



Transnational organised crime: Deepening and broadening our understanding

Frequently asked questions

Last updated: 3 April 2018

Please note that this document may be updated to reflect those questions most frequently raised with the ESRC. This document should be referred to in conjunction with the call documents on the Transnational organised crime: Deepening and broadening our understanding call page on the ESRC website: <https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/transnational-organised-crime-deepening-and-broadening-our-understanding/>

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 independent research organisation approved by the research councils. A complete list of eligible research organisations that can hold research council grants can be found on the UKRI website (<https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>). Proposals may 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.

Can applications include co-investigators from outside the UK?

Academic researchers (at PhD or with equivalent academic research experience) 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 on proposals to this call: <https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/inclusion-of-international-co-investigators-on-proposals/>

Can applications include co-investigators from UK private sector, public sector and third sector organisations?

Applicants from non-HEI organisations, such as businesses/private sector organisations, voluntary and community/third sector organisations or public sector organisations (such as local authorities, government departments) can be listed as co-investigators. Please see the call specification document and the Je-S guidance notes for further information on the inclusion of international and non-academic co-investigators (<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/inclusion-of-uk-business-third-sector-or-government-body-co-investigators-on-proposals/>).

Should all projects involve non-academic stakeholders?

Yes, all projects are strongly encouraged to involve non-academic stakeholders in the design, implementation and dissemination of the proposed research. Non-academic stakeholders may be co-investigators, project partners and/or members of project advisory groups.

What are project partners?

Project partners can be any organisation who will not receive funding directly from the grant, but will have an integral role in the proposed research.

Project partners who will be making contributions to the project, in cash or in-kind, must be named as a project partner on the proposal and a letter from the partner must be attached to the proposal. The content of the letter should:

- confirm commitment to the proposed project
- clearly explain the value, relevance and possible benefits of the work to the project partner
- give the nature and equivalent value of any in-kind contribution, and/or declare the value of a cash contribution, and period of support
- describe the added value to the project of the project partner's involvement.

Further guidance is available in the Je-S help text under the 'project partners' tab: <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/Index.htm>

Not all project partners make financial or in-kind contributions to a project. In this case the name of the partner organisation(s) along with their role and contribution to the project should be made clear in the proposal form and case for support. It is recommended that a letter of support from the partner organisation is attached to the proposal.

Can applications include grant associated studentships?

Grant associated studentships (<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/associated-studentships/>) are not permitted under this call.

Call themes

Must all proposals address the key themes and questions outlined in the call specification?

The call indicates a number of key themes and indicative research questions which have been identified as deserving further investigation. The suggested research questions are intended to generate ideas among prospective applicants, however, applicants are welcome to address any research questions that will help to inform responses to one or more of the themes that have been identified.

Cross-disciplinary research

Are cross-disciplinary proposals encouraged?

Yes, the call welcomes proposals which address a broad range of approaches and research perspectives and cross-disciplinary proposals may be eligible for co-funding by the EPSRC or the AHRC¹, so long as a minimum of 51% of the project focus is social sciences based.

¹ To be eligible for AHRC co-funding projects must align with the AHRC's remit **and** must be compliant with the funding requirements under the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) reporting

Are there any additional requirements for proposals that meet the criteria for ODA-related research?

There are no additional requirements at the proposal stage. However, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy requires ESRC to report on any funded project which proposes research which meets the criteria for ODA. Projects which have been recommended for funding and appear to meet these criteria will be invited to complete a one-page ODA statement which will help us ascertain whether the project does indeed fall into this category, and will facilitate our reporting.

Application and assessment

How and when should I apply?

Applications to this call should be submitted through the ESRC [Joint Electronic Submission \(Je-S\) system](#). **The call will close at 16.00 on 14 June 2018.**

What funding is allocated to the call?

A total of £1.55 million has been allocated for this call. The expectation is that the ESRC will fund up to four research grants.

What is the maximum amount that can be applied for?

Proposals are invited for grants between £200,000 and £450,000 (100% fEC (full economic costs)) of which ESRC will fund 80% and the balance must be guaranteed by the research organisation.

Is there a restriction on how many proposals an individual can be involved in?

Individuals can be associated with up to two proposals to this call but may only be the principal investigator on one proposal. Applicants associated with multiple proposals must attach a brief note to this effect to each proposal, and provide confirmation that they will not be overcommitted in the event that both are funded.

What is the review and decision process for this call?

Once accepted by the ESRC Office, proposals will be reviewed by three expert academic peer reviewers, one of which will have been nominated by the applicants, and up to two nominated user reviewers.

Anonymised reviewer comments will be made available to applicants for response before proposals are considered by members of a specially convened commissioning panel. Decisions on funding will be made at a meeting of the commissioning panel in September 2018.

[\(https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/\)](https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/), i.e. their primary objectives are the promotion of long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list.

Should applicants provide the names of nominated reviewers?

Yes, applicants are strongly recommended to provide up to two nominated academic reviewers (one of which will be invited to provide a review) and up to two user reviewers. It is essential that you contact all nominated reviewers in advance of submitting your proposal and secure their agreement.

When will I be informed of the outcome of my application?

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by 28 September 2018.

Resubmission**If my proposal is unsuccessful in this call, can I apply to the ESRC's standard responsive Research Grant Scheme?**

The ESRC does not allow the resubmission of any previously unsuccessful 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/>).