

ESRC-AHRC Migration Leadership Team Call specification

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Summary

The ESRC and AHRC wish to invite proposals for a Migration Leadership Team to provide intellectual leadership for, and maximise the impact of, their combined migration research portfolio.

The team will play a vital role in:

- providing strategic and intellectual leadership over ESRC and AHRC’s existing migration research portfolio: mapping, curating and synthesising the portfolio in ways that should maximise potential impact on policy agendas, identifying synergies between existing investments and strategic gaps to support the development of a cohesive portfolio
- liaising with academics working in this and related fields, connecting and communicating with users, generating evidence and maximising the impact of the portfolio’s policy agenda through engagement with a range of policymakers and stakeholders both in the UK and internationally
- establishing and exploiting connections with other major migration research programmes and activities in Europe, in the developing world, and elsewhere

- identifying and advising on opportunities to develop the portfolio through future interdisciplinary activities including international collaboration under the broad theme of migration.

This is a complex and wide-ranging portfolio, and we anticipate that the appointment will involve a collaboration of two or more individuals bringing complementary senior-level expertise in this area, one of whom will act as principal investigator (PI) on the award. In addition, the team may include one or more early career researchers providing additional expertise and capacity, along with other supporting posts to fulfil the aims of this award. The PI and co-investigators (Co-I) will be based at eligible UK research organisations (ROs) For more information on eligibility please see www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs/.

Academic researchers from established overseas ROs of comparable standing to ESRC-eligible UK ROs are eligible to be listed as international co-investigators under this call. For further information, please see: www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/inclusion-of-international-co-investigators-on-proposals/.

The appointment is for 24 months in duration in the first instance with the possibility to extend beyond the initial period of funding¹. The successful team should take up the post on **1 November 2017**.

The maximum budget for the post is £500,000 fEC. In accordance with RCUK policy, the AHRC and ESRC will contribute up to 80 per cent of fEC. This budget is expected to cover the Leadership Team's salary costs, additional research salary costs, any support staff, as well as networking, travel, dissemination, knowledge exchange and impact activities. Applications should be submitted through the Je-S system by **16:00 on 8 August 2017**.

Background

More people are on the move today than at any time in history. There are an estimated 244 million people, or 3.3% of the world population currently living in a country other than where they were born² and the UN estimate a further 763 million people are internal migrants, migrants inside of their country of origin³. Migration, displacement and diaspora are long-term issues needing to be understood in historical context, and are the drivers of some of the most significant demographic, social, economic, political and cultural changes of current times, presenting significant policy priorities in national, regional and global agendas in both developed and developing countries.

Migration patterns, refugee crises, cultural understandings and responses are growing in complexity and their impact is becoming increasingly widespread and keenly felt across sending, transit, and receiving countries. There is a need to map and understand these changes (including how they have

¹ The possibility to extend the duration of the grant will be reviewed after 18 months of the appointment. This will be subject to the outcome of the review and will depend on the status of cross-council activities and interdisciplinary developments and initiatives within this area.

² United Nations International Migration Report 2015

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/> and UN Population Fund Migration Overview <http://www.unfpa.org/migration>

³ United Nations Population Division Technical Paper No. 2013/1

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/technical/TP2013-1.pdf>

unfolded over time) and to examine the related perceptions and media representations of those ‘on the move’.

People migrate for a multitude of reasons: work, study, social and economic betterment; but also many migrate not by choice, but to escape violence, poverty, human rights violations and war. According to the UN Refugee Agency, more than 65 million individuals⁴ have been forcibly displaced, and this figure has increased on average by 1.6 million a year, with five countries making up over half of the world’s displaced population and ten countries hosting over 62% of people living in protracted displacement⁵. Migration and diaspora have profound impacts on the countries and communities people move from, those they travel through and those where they seek to settle, live and work in.

This global phenomenon is difficult to measure and track and it is challenging to develop, coordinate and implement policy responses and interventions at national, regional and global levels, when knowledge on migration is scattered and to a certain extent unreliable. In addition there are a number of pressing policy challenges; for example, in relation to public understanding of migration and its social, cultural and economic impacts; limitations of governance and legal frameworks; issues of safety and security among migrant populations; and community-led approaches to governance, protection and resilience.

Social sciences, humanities and the arts are essential to better understand and engage with the public debates on migration and the multifaceted challenges associated to it. Timely and reliable knowledge will underpin the continuing development of this research area and enable policymakers to develop better informed and more efficient policies to respond and manage migration and address more assertively the growing numbers of those leaving their homes.

The Migration Leadership Team will play a vital role in championing the critical role of the arts, humanities and social sciences in this broad theme, taking into account cross-disciplinary contributions and international debates. The team will offer a holistic understanding of the challenges arising from migration in terms of the impact on places people have come from, the places they transit through and those where they settle.

Outputs and impact

The Migration Leadership Team will be expected to:

- Undertake a scoping report of the existing ESRC-AHRC portfolio identifying key grants, as well as other suitable investments which have migration as a significant focus, build a narrative about their main achievements and the areas to be developed further.
- Review and synthesise existing national and international literature and other evidence around key topics and policy agendas, building and curating a portfolio to demonstrate the scope and

⁴ UNHCR Figures at Glance <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/figures-at-a-glance.html>

⁵ HPG Commissioned Report: Protracted displacement: uncertain paths to self-reliance in exile <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/HPG%20Commissioned%20Report:%20Protracted%20displacement:%20uncertain%20paths%20to%20self-reliance%20in%20exile>

diversity of migration research trends and impacts, highlighting knowledge gaps, making clear recommendations about future research agenda-setting and work priorities.

- Promote international and interdisciplinary academic collaborations and make significant contributions to the policy debate by engaging and developing strategic partnerships with a broad range of audiences within and beyond the social sciences, arts and humanities, with an international focus and with a variety of audiences such as NGOs and international aid agencies in the UK and beyond.
- Integrate networks, engage with and broker linkages involving academics, policymakers and other stakeholders in support of the curated portfolio, establishing and developing links with relevant research funded by the Research Councils and by other funders, joining up the migration debate, bringing together a variety of disciplines and stimulating innovative thinking and policy recommendations in this broad area.
- Develop appropriate and innovative avenues for showcasing the strength of the ESRC-AHRC migration portfolio, maximising knowledge exchange and research impact, and incorporating key research insights into the areas of policy debate and greatest stakeholder need.

Given the high profile nature of the debates, the Migration Leadership Team will be expected to engage in public discussions as part of the role in a neutral manner, remaining non-partisan.

Report on the existing portfolio

The ESRC and AHRC have funded a series of research initiatives – either jointly or separately - which are thematically related, but which have not been expressly commissioned under a strategically conceived Migration portfolio. In addition, other relevant work has been supported through a number of other schemes that interface with this portfolio including research collaborations with the arts, humanities, social sciences and other disciplinary remits⁶. The Migration Leadership Team will be required to conduct a state-of-the-art review of relevant grants, identify gaps and trends and build upon ESRC and AHRC's existing migration-focused investments.

The Migration Leadership Team will engage with other stakeholders and research funders, both within the UK and internationally, to advise on the development and strategic direction of this portfolio, including, but not limited to, cross-cutting areas such as resilience, conflict, fragile states, health, gender and human trafficking.

Review and synthesis of existing national and international literature and other evidence

There is a considerable and growing body of research and other related evidence about a wide range of questions concerning migration, such as asylum and refugee law and policy, gender and socio-cultural integration, impact on the economy, education and health services, to mention a few

⁶ See Annex I for a summary of migration-related grants

examples⁷. Some attempts have been made to synthesise this literature, although not in a comprehensive way. A key aspect of the Leadership Team's role will be to bring key international literature together to deepen and extend our understanding of the complexities that surround migration issues and how they will be addressed in novel ways through further research initiatives.

UK and international stakeholder engagement and impact

The Migration Leadership Team will be expected to be at the forefront of migration research developments, promote the key outputs of existing UK research and engage with a variety of audiences to inform policymaking. The Leadership Team will also be expected to work with the ESRC and AHRC on the development of potential new co-funded initiatives with key government departments such as DfID and the Home Office as well as with international partners, aid agencies and NGOs, such as the UNCHR, the IOM, the other Research Councils and any other relevant organisations.

Existing UK-international collaborative research funding initiatives such as the Newton Fund and the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) will be key frameworks to engage with both to develop and deliver new funding initiatives, and to curate and maximise the wider migration portfolio.

In addition to UK-funded programmes, there are a number of potential new initiatives outside of the UK being discussed around the theme of migration. For example, the European Commission (EC) has just launched a new Knowledge Centre of Migration and Demography to bring together existing evidence and fast track this into policy-making. The EC has also commissioned several Research and Co-ordination and Support Actions (mainly through H2020 Societal Challenge Six) in the topic of migration. Individual European countries are developing dedicated research initiatives, such as those in Scandinavia and Germany. In Canada, a programme has recently been commissioned on refugees' integration. A core task of the Leadership Team will be to engage with these and other global programmes to disseminate the outputs from UK research, gather intelligence on emerging migration issues and research initiatives beyond the UK, and where possible influence the substantive development of international initiatives.

The Leadership Team may also wish to build new or exploit existing networks to engage directly with policy-makers beyond the UK, such as the European Commission and international agencies like UNHCR and IOM. It is expected this engagement will be aimed at framing global responses which will impact the development and welfare of those countries most affected by migration. International work will involve close working with the ESRC and AHRC offices.

Stimulate the cross-disciplinary migration debate and advice on the future direction for migration research

The Leadership Team will lead in engaging research communities in the UK and internationally, within and beyond the social sciences, arts and humanities, facilitating a space for cross-disciplinary

⁷ See for example the publications by the UK Migration Advisory Committee <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=migration-advisory-committee>, or the Data and Analysis section of the IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre <http://gmdac.iom.int/data-and-analysis-search>

fertilisation and collaboration and enabling a new set of intellectual perspectives which will prove the richness and diversity of the topic.

In addition, the Leadership Team will be expected to advise on the future direction of migration research, produce a 'gap' analysis and identify the key themes that might form the basis of a further research initiative. This needs to be a well-informed think piece, based on the outcomes of the synthetic work, and on broader academic intelligence-gathering and discussions with a range of other stakeholders. It must look at new and novel ways to unravel the complexities of migration, particularly the opportunities for further interdisciplinary approaches (where appropriate) from within the social sciences and arts and humanities, but crucially by connecting beyond them to the broader science base.

Maximise knowledge exchange and research impact

The Leadership Team will play a fundamental role informing the policy debate in migration, by encouraging and developing links between policymaking and relevant research funded by the Research Councils, including PaCCS, Newton, GCRF as well as other programmes and relevant investments. The Leadership Team will play a central role in the maximising the impact of ESRC-AHRC research in the theme, for example by working together with other thematic Leadership Fellows by complementing - not duplicating - research priorities and agenda-setting, providing evidence to RCUK Strategic Advisory Groups as well as Select Committees and Parliamentary Inquiries.

Engagement with the AHRC and ESRC

The Leadership team will be required to engage proactively with the ESRC and AHRC to ensure strategic alignment of the team's assignments and priorities with developing policy agendas and funding opportunities. This will require the Team to be in regular contact with a senior sponsor from both the AHRC and ESRC's Director Groups as well as day-to-day contacts from within the Councils' thematic teams.

Specification

The successful applicant(s) will demonstrate:

- An understanding of the major changes taking place in relation to international and internal migration and forced displacement, both within the UK context and internationally
- In-depth knowledge of relevant current arts and humanities, social science and interdisciplinary research, demonstrating a good understanding of migration theory, demographic data, migration and forced displacement flows and trends in global and local contexts, public opinion and policy responses
- A strong international profile which facilitates the uptake and use of research and evidence by international organisations and by those countries most affected by migration including:
 - High esteem within the social sciences and arts and humanities research communities and beyond, demonstrating the ability to have a significant impact within and beyond academia and in cross-cutting areas such as conflict, fragile states, gender, human trafficking, etc.

- Well-developed networks within academia, third sector, policymakers, and international organisations and the ability to contribute to the migration debate
- Strong leadership, communication and diplomacy skills
- Proven ability to work independently and within a team/network
- Independence in respect of party, government and other interests, both in the UK and internationally.

Eligibility

Applicants must be resident in the UK and be based at an eligible research organisation (higher education institution or recognised independent research organisation) as stated in the ESRC Research Funding Guide (www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/applicants/research-funding-guide.aspx.) Academic researchers from established overseas research organisations of comparable standing to ESRC-eligible UK research organisations are eligible to be listed as international co-investigators under this call. For further information, please see: www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/inclusion-of-international-co-investigators-on-proposals/

Resources

The maximum overall budget for the post is £500,000 at 100% fEC. The appointment is for 24 months in duration in the first instance. The successful applicant(s) will offer a minimum of 50% time allocation (FTE) over this period.

The possibility to extend the duration of the grant beyond 24 months will be reviewed after 18 months of the appointment. This will be subject to the outcomes of the review and will depend on the status of cross-council activities and interdisciplinary developments and initiatives within this area.

Eligible costs include:

- Justified salary costs
- Justified travel and subsistence
- Justified and appropriate research posts and support and administrative staff costs
- Appropriate communications and knowledge exchange activities, such as organising stakeholder and project networking events
- Justified and appropriate project-specific consumables and equipment.

How to apply

Applications should be submitted to the Research Councils' Joint Electronic Submission System (Je-S) (<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/je-s-electronic-applications/>) by **16:00 on 8 August 2017.**

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Evaluation and decision

Applications will be reviewed by a specially convened panel of experts from academic and policymaking sectors. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview in late-September 2017.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Acknowledged record of highly regarded expertise, experience and networks (including international)
- Evidence of outstanding academic contributions and leadership in the field
 - Understanding of the requirements of the work
 - Coherence and appropriateness of proposed plan of activities
 - Suitability of chosen methodologies for undertaking the systematic review and gap analysis
 - Processes and means for engaging with, and making available findings to, target audiences, including non-academic and international communities
 - Likely impact of planned outputs, communications and engagement activities
- Ability to work across disciplines beyond the social sciences and the arts and humanities and with a large network of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds
- Value for money
- Ability to work closely with the ESRC and AHRC

The interview panel will make final recommendations to the ESRC-AHRC on the appointment of the Leadership Team. The panel's recommendation will be made upon the applicant's performance at the interview stage, where potential programmes of work will be explored in depth. Shortlisted applicants will be required to make a formal presentation on how they would take forward this role, add value to existing portfolio and inform future activity, followed by questions. More details regarding the interview stage will be provided to the shortlisted candidates.

Timetable

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Call launch | 13 June 2017 |
| • Closing date | 8 August |
| • Shortlisted applicants notified | mid-September |
| • Interviews (London) | late September |
| • Applicants informed of the outcome | early October |
| • Contract issued | mid-October |
| • Work starts | 1 November 2017 |

Contacts

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ESRC

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- Gabriela Nava
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AHRC

- Paul McWhirter
Telephone: 01793 41 6094

Je-S Helpdesk

- Email: jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk
Telephone: 01793 44 4164

Available Mon-Fri 9.00-17.00 (excluding public or other holidays)

Annex I

Migration-related ESRC/AHRC investments

The ESRC and AHRC have funded a number of migration research programmes through dedicated calls such as the GCRF Forced Displacement and the Mediterranean Migration Research Programme. In addition to these, the funders have awarded migration and forced displacement-focused research grants through other initiatives, for example:

- ESRC GCRF Centres (<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-events-and-publications/news/news-items/two-new-esrc-centres-to-help-world-s-poorest-and-vulnerable/>)
- AHRC Area-Focused Network Plus (<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/funding/opportunities/archived-opportunities/gcrf-network-plus/>)
- UK in a Changing Europe (<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/research/our-research/the-uk-in-a-changing-europe/>)
- ESRC's Big Data Centres, in particular the ESRC Urban Big Data Centre (<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/research/our-research/urban-big-data/>)
- Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) (<http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/>)
- Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) (<http://www.ethnicity.ac.uk/>)
- Centre for Population Change (CPC) (<http://www.cpc.ac.uk/>)
- PaCCS Transnational Organised Crime (<http://www.paccsresearch.org.uk/themes/transnational-organised-crime/>)
- PaCCS Conflict and International Development (<http://www.paccsresearch.org.uk/themes/conflict/>)
 - Innovation Awards
 - Conflict Large Awards
- GCRF Building Resilience (<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/outcomes/awards/2016/gcrf-building-resilience/>)
- AHRC Translating Cultures and Care for the Future themes
 - International Development Innovation Awards
- ESRC/DFID Poverty Programme (<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/research/international-research/international-development/esrc-dfid-joint-fund-for-poverty-alleviation-research/>)
- Newton Fund - Tubitak (Turkey) (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/international/rcuk-tubitakawards-pdf/>)
- Relevant projects identified from the range of AHRC and ESRC responsive mode schemes

Further outputs may be identified following the appointment of the Migration Leadership Team. The applicants are encouraged to present their views on how they expect to add value to this portfolio of work.