



Governance after Brexit – Phase 2 Outline Stage

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated: 06 January 2020

Can the total cost of proposals change between the Outline and Full Proposal stages of this call?

We will allow for a 10% deviation – either an increase or decrease – in the 100% Full Economic Cost of proposals between the Outline and Full Proposal stages. However please note that the maximum limit of £750,000, and minimum limit of £300,000 at 100% Full Economic Cost will remain in force for all proposals.

Can documents/attachments be amended between the Outline and Full Proposal stages of this call?

Yes. Whilst documents submitted at the Full Proposal stage of this call should be consistent with the Outline Proposal originally submitted, we would expect there to be slight alterations as the full proposal is further developed, particularly in light of any feedback received from the Shortlisting Panel.

Should the normal Je-S fields still be completed (e.g. Objectives; Summary; Academic Beneficiaries; Staff Duties; Impact Summary etc.)?

While shortlisting of outline proposals will be conducted on the basis of the Anonymous Case for Support attachment *only*, the mandatory Je-S fields will still need to be completed when preparing your proposal. These fields are to enable the office to undertake checks and will not be seen or assessed by the Shortlisting Panel. Applicants should therefore avoid offering substantial information in these sections which is not also included in the Anonymous Case for Support attachment.

Can proposals to this call include a comparative element, or involve the use of international case studies?

Proposals to this call can include a comparative element, including the use of international case studies, however this should only be employed as a methodological approach in order to answer research questions which are focussed on the core issue of UK governance after Brexit. Proposals which seek to address issues of governance in countries other than the UK are not appropriate for this call.

Can International Co-Investigators, or UK non-academic Co-Investigators, be included in proposals to this call?

International Co-Investigators can be included in proposals to this call in accordance with ESRC's normal policy on the inclusion of International Co-Investigators. This policy can be found on our website here: <https://esrc.ukri.org/files/funding/guidance-for-applicants/international-co-investigator-policy-guidance/>.

Similarly, UK-based non-academic Co-Investigators – based at UK business, third sector, or government organisations – are also eligible to be included in proposals to this call in accordance with ESRC's policy available here: <https://esrc.ukri.org/files/funding/guidance-for-applicants/inclusion-of-uk-business-third-sector-or-government-body-co-investigators-on-esrc-proposals/>.

Can Brexit-related research proposals still be submitted to ESRC's responsive mode schemes?

Yes, we would still welcome Brexit-related research proposals to our responsive mode schemes including the Research Grants and New Investigator open calls, as proposals funded under these schemes can be retrospectively associated with the Governance after Brexit programme provided they are sufficiently relevant. If you are unsure whether or not your proposal is a suitable fit within the scope and priorities of the Governance after Brexit programme, we would encourage you to instead consider submitting your proposal to these schemes instead. Further information concerning these calls is available on our website here: <https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/>.

Is there a limit on the number of proposals a Research Organisation can submit to this call?

No, however, we anticipate that this call will receive significant interest. Therefore, while there is no limit on the number of proposals a Research Organisation can submit to this call, we strongly encourage ROs to carefully consider the submission of fewer, high quality proposals in accordance with our demand management strategy. Proposals which do not centrally address the key themes and priorities of this call should not be submitted and should instead be considered for submission via our open call responsive mode schemes (see above).

How should I articulate project team expertise and existing networks in my Case for Support while keeping this attachment anonymous?

In writing your Case for Support, the expertise of the project team should be expressed in general terms without reference to specific individuals or Research Organisations. Previous research projects should similarly be expressed in terms which do not easily reveal the identity of individual members of the project team. Existing networks, partners and contacts can be identified if necessary.

Can I identify my Research Organisation in the Case for Support attachment?

No. The anonymity of the Case for Support attachment is central to the double-blind assessment process employed at the shortlisting stage of this call. It is vital therefore that Research Organisations are not explicitly identified in the Case for Support in order to avoid contravening this requirement.

Do proposals need to demonstrate pre-existing links with UK in a Changing Europe?

Pre-existing links with UK in a Changing Europe are not necessary, but applicants should look to articulate how their project would engage with UK in a Changing Europe for engagement and dissemination. Examples of UK in a Changing Europe events, activities and articles can be found on their website at: <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/>.

What are the mandatory attachments for proposals to this call?

The two mandatory attachments for proposals to this call are the Anonymous Case for Support, and a Justification of Resources. Assessment will be conducted solely on the basis of the Case for Support while the Justification of Resources will remain for office use only. The purpose of the Justification of Resources is to ensure that the research proposed is feasible from a cost perspective and has undergone due diligence and an appropriate costing process by the submitter's Research Office.

Further information concerning the content of these attachments can be found on pages 9-10 of the Je-S Guidance for this call, available here: <https://esrc.ukri.org/files/funding/funding-opportunities/gab-phase-2-je-s-guidance-outline-stage/>.

Is there a minimum/maximum limit on the number of Co-Investigators which can be included on proposals?

There is no minimum or maximum limit on the number of Co-Investigators which can be included on proposals to this call. However, it is important that the research contributions of all Co-Investigators are clearly articulated in your proposal. It is similarly important to specify how the project team will be managed, especially for proposals with a higher number of Co-Investigators.

Are non-social science methodologies permissible?

Proposals may include elements of non-social science methodologies or approaches which sit outside of ESRC remit. However, it is important that at least 51% of the research proposed is social science in order for a proposal to be considered for funding under this call. If you are unsure as to whether your proposal meets this requirement, please contact the ESRC Remit Team who will advise accordingly. Further information concerning remit and contacting the Remit Team can be found on our website at: <https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/is-my-research-suitable-for-esrc-funding/>.

Are proposed research projects expected to impact on Government policy?

Impact on Government policy is not a necessary requirement, however please note that all ESRC funded projects, including those funded under this call, will be expected to consider the potential for the impact of the research beyond academia, and to articulate how this will be realised. Impact of government policy is one potential area of impact, however impact on other sectors, such as business or the third sector are equally important.

How should proposals account for ongoing uncertainties surrounding the Brexit process?

We accept that the Brexit process is currently a changing environment and that proposals to this call cannot be certain about the future direction of the UK's departure from the European Union. Proposals to this call should be deliverable, but outline the scope for flexibility and adaptability as Brexit continues to unfold, both throughout the commissioning process and into the lifetime of the research project. Adaptability and flexibility of this kind form part of the assessment criteria for this call at both the Outline and Full Proposal stages and should therefore be carefully considered by project teams in the development of proposals.