Innovation in Social Care Collaborative Grants (invite only)
Frequently Asked Questions

Please note that this document will only be updated to reflect those questions most frequently raised with the ESRC. It is highly recommended that potential applicants review this document before contacting the ESRC for advice. This document should be referred to in conjunction with the call specification and Je-S guidance.

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Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply to this call?
This invitation-only call is open to applicants who have been invited to submit a full proposal under the ESRC - Innovation in Social Care Collaborative Grants. All uninvited or ineligible applications will be rejected.

Who is eligible to apply for ESRC funding?
ESRC research funding is available for universities, colleges of higher education and independent research institutes in the UK approved by the ESRC. This includes all NHS Trusts, Hospitals, Boards, Primary Care Trusts and GP Practices. Please see the UKRI eligibility guidance for further information.

Details of eligibility are given in ESRC’s research funding guide which you should read carefully before applying. Proposals can be submitted by people who are not established members of the proposed host research organisation (RO). In these circumstances, by submitting the proposal the RO is confirming that, in the event of a grant, they guarantee to provide facilities for you as if you were an established member of staff for the duration of the grant.

Investigators

Is it possible for two academics to apply as joint principal investigators (PIs)?
No, there should be only one person named as PI on your proposal, and the proposal must be submitted from their research organisation. The PI will take intellectual leadership of the project and manage the research; this individual will be the contact person for ESRC correspondence. However, all named investigators are responsible for ensuring that successful proposals are undertaken and completed in the manner specified, and there is nothing to prevent the PI sharing duties with co-investigators in practice.

Do all co-investigators have to be registered on Je-S?
Yes, for the full stage all co-investigators have to be registered on Je-S, including UK co-investigators in business, civil society or government bodies, patient and public involvement
co-investigators and international co-investigators. Please ensure you leave enough time to register people as this task can take a few working days. For further help and assistance contact the Je-S helpdesk.

Can retired co-investigators be included?
Yes, retired co-investigators can be included as long as this person has a contract with a research organisation (RO) eligible to receive funding from UKRI and will be employed for the duration of the grant. We will expect this to be clarified in a letter from the RO stating its support of the person’s involvement.

How many co-investigators can be included in a proposal?
While there is no limit to the number of co-investigators that can be included in a proposal, applicants should request the level of resources that are required and appropriate within the expectations of the call.

Who should I provide a CV for in the proposal?
CVs should be included for all named researchers on the proposal, for example the PI, co-investigator, consultant or named research staff. You should provide a two-side CV as an attachment; these CVs should include contact details, qualifications (including class and subject), academic and professional posts held since graduation, a list of the most relevant and recent publications, and a record of research funded by the ESRC and other bodies. This should not exceed two A4 sides. CVs are not required for members of the public, patients, service users or carers who are named in the proposal. Please provide a summary (maximum two A4 sides) of any relevant knowledge, skills and experience that you will draw upon to contribute to this project.

Can I combine CVs and summaries for co-investigators into one attachment?
Yes, you can attach one document which contains multiple CVs and summaries of co-investigators for ease. Please make sure that individual CVs and summaries do not exceed the page limit as outlined in the full Je-S guidance.

Can applicants be involved in more than one proposal submitted to this call?
Yes. You must have the capacity to undertake all projects applied for, should they be successful. For any one investigator, the maximum amount of time that research councils will fund across all the projects they support is 1,650 hours a year (equivalent to 37.5 hours a week, 44 weeks a year). Councils accept the need for flexibility in relation to individuals because of the difficulties of estimating both time and the likelihood of success of proposals. They will seek assurance at organisation level that the costs paid for investigators are in balance with the total time attributed to grants.

Where can I find guidance on the inclusion of international co-investigators?
For information can be found in guidance for applicants on the inclusion of international co-investigators, including eligible costs.

Is international collaboration an expectation?
International collaboration is encouraged where appropriate in the context of the individual research proposal.

Costs
Can I include costs for an associated studentship?
Associated studentships are not eligible for inclusion under this call.

Can costs of the proposal change between the outline and the full call?
Costs should be broadly consistent with those submitted at the outline stage. We expect that the costs in the full proposal will not differ from the outline costs by more than 10%. The total cost must not exceed upper financial limit of the call: £2 million (at 100% full economic cost).

What are the limits for costs relating to UK business, third sector or government body co-investigators, PPI co-investigators and international co-investigators?
It is important to note that the combined costs associated with UK business, third sector or government body co-investigators, and international co-investigators should not exceed 30% of the overall cost of the grant (at 100% fEC).

Further information on the inclusion of international co-investigators guidance.
Further information can be found in the inclusion of co-investigators guidance.

Can project partners claim money from a grant?
Project partners are not eligible to receive funding directly from a grant, as per Je-S guidance ‘An organisation should only be named as a project partner if it is providing specific contributions (either direct or indirect) to the research project’.

Proposal attachments

Do I need to provide letters of support for project partners?
Yes, if you intend to include a project partner you will need to provide a letter of support outlining the collaboration and support. The letter should be targeted specifically to the project - a standard letter declaring support for the proposed work is not helpful. Please ensure that all letters of support are dated within three months and signed appropriately.

Can I attach a list of publications to my outline proposal?
The bibliography for references cited in the proposal should be attached. Please note publications not cited in the proposal should not be added here. A list of the most relevant and recent publications by applicants should be included in the applicant’s CV.

Can I include any other supporting attachments?
You may include relevant letters of support providing they clearly refer to specific support for elements of the project, rather than generic supporting statements. Letters of support are essential for some project activities (please see Je-S guidance or details). Technical and some limited non-technical information specific to the project may also be submitted as a separate attachment under ‘other’ attachment. Technical information includes glossaries of technical terms; charts, diagrams and tables which help to clarify key points within the proposal; statistical formulae; and supporting material on methodological techniques (e.g. sampling methods, survey design). Non-technical information that may be included in other attachments includes bibliographic details, summary approaches to any ethical issues, and letters of support that are essential to the successful conduct of the
research (eg, access to datasets, or organisations). Such attachments must not exceed six A4 sides in total. Copies of articles, working papers or general letters of support should not be included.

Additional attachments must clearly fall under the above categories and should not be an extension of the Case for Support document.

**Can I include a letter to address the panel’s comments from the Outline Stage?**
No, please do not include letters responding to the comments. Feedback from the panel on the outline proposal should be addressed, as appropriate, within your full proposal.

**Other**

**Do academic collaborators involved in proposals have to be based in a single geographic location?**
A proposal can include researchers from either a single institution or from more than one institution; we have no objection to those institutions being based in the same city or area, or to them being more widely dispersed. It will be important, as reflected in the assessment criteria summarised in the specification, that expertise involved is appropriate to the research question posed. The institution(s) involved must be able to deliver the proposed research and meet the eligibility rules (see page 8 of the ESRC Research Funding Guide).

**If I am unsuccessful under this call, can I re-apply to another ESRC scheme with my idea?**
ESRC does not allow the resubmission of any previously unsuccessful proposals (including outlines) unless you have been explicitly invited to do so. Further information can be found in the ESRC resubmissions policy.

**Will there be another ESRC Innovation in Social Care Call?**
We do not currently anticipate any future phases of this call. Subject to quality, we expect to commit all the funding in this phase.