



Research jointly supported by the ESRC and DFID

ESRC-DFID Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation Research Programme

Call Specification: Invite only

(Open to Joint Fund Phase 3 awarded Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators)

Summary

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Department for International Development (DFID) are launching a Follow-on Fund call for their Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation Research programme (hereafter 'the Joint Fund'). This call will be open to all Joint Fund Principal Investigators (PIs) and Co-Investigators (Co-Is), both past and present from Phase 3 i.e. Joint Fund grants may be open or closed at the point of application. It will focus on the following areas:

- **Area 1 - Impact Enhancement:** Activities that build on and further the existing impact work of your Joint Fund grant, to develop policy relevance and research user uptake.
- **Area 2 - Cross-Grant Synthesis:** Collaboration between Development Frontiers Cohort 2 researchers to synthesise research findings.

Area 1 is available to all applicants but Area 2 is only available to PIs or Co-Is from the second Development Frontiers call.

The invitation-only call is open to PIs who have held a grant funded as part of the Joint Fund programme. In addition, Co-Is from the Joint Fund programme can also apply as a PI to this call, however they must have the express support of their original Joint Fund grant's PI (see below for details). The original grant can be open or closed at the point that the Follow-on Fund application(s) are made and they will be awarded as separate grant(s) to the existing/completed Joint Fund grant. Any Researcher who has not been a PI or Co-I on a Joint Fund-funded grant is not eligible to apply as a PI to this Follow-on Fund. **All uninvited or ineligible applications will be rejected.**

Proposals are invited for grants with a full economic cost (fEC) value of between £50k and £100k. Development Frontiers Call 2 researchers who address both areas can apply for up to £150k. Applicants can only submit one application as PI, but there is no limit for Co-Is, as

long as the maximum time commitment across all projects (active or at applications stage) is not breached.

Applicants are invited to contact the office when planning to collaborate with their counterparts from other Development Frontiers Call 2 for Area 2 to discuss the distribution and allocation of funding.

Up to £700k has been allocated for this Follow-on Fund call. Projects may be between 6 months and 12 months in duration. **The start date must be between 1 April 2020 and 1 July 2020 but the end date cannot be after 31 March 2021. No extensions will be allowed for any reason beyond this date.**

The call will open **17 October 2019** and close at **16:00 (UK time) 3 December 2019**. Any proposals that do not make this deadline or any incomplete proposals will not be assessed.

Background and Scope

DFID and the ESRC formed a strategic partnership in August 2005 to provide a more robust conceptual and empirical basis for development and to enhance the quality and impact of social science research on poverty reduction: the ESRC/DFID Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation Research. The primary aim of the scheme is to fund world-class scientific research which has the potential for impact on policy and practice for poverty reduction.

The Follow-on Fund call is designed to support supplementary activities to existing Joint Fund grants, which build on findings and activities achieved so far. The purpose of the scheme is to develop existing impact activities and to encourage collaboration and synthesis between Development Frontiers Call 2 projects.

The Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation is funded by the UK's [Official Development Assistance \(ODA\)](#), applications must therefore make a clear case for how they comply with [ODA guidelines](#). An ODA compliance statement will be a mandatory attachment for this call, any applications that do not include this will not be considered. Details about the ODA compliance statement are included in the [JeS guidance document](#).

Call Details

These Follow-on Fund awards will enable PIs and Co-Is to undertake small to medium scale short-term activities aimed at maximising the potential of their Joint Fund grants. The activities proposed must clearly build on activities already undertaken within the original research grant(s). Proposals which include plans for new research or which request funding for activities that duplicate work within the original plan will not be funded. Funding can only be requested for activities related to research funded under the Joint Fund programme.

Applications must either focus on Area 1 or, if they are following on from a Development Frontiers Call 2 grant, can focus on Area 2 or a combination of both:

Area 1: Impact Enhancement

Activities that build on and further the existing impact work of your Joint Fund grant, to develop policy relevance and research user uptake. Examples within this stream could include:

- I. Tailoring communication to a non-academic audience through the production of short documents or media products
- II. Organising an event in-country which involves a wide range of stakeholders including policy makers and practitioners
- III. Coordinating activities to establish networks and relationships with research users
- IV. Developing activities to influence policy

Area 2: Cross-Grant Synthesis

Collaboration between Development Frontiers Call 2 PIs and Co-Is, to synthesise research findings. Examples within this stream could include:

- I. Co-operating with other Development Frontiers Call 2 PIs, Co-Is and researchers on co-authored journal articles and chapters for books
- II. Liaising with other Development Frontiers Call 2 PIs, Co-Is and researchers on co-produced outputs to reach a wide range of stakeholders.
- III. Liaising with other Development Frontiers Call 2 PI's, Co-Is and researchers to organise an event in-country in a shared country of focus.

While funds can be requested to support evidence-informed debate and discussion, they should not be used to support advocacy activities (i.e. pushing for specific policy changes).

Successful applicants will be expected to budget effectively for their own impact work, and also work with the Impact Initiative, as appropriate, to ensure that impacts are maximised.

Any researchers funded under this call will be expected to comply with the requirements of the UKRI Open Access Policy, please see <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-forward-holders/open-access/> for further information.

Eligibility

The scheme is only open to PIs and Co-Is from grants funded through the Joint Fund Phase 3 research programme. Applications from both completed and ongoing Joint Fund-funded grants are eligible. Successful proposals will be awarded as a separate grant to grantholders' existing/completed Joint Fund grant. Researchers who have not held a Joint Fund grant are not eligible to apply. All uninvited or ineligible applications will be rejected. Please contact the team if you are unsure whether you are eligible to apply.

The PI **must** be based at an established organisation with the capacity to undertake highquality research. This means an institution that possesses an existing in-house capacity to host a grant and to carry out research that materially extends and enhances the national or international research base, and is able to demonstrate an independent capability to undertake and lead research programmes.

Co-Is from the original ESRC-DFID grant can lead the application, but only with the full agreement secured from the original PI.

Lead institutions which are not currently recognised to hold UK Research Institutions grants will have to complete UKRI Due Diligence checks before any grant can be confirmed. In these instances there is likely to be a period of time before the grant could start where appropriate checks would have to be undertaken. Those institutions which have been recognised but only by other Research Councils, will not have to undertake the full due diligence but instead undertake the extra ESRC capacity building element of the process, this will also cause a delay. (Please contact the ESRC office if you wish to discuss these further). The project team (Cols, staff and researchers) should be configured as appropriate for the proposed programme of activities. It is anticipated that for some applications the new project team may not be identical to the original ESRC-DFID grant. Other than the PI, it is **not** necessary for applications to contain exactly the same project team as the original Joint Fund grant.

Funding, eligible costs and grant duration

Proposals are by invitation only to PIs who have held a grant funded as part of the Joint Fund programme and Co-Is with the consent of their PI from the Joint Fund programme, who can also apply as a PI to this call. The original grant can be open or closed at the point that the Follow-on Fund application(s) are made and they will be awarded as separate grant(s) to the existing/completed Joint Fund grant. Proposals are invited for a full economic cost (fEC) value of between £50k and £100k for Area 1 and up to £150k for a combination of Area 1 and 2, this option is available to Development Frontiers Call 2 grantholders only. Up to £700k has been allocated for the length of the call.

Where appropriate, applicants are encouraged to seek co-funding (cash or in-kind) from partners within the user community, although there is no requirement to secure co-funding. The applicants will need to demonstrate that there is a commitment from any identified external partner organisation by including a letter of support with their application. Please note that it is the Research Organisation's responsibility to claim any contribution from partners as specified in the application, and costs to be met by project partners should **not** be included in the total budget requested. However, contributions from project partners should be included in the project partners section of the Je-S form. The total project cost, including funder and project partner contribution should also be included in the 'justification of resources' section.

Eligible costs from the funders could include:

- Travel and Subsistence
- Salary costs (see below)
- Estates and Indirect costs

Salary costs for investigators, research assistants can usually only be requested if not already covered by the original grant (e.g. through staff time allocated to the Principal and/or Co-Is. Individual salary costs can only be claimed to cover new activities as applied under this stream and, taken together with already funded research grants, cannot exceed 100 per cent full-time equivalents.

Efficiency, cost-effectiveness and value for money should be clearly demonstrated in the application. Payments will not be made for miscellaneous expenses or for contingencies.

Proposals may be for one-off activities or longer programmes of work over a period of time.

If a grant is recommended for funding, budgets may be reduced if considered excessive. All applicants are strongly advised to consult their institutional finance/research offices regarding the financial aspects of their proposal **in good time** before the call deadline. All costs should be broken down and fully justified.

For non-UK institutions the programme will support in full (100 per cent) all the justified directly incurred costs of the Follow-on Fund activities. In addition, indirect costs may be charged on staff salary and other staff-related costs (i.e. statutory contributions analogous to UK National Insurance or Superannuation contributions). Indirect costs may **not** be charged on non-staff related direct costs, e.g. equipment, consultancies and conferences as well as travel and subsistence. The following rates for indirect costs should be applied:

- For applicants from developing countries, the overhead rate is 50 per cent
- For applicants from developed countries, the overhead rate is 20 per cent.

Further information is provided in the document [‘Costings Guidance for Non-UK Institutions and Partners’](#). Proposals from a non-UK institution or which include any non-UK partners **must** refer to this document before completing the Je-S proposal. We would not expect to see more than 30% of the costs allocated to overseas developed countries (the UK is not included in the 30% cap).

Assessment process and criteria

Following initial office checks, an assessment panel will meet to assess each tranche of applications. Final funding decisions will be communicated at the earliest opportunity.

Proposals which meet the eligibility, cost and duration requirements will be assessed by experts in the programme against the following criteria:

- **Quality and appropriateness of proposed activities:**
 - Do the proposed activities have the potential to ensure the research is more widely used or reaches new audiences?
 - Do the proposed activities build appropriately on activities conducted within the original research grant?
 - Is there an effective pathway for tracking impact planned?
- **Project Management and Delivery:**
 - Are the project management plans and configuration of roles and responsibilities reasonable, appropriate and credible for the given project?
 - Are the credentials of the investigators and host institutions appropriate to deliver the project?
- **Value for money:** ○ Are the requested resources reasonable to deliver the specific activities?
- **Area 1: Impact Enhancement**
 - Do the proposed activities build on and further the existing impact work of your Joint Fund grant, to develop policy relevance and research user uptake?
 - Are there clear plans to make findings available to target audiences and to maximise research uptake?
 - Is there appropriate analysis of who the stakeholders/potential users of research outputs are, and the processes and means for engaging with them?

- Do impact activities not only make research available/engage with audiences, but also articulate what changes these activities might make?

For those applications covering Area 2 the following additional criteria will be considered:

- **Area 2: Cross-Grant Synthesis** ○ Do the proposed activities explore collaborative activities between Development Frontiers Cohort 2 PIs and Co-Is to synthesise research findings.

How to apply

The scheme is administered by the ESRC on behalf of the ESRC-DFID Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation Research Programme. Applications must be submitted to the Research Council's [Joint Electronic Submission system](#) (Je-S) by the call deadline 16.00 (UK time) on 3rd December 2019. All proposals must be submitted in English, costed in pounds sterling (£) and made on the official Je-S proposal. Electronic acknowledgements of submission will be sent to the PI and submitting organisation, upon submission by the applicant.

The proposal has two elements: an online form requesting key information; and a series of mandatory attachments which are to be completed offline and uploaded as (PDF) attachments in the Je-S form. The key attachments required include the Case for Support, Justification of Resources, ODA compliance statement and CVs for all named individuals.

These requirements are fully explained in the call-specific ['Je-S guidance for applicants'](#) document. Applicants must ensure they have read and complied with the guidance set out in that document.

This guidance should be used in conjunction with ESRC's [Research Funding Guide](#) and ['How to write a good research grant application'](#). The Je-S help text is available on every page of your Je-S application. Where information issued in the scheme-specific guidance differs from the more general guidance offered in the sources above, you should adhere to the schemespecific guidance.

Safeguarding

UKRI condemns all forms of harm and abuse, including bullying and harassment. We take a zero-tolerance approach to harm and abuse to any individual employed through or associated with our programmes in all contexts; whether in humanitarian or fragile and conflict-affected settings, in other field contexts, or within the international or UK research and development community which we fund. We expect institutions to promote the highest standards in organisational culture, and have in place the systems and procedures required to prevent and tackle all incidents of harm and abuse. We will reserve the right to terminate individual research funding contracts and grants if a breach of safeguarding practice is proven and to review the eligibility of organisations to receive major awards. Applications must detail how they will identify and manage safeguarding risks, and what policies and procedures will be in place to enable reporting and investigation of allegations if they arise.

Call timetable

The call will open 17th October 2019 and close 16:00 (UK time) on 3rd December 2019. The following timetable is an estimate.

Call opens: 17 October 2019

Call closes: 3 December 2019

Assessment panel: February 2020

Grant start date: Between 1 April 2020 – 1 July 2020

Grant end date: Before 31 March 2021

Contact details

All queries or comments about this scheme should be addressed to the Joint Fund programme mailbox at DFID@esrc.ukri.org.

Alternatively, contact:

- Catherine Flynn Catherine.flynn@esrc.ukri.org Telephone:
+44 (0) 1793 413010

The Je-S Helpdesk may be contacted by email (jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk) or telephone (+44 (0)1793 444164) and is staffed Monday – Thursday 8:30 – 17:00, Friday 8:30 – 16:30 GMT (excluding public and other holidays).