



ESRC Leadership Co-ordinator for Brexit Priority Grants, UK in a Changing Europe and Co-ordinator for Governance after Brexit Programme Call specification

Summary

The ESRC wishes to invite proposals for a Leadership co-ordinator to provide intellectual leadership for, and to maximise the impact of the portfolio of recently commissioned 25 UK in a Changing Europe (UKICE) Brexit Priority Grants. In addition, the Leadership coordinator will also co-ordinate activity associated with the proposed Governance after Brexit programme and assist in scoping out additional future research activity on the longer-term impact of Brexit and other governance-related issues (see below for further details)

The Leadership Co-ordinator will play a vital role in:

- Co-ordinating activities of the 25 UK in a Changing Europe Brexit Priority Grants, including:
 - liaising as appropriate with Brexit Priority Grant holders
 - connecting and communicating findings and outcomes with users
 - generating evidence and maximising the impact of the Grant's policy agenda through engagement with a range of policymakers (especially government departments) and stakeholders both in the UK and internationally.
- Supporting the activities of the UK in a Changing Europe initiative, and collaborating with the Director and Deputy Director accordingly. This will include working closely and meeting regularly with the UKICE Director.
- Providing strategic and intellectual leadership over the ESRC's wider research plans in the area of democracy and governance, identifying synergies as appropriate and supporting the development of a cohesive portfolio.
- Finalising research priorities for the Governance after Brexit programme and co-ordinating activity supported through this investment.

This is a complex and fast-moving portfolio, and therefore it is anticipated that the appointment will possess senior level expertise in this area. It is anticipated that appointment will be made at the level of senior fellow. The Leadership Coordinator will also need to be based at an eligible UK Research Organisation (RO) www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs/.

The appointment is for a fixed period of 40 months. The successful individual should take up the post on **1 December 2017**. The usual three month leeway on start dates does not apply to this grant.

The maximum budget for the post is £410,000 at 100% fEC. In accordance with RCUK policy, the ESRC will contribute up to 80% of fEC. This budget is expected to cover the Leadership Coordinator'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 the closing date on 23 August 2017**.

Background

Brexit

The UK's forthcoming withdrawal from the EU represents a unique moment of importance, both for the UK and the EU as a whole. No country has previously left the EU, and so the Article 50 negotiations that began in March 2017, and which are due to conclude by March 2019 will potentially be challenging and unpredictable.

UK in a Changing Europe

The ESRC funds the UK in a Changing Europe (<http://ukandeu.ac.uk/>) initiative which since the referendum in June 2016 has been focused on its outcome and the practicalities of implementing the UK's decision to leave the EU and what this might look like. The initiative's work is tailored to be easily accessible to policy makers, businesses, journalists, civil society organisations, educational institutions and the general public who are interested in the UK's relationship with the EU. This is being overseen by Anand Menon, Professor of European Politics and Foreign Affairs at King's College, London as Director of the initiative. Earlier this year, 25 Brexit Priority Grants were commissioned under the UK in a Changing Europe initiative to provide valuable policy-relevant research to inform the Article 50 negotiations.

Governance after Brexit

Brexit is the latest in a long line of changes and challenges to the UK's constitution, which includes asymmetrical devolutions to some of the UK's nations, regions and cities and the on-going Scottish constitutional debate, including the real question of whether the UK will hold together as a state. The ESRC is planning a longer-term investment to explore these wider UK issues further with the commissioning of the Governance after Brexit programme, and the Fellow will play a key role in developing the initiative and then acting as its co-ordinator.

The Programme is expected to cover a number of issues ranging from the balance of the economy and British model of growth, by way of the nature of the state (unitary/unified, dispersed, quasi-federal, (un) co-ordinated, sovereign) and of citizenship (British/English/Ulster Unionist/Irish Nationalist/Scottish/Welsh; social; a disconnection with the state and political parties; across 'races', generations, genders and classes), to what it does (welfare, security, economic/industrial policy, infrastructure

Wider Issues

Beyond the UK, there are wider issues of governance and questions over the future of democracy. The ESRC is currently scoping future potential investments concerning European governance-related issues as well as the challenges that democracy faces more generally.

The Leadership Co-ordinator will play a valuable role in supporting the UK in a Changing Europe initiative through the co-ordination of the 25 Brexit Priority Grants, maximising impact and engagement with key potential research users - including policymakers, civil servants, parliamentarians, as well as the general public. Furthermore the Leadership Coordinator will play a key role in the intellectual development of the wider research portfolio in this area, as well as co-ordinate activity for the forthcoming Governance after Brexit programme.

Outputs and impact

The Leadership Coordinator will be expected to:

- Co-ordinate activities of the 25 UK in a Changing Europe Brexit Priority Grants. This involves liaising with grant holders under the call and pulling together information, developing publicity materials and organising appropriate events which promote the grants and their outcomes. The Leadership Coordinator will be expected to develop relationships with key stakeholders - especially government departments - so as to co-ordinate and maximise the impact the Brexit Priority Grants to policy makers.
- Supporting the activities of the UK in a Changing Europe initiative, and collaborating with the Director and Deputy Director accordingly. This will include regular meetings and updates led by the UKICE Programme Director.
- Providing strategic and intellectual leadership over the ESRC's wider research plans in the area of democracy and governance, identifying synergies as appropriate and supporting the development of a cohesive portfolio.
- Finalising research priorities for the Governance after Brexit programme and co-ordinating activity supported through this investment.

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

Co-ordinating the Brexit Priority Grants

From April 2017 the ESRC funded a total of 25 eighteen-month Brexit Priority Grants. The grants were commissioned with the express purpose of providing evidence to inform the Article 50 process of the UK leaving the European Union, and as such consisted of both research activity as well as a considerable emphasis on impact and engagement activity. Grants cover six broad themes:

- Changing political contexts in Europe and the positions of other member states
- Citizens' expectations on Brexit outcomes
- Brexit and UK party politics
- Legal issues and the transfer of competencies (for example - environmental/climate, energy, agricultural and fisheries policies etc.)
- Implications for migration
- Economic impact of Brexit and future trade arrangements. This includes the impact on the economy overall and/or particular sectors of the economy or regions (for example - on UK cities, rural areas, devolved administrations).

A full list of all 25 grants can be found at: www.esrc.ac.uk/news-events-and-publications/news/news-items/new-brexite-research-announced/

The grants were commissioned under the auspices of the UK in a Changing Europe initiative and the Leadership Coordinator will be expected to work with both the UKICE Director and the individual grant holders to co-ordinate activities, events and outputs that promote the grants and their outputs to research users.

The Leadership Coordinator is expected to develop excellent relationships with key stakeholders and research users - especially government departments - so as to maximise the impact of the research activity supported through the Brexit Priority Grants

Contribution to wider potential research plans

The ESRC is currently scoping out other related areas of possible research - including some in partnership with other potential funders. Areas under consideration include broader questions of governance, such as the impact of inequalities, technology and the shifting authority of institutions. In addition, the ESRC is also exploring issues around the future liberal democracies - influenced by the rise of populism and whether we are witnessing a re-shaping of western democratic ideas. The ESRC also has just funded a major large grant on Brexit and the impact on the UK and Ireland.

The Leadership Coordinator will be expected to contribute to the scoping activities associated with these potential research areas and appropriate synergies are made with the Brexit Priority Grants, UK in a Changing Europe, other relevant ESRC-funded research, and the development of the Governance after Brexit programme.

Co-ordination of the Governance after Brexit Programme

Moving beyond the current portfolio of Brexit projects, the ESRC intends to commission a programme of UK-focused research activity, the principal driver of which is Brexit. Key areas under consideration include:

- the constitution, constitutional principles and the UK's legal systems
- devolution and the allocation and balance of competences
- inter-governmental and inter-institutional relationships
- the economy and economic policy
- equity and social welfare
- immigration and migration
- diplomacy and security
- representation and democracy.

This work is intended to be more long-term in perspective than activity supported through UK in a Changing Europe. It will foster original collaborative work across the disciplines.

The Leadership Coordinator will be expected to finalise and oversee the co-ordination of the initiative. The Leadership Coordinator will have responsibility for ensuring coherence of the

commissioned activity, to facilitate linkages between projects and to maximise the impact of the research

Engagement with the ESRC and the UK in a Changing Europe Initiative

The Leadership Coordinator will be required to engage proactively with the ESRC to ensure the strategic alignment of the activity outlined above with developing policy agendas and funding opportunities. This will require the Fellow to be in regular contact with a senior sponsor from the ESRC.

In addition the Leadership Coordinator will also be expected to work closely with Professor Anand Menon, Director of the UK in a Changing Europe initiative, and the wider communications team to ensure the work of the Brexit Priority Grants is integral to the wider UKICE programme activity, and to create coherence with the other funding activity detailed above. He/she will report to Professor Menon in regards to the coordination of the Brexit Priority Grants. He/she will report to the ESRC for the work associated with the development and coordination of the 'Governance after Brexit' initiative.

Applicants to this call may not apply to the UKICE Deputy Director position which is currently being advertised.

Applicants may wish to discuss the role with Professor Menon before submitting a proposal.

Applicants will be expected to attend a senior media training course provided by the ESRC.

Governance and management

The Leadership Coordinator will be required to work closely with the Director of UKICE, Professor Menon who leads the programme of work. He/she will be expected to meet regularly with Professor Menon and ESRC senior staff responsible for the initiative.

Professor Menon will convene regular project meetings with the Deputy Director ([link to call for deputy director](#)) and the Leadership Coordinator to ensure that there are coherent activities covering the portfolio and to maximise the potential impact from the programme. A willingness to be a strong team player is a prerequisite for this role.

The appointment will be subject to regular progress reviews with the ESRC.

Timeframe

The table below sets out the timeframe of each of the Fellow's tasks and the expected time contribution of the Fellowship on each.

Task	Time percentage	Timeframe
Co-ordinator of Brexit Priority Grants	30% to June 2019	December 2017 to June 2019
Contribution to wider Research Plans	20% to March 2020	December 2017 to March 2020
Co-ordinator of Governance after Brexit Programme	50% to June 2019 70% to March 2020 100% to March 2021	December 2017 to March 2021

Specification

The successful applicant(s) will demonstrate:

- an understanding of the major issues associated with Brexit and UK constitutional change more broadly
- held in high esteem within the social sciences community and beyond, demonstrating the ability to have a significant impact within and beyond academia
- in-depth knowledge of relevant social science and interdisciplinary research, demonstrating a good understanding of governance and democracy issues
- a strong international profile which facilitates the uptake and use of research and evidence by a range of stakeholders/organisations including:
 - well-developed networks within academic, third sector, and policymakers - especially Government departments
 - respected media profile and experience of public engagement
- 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 accommodated by 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.

Knowledge exchange and collaboration

We are committed to knowledge exchange and encouraging collaboration between researchers and the private, public and civil society sectors. We encourage academic teams to link with bodies that can help ensure their research has real impact, particularly with government departments.

Collaborative working benefits both the researchers and the individuals/organisations involved.

Through collaboration, partners learn about each other's expertise, share knowledge and gain an appreciation of different professional cultures. Collaborative activity can therefore lead to a better

understanding of the ways that academic research can add value and offer insights to key issues of concern for policy and practice. Knowledge exchange should not be treated as an 'add-on' at the end of a research project, but considered before the start and built into a project. For further information on the RCUK principles for knowledge exchange please visit www.rcuk.ac.uk/ke/policies/

Research ethics

As the principal funding agency for UK social science research we require that the research we support is designed and conducted in such a way that it meets certain ethical principles, and is subject to proper professional and institutional oversight in terms of research governance. As an important source of public funds for social science research and as a body charged with encouraging, supporting, undertaking and advising on such research, the ESRC recognises that it has a special obligation towards the general public and academic community to ensure that the research which it funds is carried out to a high ethical standard. We have agreed a Framework for Research Ethics that all submitted proposals are expected to comply with.

Open access

We are committed to ensuring that our research community makes the outputs from ESRC-funded research publicly available. The Research Councils UK (RCUK) open access policy came into force on 1 April 2013, and ESRC-funded researchers are expected to comply with this policy. The payment of article processing charges (APCs) and other publication charges related to ESRC-funded research are supported through RCUK open access block grants which are provided to eligible research organisations.

Reporting requirements

Principal investigators (PIs) must ensure that all outcomes from their grant are recorded in the online Researchfish system as soon as possible - this may be delegated to coinvestigators. Once a year during the grant period, and up to five years after end date, grant holders are required to confirm that outcome information on Researchfish is accurate and up-to-date. In addition to reporting outcomes through Researchfish, once a grant has ended a Key Findings and Narrative Impact report must be completed on Researchfish as directed by ESRC.

The grant holder is required to ensure that all outcome submissions comply with intellectual property rights held by other parties than the ESRC.

For further information on grant reporting please see our reporting guidance: www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-grant-holders/reporting/

Resources

The maximum overall budget for the post is £410,000 at 100% fEC. ESRC will meet 80% of the costs with the RO expected to meet the remaining 20%. The appointment is for 40 months in duration in the first instance. The successful applicant(s) will offer a minimum of 50% time allocation (FTE) over this period.

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 for the co-ordination of the Governance after Brexit programme.
- Justified and appropriate project specific consumables and equipment.

How to apply

Proposals must be submitted by 16:00 on 23 August 2017 using the Research Council's Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk>. The Je-S form will be available from 29 June 2017. Proposals must be costed and approved by the relevant research organisation before submission. There will be no opportunity to change the proposal through Je-S, once submitted. If the proposal exceeds page limits specified, additional pages will be discounted. If the application omits any required documents, the proposal will be judged only on the information provided. If additional material is provided, the commissioning panel will be instructed to ignore it. Detailed guidance on required application information can be found in the Je-S Guidance for Applicants. The call is open to all research organisations approved by the RCUK - see www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs/ for more information. All applicants should consult the ESRC Research Funding Guide (see www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-funding-guide/).

Assessment 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 early-October 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, including:
 - coherence and appropriateness of proposed plan of activities
 - 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 with a large network of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds - especially Government departments.
- Value for money
- Ability to work closely with the ESRC and the UK in a Changing Europe Initiative (this is a pre-requisite of the role).

The interview panel will make final recommendations to the ESRC on the appointment of the Leadership Coordinator. 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, followed by questions. More details regarding the interview stage will be provided to the shortlisted candidates.

Timetable

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| • Call published | 29 June 2017 |
| • Closing date | 23 August 2017 |
| • Shortlisted applicants notified | mid-September |
| • Interviews (London) | early October |
| • Applicants informed of the outcome | mid-October |
| • Contract issued | mid-October |
| • Work starts | 1 December 2017 |

Contacts

Enquiries relating to this call should be addressed to:

- Ann Jeffcott
Email: esrceuropeinitiative@esrc.ac.uk
- Professor Anand Menon
Email: ukandeu@kcl.ac.uk

For enquiries about Je-S:

- Je-S Helpdesk
Email: jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk
Telephone: 01793 4441646

The Je-S Helpdesk is staffed Monday to Friday 9:00 to 17:00 (excluding public and other holidays).