

ESRC-AHRC Migration Leadership Team

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Call specific FAQs

Is this a GCRF call?

No. The Migration Leadership Team is expected to take into account the breadth of the ESRC and AHRC migration portfolios (independently and jointly funded), including internal and international migration; to engage as appropriate with international organisations and other migration research programmes, including those commissioned by, for example, the European Commission, amongst other activities detailed in the call specification. While some of the outputs will be relevant to the GCRF agenda, the Leadership Team is expected

to cover a broader set of issues than only those pertaining to ODA and international development.

What should be the ideal size of the Migration Leadership Team?

This is up to the applicants to decide. The ideal size of the team will be determined by the activities and time commitments of those involved in the project. We are expecting to see an adequate balance of established investigators with early career researchers providing additional expertise and capacity and adequate team and project management justifications.

What do you mean by a ‘curated portfolio’?

The intention is to present a coherent and focussed narrative and supporting body of evidence from within the ESRC and AHRC funded portfolios and beyond, around a set of key topics and policy agendas. There is a need to demonstrate the scope and diversity of migration research trends and impacts, however the migration research portfolio is very broad and it is anticipated that not every ESRC-AHRC funded award or other piece of academic work will be included in a selective or curated approach. The Migration Leadership Team will be expected to make curatorial decisions on the focal points within the portfolio of research and how these can be best presented and developed to ensure the necessary potential for impact with policy and sector audiences.

What is the difference between curating and synthesising?

Synthesising is about bringing together and potentially blending outputs into evidence. Synthesising is supported by the notion of a curated portfolio, which both allows and indicates the need for a selective approach. Curation is therefore about carefully selecting both what is included and how it is presented in different contexts to best suit the needs of different audiences, including academics, NGO and other stakeholders, and policy decision makers.

How can I make sure that the proposal adequately meets the remits of both the ESRC and the AHRC?

Given the breadth of issues relevant to the migration portfolio, we expect to see a team which not only brings balanced and complementary knowledge, skills and expertise in the social sciences and arts and humanities, but also has demonstrable experience of interdisciplinary work. We also expect to see an adequate balance of disciplinary approaches, not a team who is considerably stronger in either field.

The call states that there should be a minimum of two senior staff, one as PI and the other(s) as Co-I(s), and there’s a minimum FTE requirement of 50%; does this mean that both the PI and the Co-I must spend 50% on the project each, or that their combined FTE on the project must total 50%?

This depends to a certain extent on the structure of the team that is being put forward. The expectation is that the PI will be a senior appointment, who will spend a significant amount of their time delivering the objectives and activities set out in the call. However, we recognise that teams can be formed of experts of equally senior backgrounds, if this is the case we would expect that their time combined meets the 50% requirement. Alternatively if the structure is a lead PI with support from one or more less experienced Co-Is then it

might be that the PI provides less than 50% FTE, while remaining significantly committed to the role, and the Co-Is commit a smaller percentage of time. This will depend on what is appropriate for their role in the leadership team structure being proposed.

Eligibility and costs

Does the lead research organisation have to be based in the UK?

Yes. Research proposals must be led by a UK principal investigator based at a Research Organisation that is eligible for ESRC funding. Guidance on eligibility for Research Council funding can be found on the RCUK website (www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs/). Proposals can be submitted by researchers who are not established members of the proposed host institution. By submitting the proposal, the research organisation is confirming that, in the event of an award, they guarantee to provide facilities for the PI (as if they were an established member of staff) for the duration of the award.

Can I be the principal investigator if I'm not affiliated with a UK eligible institution?

No. Applications must be led by a researcher at a UK-based organisation eligible to hold ESRC grants. However, non-UK academic researchers may be eligible to be included as an international co-investigator, as explained below.

Can I include researchers from outside the UK as co-investigators?

Yes. ESRC's standard international co-investigator rules apply to this call. It is permissible to include researchers based in any country, as long as they comply with the International Co-Investigators policy (www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/inclusion-of-international-co-investigators-on-proposals/).

For an international co-investigator to be included on a proposal, they must be registered with the Research Councils' submission system, Je-S. To do this, the international co-investigator should go to the Je-S website (<https://jes.rcuk.ac.uk/JeS2WebLoginSite/Login.aspx>) and select 'Create Account'.

Can I include costs for international consultants in my proposal?

In most cases a consultant will not make a significant scientific contribution to the project overall, rather they will facilitate the delivery of a specific piece of work. However, there may be cases when it is not viable for a researcher to participate unless they do so as a consultant. If this should be the case, costs associated with international consultants may be included on proposals and all consultants' contributions must be adequately justified. Please refer to the international co-investigator guidance (www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/inclusion-of-international-co-investigators-on-proposals/). All overseas consultants should calculate costs at a daily rate appropriate to the going rate for their level of expertise in their country.

How can I include a non-academic (business, third sector or government) partner?

ESRC allows UK business, third sector or government body co-investigators to be included in proposals. For further guidance please refer to: www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/inclusion-of-uk-business-third-sector-or-government-body-co-investigators-on-proposals/