintentionally result in harm. UKRI is committed to ensure that applications for funding consider and manage these types of risks appropriately. Please, refer

to [MRC's policy statement on Managing the Risks of Research Misuse](#) for more information. Applicants are required to consider risks associated with the unethical use of their proposed research and detail how these will be mitigated in this case for support (point 4).

Reproducibility and Statistical Design Annex

A one-page annex may be included in addition to the case for support page limit providing additional detail of the methodology and experimental design aspects of the proposal. This information must be provided as a clearly marked annex at the end of the main Case for Support entitled 'Reproducibility and Statistical design annex'. Please note that you are not required to duplicate information presented elsewhere in the application.

The use of this annex is strongly advised where the proposal includes the use of animals and/or human participants, or where the methodology/experimental design proposed is practically novel. Please see [Annex 2](#) for further guidance.

3.5 Justification of Resources (JoR)

Please complete the call-specific JoR template available on the MRC [funding opportunity webpage](#), it must be written in a minimum font size of Arial, 11 point, with margins of at least 2 cm, justifying that the resources requested are appropriate to undertake the research project. The call-specific template includes details of the page limits.

You must complete one Justification of Resources (JoR) document justifying both the UK and China costs and attach it to your application under "Justification of Resources". The JoR must contain a breakdown and explanation of the costs requested for this funding scheme by each partner, taking into account the requirements outlined under the 'Funding available' section of this document.

The JoR should explain why the resources requested are appropriate for the research proposed, taking into account the nature and complexity of the research proposal. It should not be simply a list of the resources required.

In addition to the standard content for the Justification of Resources, applicants should include:

- the GBP and Yuan value of resources requested by the UK researchers.
- the GBP and Yuan value of resources requested by the China researchers.

Please note, for the purposes of the completing this section: 1 GBP = 8.42 RMB

This is required so that the value of the total funds requested for the research project can be assessed.

The costs on both the UK and China side should be separate with a clear justification for each cost.

3.6 Trusted Research and Innovation Attachment

UKRI is committed to ensuring that effective international collaboration in research and innovation takes place with integrity and within strong ethical frameworks. Trusted Research and Innovation is a UKRI work programme designed to help protect all those working in our thriving and collaborative international sector by enabling partnerships to be as open as possible, and as secure as necessary. Our [TRI Principles](#) set out UKRI's expectations of organisations funded by UKRI in relation to due diligence for international collaboration.

As your application involves international collaboration and will be funded through the [International Science Partnership Fund](#), you will need to complete a TRI Attachment to detail your plan for effective international collaboration whilst protecting intellectual property, sensitive research and personal information.

Please use Arial 11pt typeface with margins of 2cms on all sides. More information and guidance about TRI can be found on UKRI's [website](#).

3.7 Creating a Je-S account and application

China applicants

Registration on the Je-S system is required in order to participate in this joint call. Please read through the instructions below and follow your UK PI's instructions. China PIs also need to meet the submission criteria detailed by MoST.

UK applicants

To submit full proposals, please login to your Je-S account via <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk>, using the username and password you have chosen (if you do not have a Je-S account, or have forgotten your password, please see the guidance provided further below).

Please note that ONLY the UK Principal Investigator creates the Je-S application, any collaborating investigators from other research organisation (UK or Overseas) are added to the application depending on their involvement and responsibilities whilst working on the project.

New Je-S users: In order to gain access to the Je-S System, [create an account](#).

Important information when creating a Je-S account:

- **All Investigators (from the UK, China and any third country) involved in a grant project will need to be registered on Je-S. It is important to register on Je-S at least two weeks before the deadline as the process takes time to complete.**
- It is recommended that overseas Co-Investigators should ensure that their Research Organisation (RO) has been added to the Je-S database before they commence the Je-S account creation process.
- The create account process will require the applicant to accept the terms and conditions using the Je-S System, before the applicant can proceed with the account creation.
- Applicants can choose to 'Skip the ORCID identifier' as this is NOT required for the purposes of being added to the proposal as an 'Investigator', priority is to create a

verified Je-S account to enable the Investigator to be included within the Je-S application.

- Investigators should select the account type 'Applicant on a Standard or Outline Proposal' (within the Research Proposals section).

If an overseas Co-Investigator is unable to select their RO when attempting to create their Je-S account, MRC recommend that the Investigator emails the [Je-S Helpdesk](#), with the full name and address details of the Overseas Organisation and they will contact you with further instructions.

Creating your Je-S application:

- Select '**Documents**' from left hand menu list from your Je-S account home page
- Select '**New Document**' from within the Functions/create section of your documents page

The '**Call/type/mode**' listed below can only be selected when the call opening date has been reached (until the advertised call closing date of **7 June 2023**).

All MRC funding calls close at **16:00 local UK time**, on the advertised closing date.

- Select council: **MRC**
- Select document type: **Standard Proposal**
- Select scheme: **Research Grant**
- Select call/type/mode (optional): **China MoST One Health 23**
- Select '**create document**' option

Please telephone Je-S Helpdesk +44 (0)793 444164 should you require any assistance with the Je-S system.

Project details: UK Project start date 7 February 2024.

3.8 Budgets

In total, MRC will make up to £6 million available in support of the UK components, with matched equivalent resource provided by MoST in support of the China components for the three year period per research project.

We aim to fund a range of projects across the **three thematic areas detailed** in the scope below. The size of grants will vary according to the needs of each research project and applicants will need to provide a robust case for value for money. We encourage a range of proposals, from smaller proposals focusing on a specific element of the scope to larger, multidisciplinary projects (particularly in thematic area three with fitting budget). Please see below for the breakdown of the UK contribution:

- **Theme one:** (Budget approximately £1.5 million): Study of infectious disease pathogens with epidemic potential (maximum amount per project is £0.5 million, matched by MoST for the China component)
- **Theme two** (Budget approximately £1.5 million): Mechanisms of pathogen resistance, from generation to evolution (maximum amount per project is £0.5 million, matched by MoST for the China component)

- **Theme three** (Budget approximately £3 million): Identifying the drivers of multi-resistant pathogens (maximum amount per project is £1.5 million, matched by MoST for the China component)

MoST will provide matched funding to support a comparable research effort on the China side.

UK applicants

MRC will make up to £6 million available to cover the UK components of the collaborative research projects selected for funding under this call. The MRC will provide funding under standard arrangements and at 80% fEC.

UK projects must be three years in duration and must start by 7 February 2024.

Please see **section 3. Resources – Full Economic Costing** in the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) for information on FEC.

UK funding available

	<i>UK funding</i>
Research costs:	
Staff – directly incurred post (e.g. Researchers, Technicians)	Yes
Staff – directly allocated posts (PI and Co-I time)	Yes
Equipment below £10,000: Costs should be claimed as 'Other Directly Incurred Costs'	Yes
Equipment above £10,000	No
Other Directly Incurred Costs Including (e.g. Consumables, Sub-Contracting costs)	Yes
Research studentships	No
Research assistants/postdoctoral researchers/research technicians	Yes
Studentships (degree programmes)	No
Travel and subsistence for exchange/mobility activities	Yes
Cost of workshops, meetings etc. Should be costed as 'Other Directly Incurred'.	Yes

China applicants

Please refer to MoST Guidance

4. Assessment process and criteria

Following submission, parallel evaluation processes will be undertaken by the funding agencies. To be funded, proposals must be internationally competitive and at a standard equivalent to that normally expected to be supported by each funding organisation.

MRC will conduct a written peer review process. Applicants will be given the opportunity to provide a written response to the peer review comment prior to the panel meeting.

Key assessment criteria and perspectives for the submissions will be:

- compatibility with the objectives and scope of the call
- significance and impact of the research
- scientific rationale: novelty, innovativeness, importance and timeliness of the research
- design and feasibility of the project plan
- partnership: including strength and clarity of collaborations and opportunities provided, and quality of the project management structure proposed; the added value of the UK-China collaboration; engagement of early career researchers
- quality and suitability of the research environment and of the facilities
- value for money for China and UK science
- ethical considerations and governance arrangements.

MoST and the MRC will run a parallel evaluation process based on the jointly prepared proposals submitted to the respective systems. To ensure the same applications reach the final evaluation stage with each funder, outcomes will be compared and agreed at each evaluation step and only those proposal supported by both funders will progress.

Evaluation process

- Eligible applications will be evaluated in parallel by the funders. MRC will follow the steps below.
 - MRC will conduct an external peer review; this includes written reviews by international reviewers.
 - The UK PI will be offered the opportunity to provide a written response to the reviews on behalf of both the UK and China applicants.
 - If the number of applications dictates, the MRC will convene a triage panel to shortlist the applications.
- The Funders will combine the results of the first stage of the evaluation and progress the successful applications to be the next stage.
- Following this process, applications will be assessed by separate MRC and MoST panels of academics, selected by the funders.
- Applications will be scored by both panels and the funder outcomes combined. The application with the highest overall scores will be funded in rank order subject to meeting the minimum quality threshold.

It is envisaged that all eligible applications will go through the full peer review process described above. However, the funders reserve the right to adjust the process and introduce a shortlisting/streamlining step if a high number of applications are submitted to the call.

5. UK Agreements and ethics

5.1 Collaboration Agreement

As the research projects will be carried out by multiple research organisations and project partners, the basis of collaboration between the organisations and project partners is expected to be set out in a formal Collaboration Agreement between the research organisations involved. This should include ownership of intellectual property (IP) generated during the project and rights to exploitation, and costs of IP management [this is not an eligible (direct) cost to UKRI or MoST). It is the responsibility of the research organisations to put such an agreement in place before the research begins. **The terms of collaboration shall not conflict with UKRI and MoST terms and conditions.**

The collaboration agreement should also include the allocation of resources throughout the project.

Arrangements for collaboration and/or exploitation must not prevent the future progression of academic research and the dissemination of research results in accordance with academic custom and practise and the requirements of the funding bodies. A temporary delay in publication is acceptable in order to allow commercial and collaborative arrangements to be established.

Details of key issues included in the Collaboration Agreement, for example management of Intellectual property, should be detailed in the 'ethics and research governance' section of the Case for Support.

The collaboration Agreement does not need to be submitted with the application on Je-S however it must be made available when requested by the MRC before the project begins.

5.2 Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) means any copyright and related rights, patents, rights to inventions, registered designs, database rights, design rights, topography rights, trademarks, service marks, trade names and domain names, trade secrets, rights in unpatented know-how, rights of confidence and any other intellectual or industrial property rights of any nature including all applications (or rights to apply) for, and renewals or extensions of such rights and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection which subsist or will subsist now or in the future in any part of the world.

Ownership of intellectual property (IP) generated during the project and rights to exploitation, as well as any costs regarding management of IP, are expected to be agreed between the collaborating research organisations before the research begins, unless otherwise stated. It is up to the respective UK and China research teams to determine in advance how any exploited IP will be divided amongst the partners. Details of this agreement must be included in the Collaboration Agreement (as above).

Agreements must not conflict with MRC or MoST policies or terms and conditions. Any agreements in place between a research organisation and their respective funding organisation must be adhered to, including the sharing of IP costs or benefits. Any IP sharing agreements in place between a research organisation and their national funding body would be expected to apply only to the IP share of that research organisation.

The MRC will follow its standard rules/terms and conditions regarding IP, please see relevant sections of the [UKRI and MRC terms and conditions](#) for research grants.

China applicants

China applicants should refer to the MoST Guidance.

5.3 Material Transfer Agreements

Collection and exchange of material may occur between collaborating institutions, as necessary, in strict compliance with the relevant legislation in both countries.

5.4 Ethics

Any research involving humans/human tissue and/or animals (whether undertaken in the UK or China) must comply with legislation in both the UK and China. It must also comply with relevant policies and guidance of MRC and MoST.

It is the absolute responsibility of the PI and the ROs to ensure that appropriate ethical approval is granted and adhered to, and that no research requiring ethical approval is initiated until it has been granted.

The ethical information sub-sections in the Je-S application form should be completed to give details of any human participation, research using animals, genetic and biological risk **in all countries** (stating clearly which country/countries the relevant research will be done in), and should state any UK and China ethical committee approvals required. Section 5 of the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) has been updated to reflect amendments to this section of the Je-S form.

Applicants must be clear in their applications in which country the proposed research involving humans and/or animals will take place and must fully complete the ethical information section for research taking place in either country.

For China applicants

China applicants should refer to the MoST Guidance

MRC ethics guidance

Applicants must comply with all of the MRC's relevant policies and guidance regarding the use of humans/human tissue and/or animals in research. Further details are given below.

Approval(s) for the research detailed in an MRC grant proposal must be granted by the appropriate bodies before any work can commence. Institutions, applicants, and grant holders have absolute responsibility for ensuring that the necessary approvals are granted for the research considered by the MRC and MoST.

The principal investigator/ research organisation must be prepared to provide the MRC with a copy of the ethical approval, and any correspondence with the committees, if requested. The principal investigator must notify the MRC if a regulator or a research ethics committee requires amendments that substantially affect the research question, methodology or costs to the extent that the project is no longer the same as that approved for funding by the MRC.

Please see [section 3.3](#) of this Guidance for Applicants for a summary of ethical documents required.

5.5 Use of humans/human tissue

For China applicants

Please refer to the MoST Guidance

5.5.1 MRC guidance

A signed and dated letter of support must be attached to the proposals when human/human tissue research is proposed (in either country). The letter should be titled 'Human participation/human tissue letter' and MUST be signed by both the UK and China PI. It must be clear from the letter which human/tissue research is being proposed in which country.

The letter should state that all applicants will comply with the relevant MRC policies and guidance in the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) and call-specific Guidance for Applicants. The letter should also acknowledge that the UK PI and China PI understand that MRC's current policy for research involving humans to take place overseas, is that **for research to be undertaken internationally, both local and UK ethical approval is required**. The letter should also state that the UK PI and China PI understand that for clinical studies involving human participants and/or patients in the UK or overseas, appropriate consent must be obtained.

In addition, where the China partner or another third party (ANY organisation other than the UK RO) is responsible for recruitment of people as research participants and/or providing human tissue, details should be included in the case for support and the 'Human participation/human tissue letter' MUST include confirmation of the following:

- which international partner is involved and that the partner has agreed to recruit the participants/provide tissue
- that what is being supplied is suitable for the research being undertaken
- that the quantity of tissue (where relevant) being supplied is suitable, but not excessive for achieving meaningful results.

The letter of support must be an integral part of the application (as an attachment) and must focus on the proposal it accompanies.

5.6 Use of animals

For China applicants

Please refer to MoST Guidance

5.6.1 MRC guidance

Applicants must ensure that all of the proposed research, both that in the UK and in China will comply with the principles of the MRC common guidance on [responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#) and [NC3Rs Guidelines: Primate Accommodation, Care and Use](#).

In particular, UK institutions should be aware of the following aspect of the guidance relating to research or collaboration outside the UK:

“When collaborating with other laboratories, or where animal facilities are provided by third parties, researchers and the local ethics committee in the UK should satisfy themselves that welfare standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation (e.g. the ASPA) and set out in this guidance are applied and maintained.

Where there are significant deviations, prior approval from the funding body should be sought and agreed. International research should also be compliant with all relevant national and local regulatory systems in the host country where the research is to be conducted.”

Investigators proposing the use of animals (in either country) should read the guidance and:

- provide a signed and dated letter with the heading ‘Use of Animals letter’ (uploaded as a Letter of Support to the Je-S application) which MUST be signed by both the UK and China PI stating that:
 - all animal research (undertaken in either country) will adhere to all relevant national and local regulatory systems in the UK and China
 - they will follow the guidelines laid out in the [responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#) document and ensure that work is carried out to UK and China standards. If primates are used they should also confirm that they will follow the [NC3Rs Guidelines: Primate Accommodation, Care and Use](#)
 - before initiation of the proposed research work, appropriate approvals from institutional and/or central animal ethics committees will be obtained for experimental protocols to be adopted in their projects. Successful proposals may be expected to provide copies of these permissions before funding is released.
 - details on which animal research will take place in which country (UK, China or elsewhere) and through which funder the resources are being sought. Applicants should include confirmation that animal welfare standards at these institutions meet the requirements outlined above.
- If applicable, applicants should also submit the MRC ‘Use of Animals Overseas’ form(s) - please see section 4.4.6 of the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) and

[the use of animals overseas section](#) of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) website. This attachment should be uploaded as a 'Letter of Support'.

All applicants are required to comply with Section 4: 'Proposals involving animal use' of the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#). Applicants should detail in the letter any additional information which was not included in the proposal document but which is pertinent to the animal research proposed and which the funders should be aware of.

In addition, researchers should be reminded that sufficient information and justification regarding any animal research proposed, regardless of country, must be provided in the proposal order to allow full peer review to take place.

5.7 Use of Stem Cells

For China applicants

Please refer to the MoST Guidance

5.7.1 MRC guidance

Please see section 5 of the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) for further information.

6. Terms and conditions for UK applicants

For the UK grant's terms and conditions please follow the link:

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>

UK grant starting procedures

The UK side of the grant must start on or before 7 February 2024. The start of the grant may NOT be delayed beyond this date.

UK applicants should refer to the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) for information on what the starting procedure entails. Please inform the relevant support staff in your organisation of this requirement to ensure the project starts on time.

Please note that due to the requirement to start by 7 February 2024, the normal three months start period rules outlined in the UKRI Terms and Conditions RGC4, does not apply to this project.

Ethical requirements

It is the responsibility of the PI and the research organisation to ensure that appropriate ethical approval is granted for this study and adhered to, and that no research requiring ethical approval is initiated until it has been granted.

UK government support

This award is dependent on continuing government commitment for this initiative and continuing support from the partner funder. In the event that either the UK government or overseas funder support is withdrawn, the MRC reserves the right to terminate the award.

7. Contacts and Guidance

Please read:

- the [MRC call webpage](#) (for UK applicants)
- the MoST open call webpage (China applicants)
- the current document, the call-specific Guidance for Applicants
- the [standard MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) (for UK and reference for China applicants)

For further information, UK applicants should contact: international@mrc.ukri.org

For further information, relating to the call or the MoST application, China applicants should contact: zfi@cstec.org.cn

Annex 1: External peer review scoring system

Proposals will be evaluated and rated overall on a scale ranging between 1 and 6 by scientific reviewers who will utilise the following score indicators.

Categories 1-2 are not worthy of funding.

Categories 3-6 are worthy of funding, subject to the availability of resources.

Score Indicators	Score
<p>Exceptional - Top international programme, or of exceptional national strategic importance</p> <p>Scientific quality and impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance - Original and innovative; novel methodology and design - Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact <p>Scientific leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent leadership (<i>track record, team, environment, and collaborators</i>) <p>Justification of resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for high return on investment (<i>resources requested, likelihood of project delivery, anticipated knowledge generation</i>) - Appropriate staff time allocated to deliver project (<i>Principal investigators and co-investigators</i>) <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethical and/ or governance issues are fully considered 	6
<p>Excellent - Internationally competitive and leading edge nationally, or of national strategic importance</p> <p>Scientific quality and impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance - Original and innovative; novel methodology and design - Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact <p>Scientific leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent leadership (<i>track record, team, environment, and collaborators</i>) <p>Justification of resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for high return on investment (<i>resources requested, likelihood of project delivery, anticipated knowledge generation</i>) - Appropriate staff time allocated to deliver project (<i>Principal investigators and co-investigators</i>) <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethical and/ or governance issues are fully considered 	5
<p>Very High Quality - Internationally competitive in parts</p> <p>Scientific quality and impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance - Robust methodology and design (<i>innovative in parts</i>) - Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact <p>Scientific leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent leadership (<i>track record, team, environment, and collaborators</i>) <p>Justification of resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for significant return on investment - Appropriate staff time allocated to deliver project (<i>Principal investigators and co-investigators</i>) 	4

<p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethical and/ or governance issues are fully considered 	
<p>High Quality</p> <p>Scientific quality and impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worthwhile scientific question or knowledge gap or a valuable scientific resource - Methodologically sound study - Potential for significant health and/or socioeconomic impact <p>Scientific leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong leadership (<i>track record, team, environment, and collaborators</i>) <p>Justification of resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for significant return on investment (<i>resources requested, likelihood of projected delivery, anticipated knowledge generation</i>) - Appropriate staff time allocated to deliver project (<i>may be scope strengthen management of the project</i>) <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethical and/ or governance issues are well considered 	<p>3</p>
<p>Good Quality</p> <p>Scientific quality and impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worthwhile scientific question with potentially useful outcomes - Methodologically sound study but areas require revision - Likelihood of successful delivery <p>Scientific leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate leadership (<i>scope to strengthen team; environment; collaborators</i>) <p>Justification of resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potentially more limited return on investment (<i>resources requested, likelihood of project delivery, and anticipated knowledge generation</i>) - Resources broadly appropriate to deliver the proposal <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethical and/or governance issues are adequately considered 	<p>2</p>
<p>Poor Quality</p> <p>Scientific quality and impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poorly defined question - Methodologically weak study - Limited likelihood of new knowledge generation <p>Scientific potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor leadership <p>Justification of resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potentially poor return on investment <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethical and/ or governance issues are not adequately considered 	<p>1</p>

Annex 2: MRC-MoST Case for Support Guidance

General guidance

The case for support should be a self-contained description of the proposed work with relevant background and should not depend on additional information. MRC and MoST reserve the right to withdraw proposals that contain links to additional information which extends the case for support.

Please note justification of resources is not required in the case for support. This is a separate document which should be attached to the Je-S application.

The guidelines below list general points that should be addressed when writing the case for support. However, each proposal is unique, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all the reasonable questions that the reviewers need to address are answered in the proposal – especially if the plan or resources are unusual or complex.

The scientific case should be set out under each of the headings specified in the guidance notes for the specific funding scheme.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the information on the assessment criteria, which provides detailed information on what reviewers are looking for. All information that the applicants wish to be considered as part of their research proposal (within the page limits stipulated) must be attached with their proposal form. **The proposal cannot be supplemented by further information beyond the deadline for submissions.**

The proposal and case for support will be sent out to a number of reviewers to read. Feedback from reviewers has shown that they are keen to see clarity, succinctness, and accessibility.

Proposals which do not meet the following requirements will be returned unprocessed:

- Use sans-serif typeface (Arial or equivalent), font size of 11pt (this includes any references listed within the case for support) and margins of 2cm on all sides.
- Only include one PDF document for the case for support, which must be within the page limit stipulated.
- The only acceptable annex is the: Reproducibility and statistical design (see below)
- Any unpublished data must be included in the case for support. Preprints may be included in publication lists. Manuscripts in press or submitted to journals should not be included.

Case for support content

Title	The title of of the proposed project – and the scope theme the proposal fits under
Importance	<p>Explain the need for research in this area, and the rationale for the particular lines of research planned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justify the research, either through its importance for human health, or its contribution to relevant areas of basic biomedical science. Give sufficient details of other past and current research to show that the aims are scientifically justified, and to show that the work will add distinct value to what is already known, or in progress. Where relevant, explain how plans benefit, fulfil unmet needs or contribute to current plans in the health service or industry. Where the research plans involve creating resources or facilities, or forming consortia, networks or centres of excellence, the case will need to address the potential added value, as well as issues of ownership, direction and sustainability.
Scientific potential	<p><i>People and track record</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each of the CVs will be uploaded separately as attachments in Je-S. If it is not obvious, the applicant may elaborate on why the group is well qualified to do this research in the case for support. Explain plans for the participation of early career researchers. Explain how each of the investigators named in the proposal will work together and outline other major collaborations important for the research. The applicant should acknowledge any previous or current MRC/MoST funding and describe progress-to-date on delivery of this research. If progress has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic please explain this. For applications involving a clinical trial, the track record of the applicant(s) in registering and publishing previous trials will be considered before making further awards. If the applicant has not been active in research recently, simply state this. Describe any other factors which the applicant considers may promote delivery of the proposal. <p><i>Environment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how the scientific or clinical environment(s) in which the research will be done will promote delivery of the proposed research. Explain how the research will benefit from facilities provided by the host Research Organisations. Describe any clinical, commercial, or organisational dependencies necessary to support the research, or to help translate it into practice. <p><i>Research plans</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the research plan and deliverables clarifying the China and UK components. Please describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the goal(s) to be achieved at the completion of the research, concisely and quantitatively. how the research results may contribute to overcoming current challenges, from a long-term perspective, and how they may contribute to the field of one health research for epidemic preparedness and AMR.

- Give details of the general experimental approaches, study designs, and techniques that will be used (the one-page 'Reproducibility and statistical design' annex should be used to supplement information in this section, where necessary and as appropriate. It is not necessary to describe each experiment but give enough detail to show why the research is likely to be competitive in its field. For example:
 - Highlight plans which are particularly original or unique
 - Describe all foreseeable human studies and animal experiments (in as much detail as possible at this stage)
 - Explain in greater detail how new techniques, or particularly difficult or risky studies, will be tackled, and alternative approaches should these fail
 - Identify facilities or resources you will need to access
 - Give sufficient detail to justify the resources requested
- If this is a pilot work or proof of principle proposal, give a brief description of likely subsequent proposals if the work is successful. Please note that any proposals that are intended to lead directly to a clinical trial must be discussed at an early stage with the relevant MRC programme manager.
- Explain opportunities or plans for pursuing commercial exploitation
- Describe briefly the ethical issues arising from any involvement of people, human samples or personal data in the research proposal. Please give details of how any specific risks to human participants will be controlled, and of any new animal research the MRC and MoST would be supporting.
- Do outcomes of your study, or methodology used in research have potential to be deliberately misused or unintentionally result in harm? If yes, please detail how those risks will be mitigated.
- Describe the ethical review and research governance arrangements that would apply to the work done.

**Ethics and
research
governance**

Clinical Trials involving human subjects

- Where a project involves a clinical trial involving human subjects the case for support should include plans to publish the project's findings and/or make them publicly available without unreasonable delay - usually within 12 months of trial completion. Applicants should also confirm that they will regularly update the clinical trials ISRCTN registry and provide a link to their protocol and main results.

**Exploitation and
dissemination**

- Is the proposed research likely to generate commercially exploitable results?
- What arrangements and experience does the research group or the host research organisation have to take forward the commercial exploitation of research in this area?
- Other than publication in peer reviewed journals, indicate how any results arising from the research will be disseminated so as to promote or facilitate take up by users in the health services.

Project partners

- All partner contributions, whether in cash or in-kind, should be explained in detail, including the equivalent value of any in-kind contributions
- In-kind contributions can include staff time, access to equipment, sites or facilities, the provision of data, software or materials.



¹Reproducibility and statistical design (recommended annex)

The purpose of this annex is to provide important additional information on reproducibility, and to explain the steps taken to ensure the reliability and robustness of the chosen methodology and experimental design. Please note in this context, methodology refers to the rationale for choosing which method to use and not the provision of detailed descriptions of the methods to be used.

It is **strongly advised** that a one-page annex to the case for support is included, to provide additional information specifically relating to the statistical analyses, methodology and experimental design aspects of the proposal (beyond that contained in the main case for support). The sex of animals, cells and tissues should be included and both sexes used as default. Learn more about the circumstances in which MRC will fund single sex animal, tissue and cell studies ([Sex in experimental design – MRC – UKRI](#)). Please note that you should not duplicate information presented elsewhere in the application.

This information must be provided as a clearly marked annex at the end of the main case for support, entitled 'Reproducibility and Statistical Design Annex' and should not be added as a separate attachment. Standard formatting guidance applies. Applications not adhering to these conditions will be returned unprocessed.

Applications that do not provide sufficient detail to convince reviewers that the proposed experiments will be carried out appropriately to produce robust and reproducible research will be rejected for funding on these grounds and subject to the usual limits on resubmission.

[To see worked examples of experimental design](#)

The NC3Rs have developed a [free online tool to guide researchers](#) through the design of their experiments, helping to ensure that they use the minimum number of animals consistent with their scientific objectives, methods to reduce subjective bias, and appropriate statistical analysis. The NC3R's Experimental Design Assistant can be found on the NC3R's website. Applicants may wish to embed the summary output figure of this tool into their one-page annex.

What to include in the annex

It is expected that professional statistical (or other relevant) advice would be sought in putting this section together. Each experiment does not need to be described in detail, but sufficient information must be included that reviewers are readily able to understand the experimental plan. Where appropriate, the use of figures, tables and/or diagrams is encouraged.

The following table highlights the key points you should include in the annex.

Experimental approach to address objectives.

This information may be provided in diagrammatic or tabular form if appropriate.

- Primary and secondary experimental outcomes to be assessed (e.g. cell death, molecular markers, behaviour change) and how these relate to experimental objectives
- Number of experimental and control groups
- A clear definition of the 'experimental unit' in the analysis and the implications thereof (i.e. there is a difference between N samples from one animal, as distinct from one sample from each of N animals, or combining samples from multiple animals)
- Number of 'experimental units' in each experimental group.
- Total number of 'experimental units' to be measured
- Number of times each 'experimental unit' will be measured
- Number of independent replications of each experiment.
- Steps taken to minimise the effects of bias (e.g. blinding, randomisation) or an explanation of why this would not be appropriate
- Breeding strategies may be included here, if applicable.

Justification of model(s) chosen (e.g. animal model, cell line etc.

- How and why the models and/or methods are appropriate to address the scientific objectives

Sample sizes

- Show clearly how effect sizes have been calculated and justify how they are biologically relevant
- Demonstrate that statistical power calculations are grounded in justifiable and explicit assumptions about both anticipated effect size and variability of the experimental effects
- If statistical power calculations cannot reasonably be applied, applicants should provide a principled explanation of the choice of numbers
- Explanations based solely in terms of 'usual practice' or with reference solely to previously published data will not be considered adequate.

Planned statistical analyses and their relation to the choice of sample size

- Overview of the planned statistical analyses in relation to the sample size
- Details of any statistical/methodological design advice sought (you may cost a relevant expert, e.g. statistician, into your proposal if necessary and justified). A letter of support from the expert involved is permitted, but not mandatory

What not to include in the annex

The annex should not be used as a simple continuation of the methods set out in the case for support; please do not include detailed descriptions of the methods. Applications misusing the annex in this way will be returned. The case for support should be a self-contained description of the proposed work with relevant background and should not depend on additional information.