

Raising Learning Outcomes 2015 Call Webinar: Welcome and participant instructions

- ▶ Will last no more than one hour.
- ▶ Presentation from ESRC, followed by Q&A
- ▶ Please **TURN OFF** your webcam
- ▶ Please **TURN OFF** your microphone
- ▶ If you are having difficulties during the webinar, please email eddev@esrc.ac.uk and we will try to resolve them if we can.
- ▶ In Q&A please **type** your questions and share in the webinar chat window – this will make best use of time
- ▶ If your question isn't answered in the webinar, or is very specific to your proposal please email eddev@esrc.ac.uk
- ▶ Slides from the webinar will be emailed to participants shortly

Why was the Raising Learning Outcomes Programme created?

- ▶ Many more children are now in school **BUT**
 - access to formal education still an issue for millions of children
 - learning levels for those with access can be low
 - focus on improving learning outcomes and quality for all
- ▶ Evidence suggests it is not just a matter of more inputs and resources – but *how* we use them.
- ▶ We know very little about how to improve learning and quality of education in developing country contexts
- ▶ We need to understand the complex, contextual dynamics that influence educational quality and the effectiveness of policies/ interventions intended to raise learning outcomes

What is the focus of the programme?

- ▶ Three broad areas of research
 - How do interacting dynamics in the social, political, economic and cultural context enable or inhibit the delivery of quality education in specific developing country contexts?
 - How do specific policies or interventions designed to deliver quality education and learning for all interact with these contextual dynamics, and with what impact?
 - How do we better understand, measure and evaluate educational quality and learning outcomes in development contexts?
- ▶ Research will focus on how to raise learning outcomes for all ie consider equity as well as quality dimensions of education
- ▶ £20 million, funding awarded in three annual calls, each with a different but complementary thematic focus, decided annually

What are the aims of the programme?

- ▶ provide policymakers and practitioners with concrete ideas on how to improve learning and an understanding of how these will translate to their specific context and institutions
- ▶ contribute to improving the quality of social science for education and development, and enhancing its diversity

Achieve this by:

- Supporting projects from diverse social science disciplines, encouraging multi/inter disciplinary, and facilitating innovative research
- Investing in a diversity of methods, encouraging strong mixed-methods approaches, and promoting reporting of methodology
- Encouraging policymaker involvement from the outset of projects and supporting the accessibility and use of research on education
- Supporting activities to strengthen capacity of Southern researchers

The 2015 call application process ~~step by step~~

Key websites and documents:

- ▶ [Call website](#)
- ▶ [Call specification](#)
- ▶ [Je-S guidance for applicants](#)
- ▶ [Costing guidance for non-UK institutions and partners](#)
- ▶ [Countries of focus](#)
- ▶ [Frequently asked Questions](#)
- ▶ See also other resources e.g. [ESRC impact toolkit](#), [ESRC Research Funding Guide](#)

Programme Secretariat: eddev@esrc.ac.uk

What will the 2015 call fund?

- ▶ Up to a total of £6.5 million available, for c. 12-16 grants
- ▶ Grants of fEC value of £200,000-£700,000, 1-4 years duration
- ▶ Thematic focus on ‘Challenging contexts’: where education systems face particular challenges, what enables and/or inhibits the raising of learning outcomes?
- ▶ Must focus on low-income countries plus a select group of other priority countries
- ▶ Must embed consideration of equity as well as quality dimensions of education and learning outcomes
- ▶ Must unpack what is meant by learning/ learning outcomes and how to understand, measure and evaluate education quality

Call thematic focus: 'Challenging Contexts'

- ▶ Must examine learning outcomes in developing country education systems through a 'contextual lens'
- ▶ Must focus on one or more of three specific 'challenging contexts': remote rural; urban slums; border cities
- ▶ Can address the range of different contextual and within-system dynamics, any element(s) of an education system, and any level of education provision
- ▶ Must focus on provision taking place through or in conjunction with government/ large-scale private sector providers

Other key requirements

- ▶ clear relevance to decision-makers and practitioners
- ▶ clear alignment with the scope and focus of the programme
- ▶ involvement of non-academic stakeholders, including potential research users, in design and delivery
- ▶ **at least 50% social science**
- ▶ building in of consideration for key cross-cutting issues: structural inequalities; and metrics and measurement
- ▶ active consideration of potential impacts of research on policy and practice, and clear plans to maximise and develop these

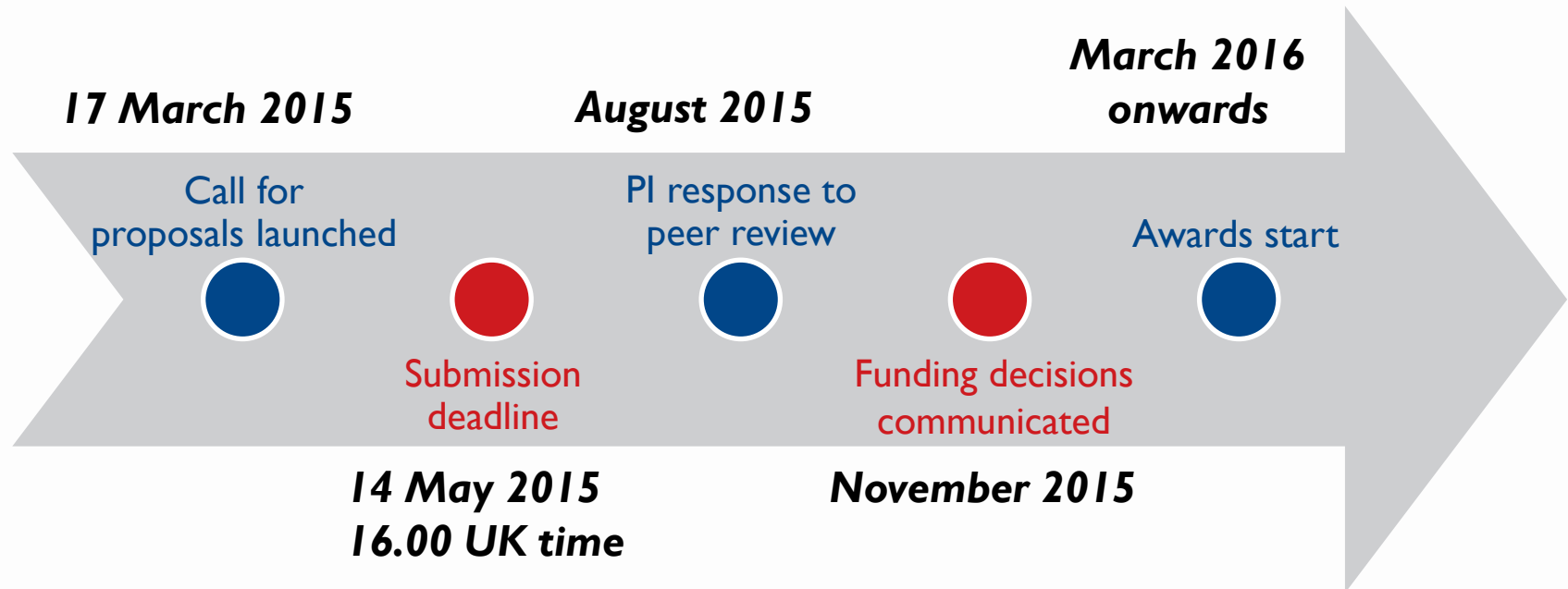
We encourage and welcome...

- ▶ Developing country leads and/or partners
- ▶ Inter/multi-disciplinary collaboration
- ▶ Strong mixed methodological approaches
- ▶ Fundamental or more applied research topics
- ▶ Proposals challenging existing policy and practice assumptions
- ▶ Comparative/ cross-context or single context studies
- ▶ Innovative approaches to user engagement, knowledge exchange and research uptake activities
- ▶ Capacity building opportunities set out in relation to the core intellectual agenda of the research

We will **not** fund:

- ▶ Proposals duplicating work previously supported by ESRC or DFID
- ▶ Contract research or consultancy work where the results and physical outputs are to some extent already pre-defined and known
- ▶ Education interventions
- ▶ Project/intervention or process evaluations not guided by social science-driven questions of broader relevance and applicability
- ▶ Standalone doctoral students, standalone masters and ad hoc courses for UK students

Indicative timeline



Assessment process

- ▶ Proposals submitted: initial checks for fit to call/scope
- ▶ Review by academic assessor pool
- ▶ Applications progressing to panel can respond to assessor comments
- ▶ Assessment by panel members
- ▶ Funding recommendations made by panel
- ▶ Applicants informed of outcome
- ▶ **If funded:** there will be checks, including detailed costings checks, within the contracting process

Assessment criteria

Assessors and Commissioning Panel will focus on:

- ▶ Research agenda
- ▶ Project management
- ▶ Capacity building
- ▶ Research impact
- ▶ Value for money
- ▶ Research partnerships

Eligibility

- ▶ UK and non-UK research institutions, including not-for-profit organisations **with demonstrable research capacity** should be eligible to apply as host organisation*
- ▶ All investigators (PI and Co-Is) and their institutions **must** have Je-S registration:
 - RCUK-recognised UK institutions (e.g. UK HEIs)
 - Je-S-registered overseas organisations
 - [‘self-registered’ organisations](#)

*please contact the call secretariat (eddev@esrc.ac.uk) to discuss this further

Your proposal in Je-S

- ▶ Research organisation, project title, suitable reference
- ▶ Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators
- ▶ Project partners
- ▶ Full budget
- ▶ Impact summary
- ▶ Key attachments include:
 - Case for support (max. 6 sides of A4)
 - Justification of resources (max. 2 sides of A4)
 - Pathways to Impact (max. 2 sides of A4)
 - Data management plan (max. 3 sides of A4)
 - CVs for named researchers (max. 2 sides of A4 for each researcher)
 - Letters of support, where applicable

**ALL ATTACHMENTS MUST
BE IN MINIMUM
FONT SIZE 11**

Case for support (maximum 6-sides of A4)

This attachment is the main body of the research proposal and should cover the main feature of the research, including:

- ▶ Aims and objectives
- ▶ Academic, policy and practice background
- ▶ Research question(s)
- ▶ Relevance to the scope of the programme
- ▶ Proposed research methodology
- ▶ Analysis framework
- ▶ Details of any capacity building activities, including details of any project-linked studentships

Justification of resources (maximum 2-sides of A4)

In this attachment, you should:

- ▶ Provide justification for why the requested resources are appropriate to undertake the proposed research.
- ▶ Clearly identify any costs incurred by non-UK institutions at 100% full Economic Cost (fEC).

N.B. This attachment should **not** simply be a list of the resources required.

Submission deadline

Applications **must** be submitted to Je-S*
by **4pm UK time** on 14 May 2015

*if your institutions is not self-registered, make sure to forward your application to your Research Office/submitter pool in good time (**at least 48 hours before the deadline**)

Please note: the Je-S system will be unavailable from 16:00 (UK time) on Thursday 16th April until 8.30 (UK time) on Wednesday 22nd April.

Do get in touch

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Thank you!

