

## Canada-UK AI Initiative Webinar Q&A

### Interdisciplinary requirement of the call

One of the key objectives of the call is to support **innovative and cutting-edge interdisciplinary** AI research that cuts across at least two of the following research domains:

- social sciences and humanities;
- health and biomedical sciences; and
- natural sciences and engineering (including computational and/or mathematical sciences).

#### **1. How will the domain of the PIs be defined and interdisciplinarity of the proposal be assessed?**

The UK PI and Canadian PI must represent **different research domains**. It is up to the PIs to select the domain that best reflects their expertise and that can be based on several factors including the disciplines their degrees are in; faculties to which they are currently affiliated; domains of research agencies to which they would usually apply for funding; nature of research publications. Applicants should also demonstrate the interdisciplinarity of the PIs in the narrative sections of the proposal (i.e. Summary and Case for Support). These sections will allow the investigators to provide more nuanced information about the expertise of particular team members. Interdisciplinarity of the approach and contribution to knowledge across different research domains (social sciences and humanities; health and biomedical sciences; and natural sciences and engineering, including computational and/or mathematical sciences) is an essential assessment criterion of the call. External reviewers and panel committee members will assess the interdisciplinarity of the proposal.

#### **2. If the Canadian PI is in the social sciences and the UK PI is in humanities, would we still qualify for funding?**

No. For this call, social sciences and humanities together make up one of the three domains.

#### **3. If the Canadian PI is in natural sciences and the UK PI is in computational sciences, would we still qualify for funding?**

No. For this call, natural sciences and computational sciences are in the same domain. Note that this domain in its entirety covers engineering, physical, mathematical and computational sciences, in addition to natural sciences.

#### **4. If Canadian PI is from domain A, can some Co-Is from the same university support domain B (or C)?**

Yes. Co-Is and others may support the same domain as the PI or they may represent different domains. However, note that interdisciplinarity among other team members is encouraged.

## **Funding & budget**

### **5. How many awards will be created?**

We are aiming to support up to approximately 10 collaborative teams.

### **6. What is the maximum funding limit?**

For the UK component, grants will be awarded up to £625,000 at 100% full economic cost (fEC) of which UKRI will contribute 80%.

The amount available for the Canadian component is \$C173,333 per year for three years for a total of C\$520,000 per project.

### **7. Which agencies will handle the submissions and successful awards?**

ESRC is leading the administration of this call on behalf of UKRI. The UKRI funds are from the Fund for International Collaboration. This is a central pot so there is no 'primary' funder from the UK side – each project will be awarded a single grant.

CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC are investing in this call. Applications will be funded based on the rank list established by the panel committee, and at that time, the agencies will consider which funding scenario works best in order to spend the committed funds. This could take the form of a grant from one of the Canadian agencies per project or, in some cases, perhaps multiple grants from the agencies per project.

### **8. Do the UK and Canadian funds go into the same pool?**

No. The PI based in Canada would be the grant recipient for the Canadian agencies and the PI based in the UK would be the grant recipient for UKRI. Applicants are asked to prepare two separate budgets. All resources requested for both the UK and Canada must be justified separately in the 'Justification of Resources' attachment and in alignment with respective financial guidelines. Note that it is not possible to have two PIs from the UK or Canada, there must be one from each side.

### **9. Is there a restriction on the amount that may be spent on equipment?**

For the UK budget, items of equipment costing more than £10,000 will not be funded under this call. Note that costs for social surveys may exceed this threshold, provided that they are sourced and costed in line with funding rules. The Canadian budget may include some equipment costs if well justified and in accordance with the [Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide](#).

### **10. How should budget be allocated to meetings and events?**

We would expect the applicants to consider how the UK and Canadian components will work together and that this is properly resourced. However, all costs – including those for meetings and events – must be fully justified and in alignment with respective financial guidelines.

**11. Should Canadian costs be included in the Justification of Resources section of the Je-S application?**

Yes. All (Canadian and UK) resources requested must be fully justified in the respective currency in the mandatory 'Justification of Resources' attachment.

**Eligibility**

**12. Who is eligible to apply?**

The UK PI must be based at an institution eligible to receive UKRI funding by the time the grant starts. The Canadian PI must be based at an eligible post-secondary institution at the time of applying for funds (see [Canadian Addendum](#) for more information). PIs must maintain affiliation with an eligible institution for the duration of the grant.

**13. Can the PI, Co-Is or researchers be employed in third sector, government or business?**

No. Non-academic researchers may be involved as collaborators on grants and their organisations can be named as Project Partners. Collaborators and Project Partners will be expected to bring their own resources to the collaboration and will not have access to grant funds under this call. However, note that funds can in some cases be spent on consultancy or subcontracting of expertise from non-academic organisations if in alignment with respective financial guidelines.

**14. Can the PI, Co-Is or researchers be from countries outside of the UK or Canada?**

No. International researchers may be involved as collaborators on grants and their organisations can be named as Project Partners. Collaborators and Project Partners will be expected to bring their own resources to the collaboration and will not have access to grant funds under this call.

**15. Can UK and Canadian teams be composed of investigators from more than one university?**

Yes. Investigators and researchers may be from multiple institutions.

**16. Are investigators allowed to submit more than one application as PI?**

No. As PI you may only submit one application, but could be involved in others as Co-Investigator or collaborator.

**17. How many Co-Is would you expect to see on a proposal?**

There is no guideline around this except that the inclusion of all investigators must be fully justified.

**18. Can the funds be used to support PhD Studentships?**

You may use Canadian funds to support PhD Studentships but this is not permitted for the UK component.

**19. Are students eligible to apply for this funding opportunity?**

No. Students are not eligible as applicants or co-applicants for this funding opportunity.

**20. In addition to the requirement that the UK PI and Canadian PI must represent different domains, are there any restrictions on Co-Is or other members of the team?**

No, there are no further restrictions in terms of domains, but please consult eligibility details in the Call Specification and respective national addenda. Co-Is and others may support the same domain as the PI or they may represent different domains. However, note that interdisciplinarity among other team members is encouraged.

**21. Can Early Career Researchers be PI on a grant?**

Yes, as long as the eligibility requirements of the call are fulfilled.

**22. Will EDI be given consideration under this call?**

Applicants are encouraged to consider the inclusion and advancement of underrepresented groups in science as one means to enhance excellence in research, training and knowledge translation. Applicants are expected to consider how sex as a biological and/or gender as a social determinant of health might shape artificial intelligence. Applicants are encouraged to visit the CIHR sex- and gender-based analysis [resource page](#) for more information on key considerations for the appropriate integration of sex and gender in their proposal.

**Application process**

**23. Do PIs and Co-Is need to be named on the Intention to Submit (ItS) form?**

Yes. The PIs cannot change between the ItS and full submission, but Co-Is can be changed, removed or added. You do not need to name all researchers, collaborators or partners in the ItS.

**24. Can the title and project summary change after the Intention to Submit.**

Yes, but not substantially. We would expect the content of the application to be broadly similar to the information in the ItS since we will use this information to plan and resource the peer review and begin to assemble the assessment panel.

**25. Do Canadian PIs and Co-Is need to be registered in Je-S?**

Yes. All investigators must be registered in Je-S.

**26. Are there any restrictions on the number of proposals that an institution can submit?**

UKRI does not impose a limit on the number of applications, but we do ask research organisations to be selective in order to ensure that we receive only the highest quality proposals.

**27. How can I find researchers in the UK or Canada to develop an application together?**

You can search the award search engines for [SSHRC](#), [NSERC](#) and [CIHR](#) for Canadian researchers working on artificial intelligence. You may also want to search on the [Canada Research Chairs](#) site for potential researchers in Canada to work with.

The Gateway to Research [website](#) lists all current UKRI funded grants.

**Assessment / evaluation**

**28. Will there be experts on my research topic reviewing my application?**

Applicants are asked to nominate reviewers in the Intention to Submit. You should recommend reviewers who can speak to the different aspects of the proposal. Note that the funders reserve the right not to select the nominated reviewers.

Reviewers will be selected who will cover the full disciplinary breadth of call, as informed by the Intention to Submit documents.

The evaluation panel will be multidisciplinary so before writing your proposal, consult the Selection criteria in the Call Specification and write your proposal to address each of the listed sub-criteria.

**29. Which countries should nominated reviewers be from?**

You should try to select UK and Canadian reviewers if possible but of course we recognise that the necessary expertise may sometimes be beyond these boundaries. We will consider nominations for reviewers outside of the UK and Canada.

**30. How many proposals will be contacted to give a response?**

All applicants who reach the threshold score at peer review stage are invited to prepare a response to the reviewer comments.