



Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund Healthy Ageing Challenge Research Director

Frequently Asked Questions

Version: August 2019

In order to remain transparent this document will be updated to reflect those questions most frequently raised with UKRI by potential applicants. This document should therefore be referred to regularly in conjunction with the call documents

<https://esrc.ukri.org/files/funding/funding-opportunities/iscf-healthy-ageing-research-director-call-specification-pdf/>.

1. How do I apply for this call?

All proposals under this call must be completed and submitted through the UKRI's Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system (www.je-s.rcuk.ac.uk). Please refer to our Je-S guidance (<https://esrc.ukri.org/files/funding/funding-opportunities/iscf-healthy-ageing-research-director-je-s-guidance-pdf/>) for further information.

2. How much funding is available for this post?

The funding available for the Research Director post is £730,000 (100% fEC) across 48 months, of which ESRC will contribute 80%. This is expected to cover the Research Director's salary costs, support staff, and a range of strategic activities. A flexible fund of £490,000 (100% fEC) will be awarded alongside the Research Director post. Please see questions 8-10 for further information about the flexible fund.

3. Can the applicant be an Early Career Researcher?

No. It is an expectation that the applicant has an outstanding track record of world-leading research within the area of healthy ageing.

4. Can the proposal nominate more than one Principal Investigator?

No. The proposal must identify one member of the team as Principal Investigator, who is applying to be the Research Director. The identified Principal Investigator must have a substantial academic element to their current role and be based at the eligible UK Research Organisation which is to submit the proposal and administer the grant. **Job share is not permitted for this role.**

5. Can the application include Co-Investigators?

No. Co-Investigators are not permitted for this call.

6. This call is being administered by ESRC, does that mean only Social Scientists are eligible to apply?

No. ESRC are running this call on behalf of ESRC and AHRC. The successful candidate will be overseeing a portfolio of research that includes both social science

and arts and humanities, therefore they must demonstrate their understanding of working across disciplines in their application.

7. Support staff are permitted on this call. Please define 'support staff'.

Various staff can be included on the application to support the Principal Investigator, but the intellectual leadership, management, organisation and fiscal responsibility for the grant will rest with the PI alone. Examples of staff who could be included on an application: research, administrative, IT, etc.

8. What is the flexible fund?

A flexible fund of £490,000 (100% fEC) will be available to the Research Director to administer to award holders to meet the needs of investments in the wider Challenge portfolio and facilitate opportunities to enhance the evidence base. It is not possible to specify at this stage precisely what it will be used for, as the intention is for it to be used flexibly, for example to complement or enhance activity funded through Research Projects.

9. How should I include the flexible fund in my proposal?

The flexible fund should be included under the 'Directly Incurred – Other' heading of your application. As we are currently unable to outline exactly what this flexible funding will be used for, we are not asking applicants to justify costs associated with this in their application.

10. How will the flexible fund be governed and distributed?

The governance arrangements and process for issuing flexible funds are to be confirmed. Governance arrangements are likely to involve the Healthy Ageing Challenge Director and the ESRC Programme Board. Proposals for how the Research Director will work with ESRC to put in place a clear process for the governance and distribution of funds should however be included in the Case for Support. These arrangements will also be discussed with shortlisted candidates at interview.

11. Will the appointed Research Director be permitted to apply for funding under other calls within the Healthy Ageing Challenge?

To avoid conflicts of interest, the Research Director will not be permitted to apply, or be involved in other applications, for funding under other calls within the Healthy Ageing Challenge. This restriction only applies to the Research Director and does not apply to other individuals at their institution or to any named research staff. The Research Director and named research staff will continue to be eligible to apply under other UKRI funding calls which are **not** linked to the Healthy Ageing Challenge, including to responsive mode schemes and calls under other initiatives. Where further funding is sought from UKRI the Research Director's total time commitment on UKRI grants cannot exceed 100 per cent of their contracted hours.

12. What happens to my proposal once I have submitted it?

Once your proposal is submitted via Je-S it will be checked by the UKRI Grants Operations team to make sure the proposal fits UKRI'S basic eligibility criteria. Your proposal will then be subject to further checks to ensure it is eligible for consideration for this call. Your proposal could be rejected at this stage if deemed ineligible. If it is considered acceptable, it will be considered by the Panel at its

shortlisting meeting. If your proposal is shortlisted you will then be invited to attend an interview by the Panel. You will be notified of the outcome of your interview in December 2019.

13. Who are the Panel Members?

The Panel is made up of senior UKRI colleagues, as well as external individuals with expertise in healthy ageing and of undertaking a similar Director role.

14. Where and when will the interviews take place?

We are currently finalising a venue for the interviews, however we can confirm they will take place in London on 20th November 2019. Please hold this date in your diary as we are unable to provide alternative dates.

15. Where can I find out more information about the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund?

The Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund is part of government's Industrial Strategy, the long-term plan to raise productivity and earning power in the UK. More information can be found at www.ukri.org/innovation/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund.

16. When will further information about funding opportunities under the ISCF Healthy Ageing Challenge be available?

The webpages for the Healthy Ageing Challenge have information on all funding opportunities and will be regularly updated. You can also sign up for regular updates from the challenge from these webpages. See here - www.ukri.org/innovation/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund/healthy-ageing for further information.

17. The call specification states that the Director will leave and coordinate a Social, Behavioural and Design Research Programme (SBDRP), is more information on this programme available?

The SBDRP will be commissioned by ESRC in collaboration with AHRC. The programme will develop the research base and understanding of the needs of the ageing population, informing innovators and influencing market behaviours. The research funded through the programme is anticipated to align with the Healthy Ageing Challenge themes outlined in the Challenge Framework - www.ageing-better.org.uk/publications/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund-healthy-ageing-framework

The Research Director, once appointed, will have an opportunity to feed in to the specification for the SBDRP before it is finalised. We expect a call for proposals to be launched in early 2020. The total funding available for the SBDRP will be confirmed when the call for proposals is launched.

18. Who do I contact if I have any queries?

Please direct any queries to:

- Josie McGregor and Evie Bate
Email: ISCFHealthyAgeing@esrc.ukri.org
Phone: 01793 413094 or 01793 413175

