Large Grants competition 2018
Frequently asked questions

Last updated: 16 April 2018

Please note that this document may be updated to reflect those questions most frequently raised with the ESRC. It is highly recommended that potential applicants review the online version of this document on the ESRC website (rather than a saved or cached version) before contacting the ESRC for advice.

General information

Does this call include and priority areas?

No, this call has no steer or specified priority areas and welcomes research from across the remit of ESRC.

Where can I find information about the Large Grants competition 2018?

Details about the Large Grants competition 2018 can be found on our website at: (https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/large-grants-competition-2018). This page has the most up to date information about the competition and should be referred to in the first instance for all queries.

Eligibility

Does the lead research organisation have to be based in the UK?

Yes, the principal investigator (PI) must be based at a UK university or an independent research organisation approved by the ESRC. A complete list of eligible research organisations to hold ESRC grants can be found on the UKRI website (https://ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/). Proposals can be submitted by researchers who are not established members of the proposed host institution. In these circumstances, by submitting the proposal, the research organisation is confirming that, in the event of an award, they guarantee to provide facilities for the PI (as if they were an established member of staff) for the duration of the award.

Who is eligible to be listed as a co-investigator (Co-I) under this call?
Academic researchers (at PhD or equivalent status) from an established overseas research organisation of comparable standing to a UK research organisation will be eligible to be listed as an international co-investigator under the scheme. Applicants from non-HEI organisations, such as businesses/private sector organisations, voluntary and community/third sector organisations or public sector organisations (eg local authorities, government departments) can also be listed as co-investigators. Please see the call specification document and the Je-S guidance notes for call specific guidance (https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/large-grants-competition-2018) and the international Co-I policy for further information on the inclusion of international and non-academic co-investigators (https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/)

Can applications include associated studentships?

No. Associated studentships are not permitted on this call.

Can existing ESRC funded centres and large grants apply?

ESRC-funded existing centres and large grants can apply to the call. We strongly advise the PIs of these grants to contact their ESRC portfolio managers to discuss.

Application and assessment

My proposal overlaps with an investment currently funded by the ESRC. Can I still apply?

Successful proposals must clearly demonstrate how they add value to the current portfolio of ESRC investments. Proposals which substantially overlap with or duplicate existing centres or large grants are unlikely to be successful.

How many co-investigators can be included in an application?

While there is no limit to the number of academic or non-academic co-investigators that can be included in an application, applicants should consider the management challenges involved with large numbers of co-investigators. Applicants should request the level of resources that are required and appropriate for the research, within the expectations of the call, and all co-investigators must make a significant contribution to the conduct of the research. Very small fractions of co-investigator time should be avoided.

Do I need to attach a list of my publications to my proposal?

The bibliography for references cited in the proposal should be attached under the ‘list of publications’ document: this should only include publications cited in the proposal. A list of the most relevant and recent publications should be included in the applicant CVs.

What should be included in the case for support?
The ‘case for support’ attachment includes specific sections, all of which need to be addressed. Please refer to the Je-S guidance for applicants document (https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/large-grants-competition-2018).

How will the specific challenges of peer-reviewing interdisciplinary research be addressed?

ESRC recognises the challenges for interdisciplinary proposals in peer review. For all proposals received to this call, we will endeavour to ensure that a breadth of reviewers, including those with interdisciplinary expertise, are engaged in assessing quality across the disciplines concerned.

Is a commitment of additional institutional support required under this call?

Whilst ESRC expect Research Organisations to provide significant commitment to the application, additional evidence of this is not needed for this call (as it is in the centres competition). Research Organisations are required to abide by standard full economic costing rules, as in all ESRC research competitions.

Demand management

Is there a quota system in place for Research Organisations on this call?

Yes, the same quota system that has been used for the recent ESRC centres competition is being used under this call. Please refer to your Research Office for details on how many applications your Research Organisation can submit under this call.

Is there a restriction on the number of proposals that individuals from my research organisation can be involved in as a Co-Investigator?

There is no restriction on the number of proposals that individuals can be included on as a Co-I. The restriction pertains to the number of applications an institution can submit as the lead organisation (that is, with the principal investigator).

Resubmissions

If my proposal is unsuccessful in the Large Grants competition 2018 can I apply to the ESRC’s standard responsive Research Grants scheme or the next Large Grants competition?

The ESRC does not allow the resubmission of any previously unsuccessful proposals (including outline proposals) unless you have been explicitly invited to do so. Further information on the ESRC resubmissions policy can be found on the ESRC website (https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/resubmissions-policy/)