

ESRC Research Methods Training Centre 2019–2024

Frequently Asked Questions

This version: 6 November 2018

Details about the ESRC Research Methods Training Centre 2019-2024 call, including the call specification and Je-S guidance notes for applicants, can be found on the ESRC website: (<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/research-methods-training-centre-2019-2024/>)

Please refer to those documents in the first instance for all queries.

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

What is the commissioning timetable?

- Call for proposals issued – 5 October 2018
- Expressions of Interest submitted – by 16:00 on 29 November 2018
- Closing date for full proposals – by 16:00 on 10 January 2018
- Peer review of proposals - January 2018 – February 2019
- PI response – March 2019
- Panel meeting and interviews of shortlisted applicants – w/c 29 April 2019
- Decision announced – early June 2019
- Contract to commence – 1 October 2019

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?

Applicants from non-HEI organisations, such as businesses/private sector organisations, voluntary and community/third sector organisations or public sector organisations (for example local authorities, government departments) can be listed as co-investigators. Given

the nature of the call, we would not usually expect to see international co-investigators (Co-Is) however this can be included exceptionally if a clear justification is provided.

Please see the call specification document and the Je-S guidance notes for call specific guidance (<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/research-methods-training-centre-2019-2024/>) and the international co-investigator 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.

Application and assessment

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 by the research team members 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 call specification and Je-S guidance for applicants document (<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/research-methods-training-centre-2019-2024/>).

What should I include in the Pathways to Impact attachment?

Proposals should include a two-page 'Pathways to Impact' attachment. When completing the attachment, please consider and address the following:

- Clear mapping of beneficiaries and target audiences
- Analysis of demand for research outputs
- Strategy for engagement with target audiences
- Methods for communication and engagement
- Opportunities for collaboration
- Monitoring and evaluation of Impact Plan activities.

Guidance on developing impact-generating activities is available in the ESRC's impact toolkit: (<https://esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit>).

ESRC impact case studies are also available: (<https://esrc.ukri.org/news-events-and-publications/impact-case-studies/>).

What level of institutional support is required?

Due to the strategic nature of the investment, we would expect the institution to support the centre at a level that is appropriate for the amount of funding being requested. As the centre will be a national resource, the lead institution should demonstrate they recognise the strategic nature of the investment and outline the institutional support they (and partner ROs, if relevant) will offer to ensure the successful delivery of the centre.

Demand management

Is there a restriction on the number of proposals that my research organisation can submit as the lead organisation?

There is not a pre-determined cap on the number of applications an institution can submit. Due to the nature of the investment and the institutional commitment expected, we would expect research organisations to co-ordinate their response accordingly.

Resources

What costs can be included as exceptions?

Some examples include bursaries; training event costs; trainer fees; website costs etc. This is not an exhaustive list and all costs would need to be fully justified in the justification of resources document.

Please note that costs associated with academic staff will be funded in the usual way with ESRC contributing 80% of the costs.

If costs are not marked as an exception, will these be funded at 80% or 100%?

Any costs that are included in the application and are not marked as an exception will be funded at 80% FEC. The research organisation would then need to cover the additional 20% of these costs.

Please note that indirect and estate costs cannot be claimed for any staff listed under exceptions.