

UK in a Changing Europe Senior Fellowship Call 2019 Call Specification

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Summary

The ESRC is inviting proposals from senior UK-based academics for senior fellowships as part of the UK in a Changing Europe (UKICE) initiative. This is the third round of senior fellowships under this initiative. Under the guidance of the UKICE Director, the role of the senior fellowship is to provide evidence and analysis, which leads to impact and dissemination across the broad range of issues and policy areas affected by Brexit, its implementation and consequences, and the UK's future relationship with the European Union (EU) more broadly.

It is an expectation that applicants to the call will be individuals of the highest international standing in their field. Whilst the role of the senior fellows is focussed mainly on impact and dissemination, another important feature is their role as an ambassador for the UKICE, and indirectly, the ESRC and their ability to respond rapidly to the ever-evolving political scenario in the UK. Full details of the person specification can be found below.

Whilst the senior fellow will primarily synthesise existing research, they will also have the opportunity to undertake some new research if appropriate.

The proposed programme of activities under the initiative is intended to run until April 2022. Since its establishment, the UKICE has provided an authoritative and independent reference point for those in need of high-quality social scientific-research based information, originally on the relationship of the UK with the EU, and subsequently Brexit and its implementation. The intention is for these new senior fellowships to build on and enhance this.

We hope to support between eight and 10 senior fellows. The maximum amount available for each fellowship is £600,000 at 100% full economic cost (fEC) of which ESRC will pay 80%. Funding will be available for a maximum of 36 months.

The call will close at **16.00 on Thursday 7 February 2019**. Fellowships are expected to start from 1 May 2019, but no later than 1 June 2019. The usual three month lee-way on ESRC grants will not apply to successful proposals except in exceptional circumstances.

Background and scope

Led by Professor Anand Menon (King's College London), the UKICE initiative aims to promote rigorous, high-quality and independent research into the complex and ever-changing relationship between the UK and the European Union, and to provide an authoritative, non-partisan and impartial reference point for those looking for information, insight and analysis about UK-EU relations that stand aside from the politics surrounding the debate.

It does this primarily through: an active online presence (including social media, podcasts, video, and the publication of briefings, commentaries and blogs); a busy programme of

events (conferences, briefings, roundtables, panel discussions) aimed at non-academic audiences; and by working closely with other ESRC Brexit-related investments, including senior fellows, Brexit Priority Grant holders, and those funded under the Governance after Brexit programme.

The senior fellows are expected to make a significant contribution to the work of the UKICE.

The role of the Director and the Hub

The Hub plays a central role in reaching out to the academic community and mobilising researchers to contribute to the objectives of the programme, identifying gaps in our knowledge where new research is needed, and synthesising and disseminating research findings to relevant stakeholder communities. Further details on the hub can be found on the UKICE website (www.ukandeu.ac.uk).

The Director, Professor Anand Menon, takes the lead in liaising with academics in relevant research areas in UK research organisations, encouraging them to participate in UKICE's work, particularly in the effective dissemination of research findings. The key objective of UKICE is to promote social science and underline what it can offer to non-academic communities.

These promotional activities include:

- Producing outputs that are easily accessible to policy makers, businesses, journalists, civil society organisations, educational institutions and the general public who are interested in the UK's relationship with the EU
- Hosting events where social scientists participate alongside key non-academic stakeholders to ensure an effective exchange of information and knowledge
- Developing innovative communication approaches, particularly with social media, to engage with hard to reach communities not generally exposed to or connected with the best social science research findings
- Facilitating the impact and engagement work undertaken by social scientists both in the UK and elsewhere- enabling them to communicate their research to key stakeholder groups and the wider public, and amplifying the work of the wider social sciences community.

The Director also maintains close contact with key stakeholders in government, business, the media and other interested organisations, including the major political parties, print and broadcast media outlets, key government departments, and business and civil society groups, keeping them abreast of research findings, and enabling the forum to anticipate and be responsive to their needs. Activities have involved publishing the latest research findings, organising an annual conference, local town hall meetings and also organising briefing sessions for government on issues related to the referendum and then the implementation of Brexit.

Alongside UK in a Changing Europe, the ESRC is investing in a programme of research on the theme of Governance after Brexit. Directed by Professor Daniel Wincott, this programme sets Brexit in a long-term perspective and seeks to address fundamental questions of governance that it raises. Ten projects have been funded under the programme's the first call - a second call in planned for 2019. There is a close relationship between Governance after Brexit and UK in a Changing Europe. Professor Wincott is Research Director for UK in a Changing Europe and projects funded under Governance after Brexit use it as a platform for engagement and impact.

Call Details

We expect to fund between eight and 10 senior fellowships, dependent on the quality of proposals. These are designed to produce work of the highest quality leading to scientific, societal and economic impact within the scope of this call. Successful candidates will be required to produce regular outputs throughout their grant to inform scientific and broader political and public debates on Brexit, its implementation and consequences, and future UK-EU relations.

These outputs could take a variety of forms, ranging from academic think pieces to blogs and articles aimed at the general public, through to holding small events bringing together social scientists and key stakeholder groups.

Proposals should be primarily based around either synthesising or adding value to existing research. However, senior fellows are also permitted to undertake some new research activity if appropriately justified. This should complement existing research.

Contributions to academic and particularly broader user impact are expected throughout the fellowship. This could involve activities such as organising seminars or briefings to discuss research issues or to disseminate findings at different stages of the research to relevant stakeholders, or developing a discussion network based around the research issue. Given the high profile nature of the debates around Europe we would also expect senior fellows to engage in public discussions as part of their role.

Senior fellows will be expected to act as champions for the social sciences, promoting the importance of social science research in addressing current and future issues in relation to the UK in a Changing Europe. This call encourages applications from a range of disciplines and specialities and it welcomes applications from outside of political science. In fulfilling this role, it is essential and a requirement that the senior fellows work flexibly, and closely with the initiative's Director. If there is no clear commitment to this within the proposal the office reserves the right to reject it without further consideration.

Focus areas

UK in a Changing Europe focuses on the implications of changes in governance, policies and social and political attitudes within both the EU and the UK and the implications of these for the UK-EU relationship. Within that broad remit the call is open, though we particularly welcome submissions in the following areas:

- The economics of Brexit, including at a regional level
- Trade: relationships with third countries, particularly as they interact with the UK's relationship with the EU
- UK-EU relations
- Future UK-EU trade and security treaty
- Future security, defence and foreign policy
- The legal dimensions of Brexit and future relationships
- The status and future of Northern Ireland
- The constitution and devolution
- Social and workers' rights
- Impact on UK politics (both at a UK level and a devolved level, as well as in England)
- Public attitudes
- Identities
- Impact of Brexit across classes, genders and ethnicities
- Immigration policy after Brexit
- The environment
- Regulation post Brexit
- Specific sectors, including agriculture, culture, fishing, education, health, housing, investment/banking, manufacturing (including particularly cars, aerospace and pharma), sport, tourism & hospitality, transport

It should be noted that there is no particular allocation of funds to these areas. Each proposal will be judged on its own merits and how far it meets the full requirements of the call. However, when recommending proposals for funding, the commissioning panel will take into consideration the overall thematic balance of the UK in a Changing Europe initiative and will seek to ensure that the key themes and priorities detailed above are covered to the fullest extent.

Outputs and impact

Successful candidates will be required to provide regular outputs throughout the grant to inform the evidence base in their respective areas.

Given the high-profile nature of the debates around Brexit, we would also expect the fellow to engage in public discussions as part of the role and importantly, to remain non-partisan.

Over the course of their fellowship, fellows will be expected to produce, relevant outputs that incorporate key research insights into the areas of policy debate. These could take the form of policy briefings, think pieces, evidence briefings, or reports. We encourage the use of innovative media in these activities. These outputs would be in addition to the normal academic outputs in leading journals and/or other substantial publications. In addition fellows will be expected to contribute regularly to the UKICE website in order to maintain its relevance and topicality. Fellows will be expected to engage fully with the UKICE Hub led by the initiative's Director Professor Anand Menon and make their outputs available to it.

Fellows will also be expected to work with Professor Daniel Wincott, Programme Director for Governance after Brexit.

Applicants are expected to carefully consider how best to build links and contacts with potential beneficiaries and users of the research at the earliest possible stages of research design and development, and to work towards co-production of knowledge with research users where appropriate. In addition to knowledge exchange and impact strategies that focus on particular user groups and/or specific named beneficiary organisations and businesses, public engagement activities, bringing together researchers and the wider public, are also encouraged.

Consideration of, and advance planning for, knowledge exchange (KE) and strategies to maximise economic or societal impact should be central elements of proposals submitted to the call. In the 'Pathways to Impact' attachment, applicants should present initial plans for developing an impact strategy, promoting knowledge exchange, public engagement and effective communication with key stakeholders. We encourage the submission of creative and innovative Pathways to Impact.

A clearly thought-through and acceptable Pathways to Impact statement should be:

- project-specific and not generalised
- flexible and focused on potential outcomes.

The resources required to undertake effective knowledge exchange will need to be accurately reflected and fully costed into the proposal. The Impact Toolkit (<https://esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit/>) includes information on developing impact strategies, promoting knowledge exchange and public engagement, and communicating effectively with key stakeholders.

Senior fellows are encouraged to:

- identify and actively engage relevant users of research and stakeholders at appropriate stages
- articulate a clear understanding of the context and needs of users, and consider ways for the proposed research to meet these needs or increase understanding of them
- outline the planning and management of associated activities including timing, personnel, skills, budget, deliverables and feasibility
- include evidence of any existing engagement with relevant users.

Flexibility

Senior fellows will be expected to produce analysis on relevant issues in a timely manner. Whilst fellows are required to provide a plan of work, they must also be able to be reactive and willing to respond to events at short notice. It is also an expectation that fellows assist the Director in ad-hoc duties.

Fellows are required to inform the initiative Director, the Hub and the ESRC of all events and publications planned as part of the fellowship in advance.

Engagement with users/partners

Fellows will need to demonstrate an understanding of the wider audiences interested in the initiative and their particular research – including policymakers and businesses throughout the UK, civil society organisations, schools and young people, the general public, and actors in the wider international context.

Fellows will need to include plans for user engagement and communication. They will be expected to network with each other, the Director and with other ESRC initiatives which are being taken forward in partnership with key stakeholders.

To support the successful candidates in their engagement and impact activities, there will be an induction day to meet Professor Menon, other successful fellows and the ESRC and also senior media training for all fellows. It will be a requirement that successful fellows attend this event which will be held in London on 11 and 12 June 2019.

Assessment criteria

Applicants to the scheme are expected to be individuals of the highest international standing in their field. They will have an outstanding track record and significant experience in designing and managing research of the highest quality, and disseminating the results of such research within academia and to government, policymakers, charities, business and the general public.

Academic quality of the proposal is the primary criterion for selection and is essential. The commissioning panel will be asked to comment on the following criteria in assessing proposals:

- Research activities:
 - Clear rationale for the fellowship research area
 - Relevance to one or more of the focus areas; or, a very strong case for the proposed research area of the fellowship
 - Justification of the proposed research activity (ie balance between synthesis work and new research, and justification of new research if proposed)
 - Assessment of the proposed research activity (both research synthesis and new research, if proposed)
 - theoretical and conceptual background
 - clear aims and objectives
 - chosen methodology
 - anticipated outcomes
 - Potential contribution towards advancing the research field (either in terms of conceptual understanding, theoretical, and methodological development, or application of research-based knowledge to policy/practice and/or development of interdisciplinary approaches etc.).

- Relevant experience and academic standing:
 - Acknowledged and evidenced record of highly regarded outputs of international standing relevant to the call objectives (*in recognition of the importance of this factor the ESRC has exceptionally decided that the CV for the fellow can be up to six sides of A4 rather than the usual two*)
 - Evidence of outstanding contributions to social science leadership and impact
- Outputs, dissemination, engagement and impact strategy:
 - Processes and means for identifying, engaging with, and making available findings to target audiences, particularly the non-academic community
 - Likely impact of planned outputs, communications and engagement activities
 - Demonstrate proposed engagement with the Director, Hub and others funded as part of the initiative, and clear enthusiasm for engaging flexibly and responsively to opportunities for impact, include media requests
 - Promoting the role of social sciences and representing ESRC interests.
- Value for money:
 - Justifiable and reasonable financial support sought
 - Justification for a research assistant or assistants (if sought)
 - Appropriate and justified time commitment
 - An overall assessment of the likely value for money for the sum sought.
- Research organisation support:
 - Availability of facilities for all staff
 - Any additional RO support offered.

Cost and duration of Fellowships

Fellowships will last for up to 36 months.

Fellowships can be for a maximum of £600,000 at 100% FEC of which ESRC will pay up to 80%. The host institution will be responsible for the remaining 20%. Support may be provided for justified research staff, travel, subsistence, associated research costs and equipment. Eligible costs must be fully specified and justified in the Justification of Resources section of the proposal, in accordance with the ESRC Research Funding Guide: (<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-funding-guide/>).

To allow enough time to carry out the range of activities expected from each fellow, applicants on average must be able to commit a minimum of 50% full-time equivalent over the course of the fellowship. It is accepted that there may be a variation in time commitment during the course of the fellowship to reflect the commitments of the fellows. Applicant's time commitments to all projects should not exceed 100%. Fellowships will be expected to start between 1 May and 1 June 2019.

ESRC will provide funding for justified research assistant time, this may be one or multiple individuals, based upon the needs of the fellowship in terms of time and spread of expertise. Where research assistants are employed, salaries - at the specified time commitment level - will be paid. Applicants must fully justify their requests for the provision of support for research assistance. The ESRC is not in this case specifying the maximum costs which can be allocated for research assistant time, but these should be contained within the overall maximum budget for funding of the fellowship.

Career development and capacity building

We encourage a strong commitment to supporting the development of researchers (particularly at the early-career stage) within proposals.

Please note that associated studentships are not eligible under this call.

Research ethics

Applicants must ensure that the proposed research activity will be carried out to a high ethical standard and must clearly state how any potential ethical and health and safety issues have been considered and will be addressed ensuring that all necessary ethical approval is in place before the project commences and all risks are minimised.

All applicants must comply with the ESRC Framework for Research Ethics (<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics/>).

Open access

We are committed to ensuring that our research community makes the outputs from ESRC-funded research publicly available. The UKRI open access policy can be found at (<https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/documents/rcukopenaccesspolicy-pdf/>) and ESRC-funded researchers are expected to comply with this policy. The payment of article processing charges (APCs) and other publication charges related to ESRC-funded research are supported through RCUK open access block grants which are provided to eligible research organisations.

Demand management

We anticipate that this call will receive significant interest, so, in accordance with our demand management strategy, we encourage research organisations to consider carefully the number and quality of proposals that are submitted. For further information: (<https://esrc.ukri.org/about-us/performance-information/demand-management/>).

If your proposal does not centrally address the key research themes and priorities outlined above, or you do not meet the person eligibility criteria you should not submit it to this call. You may instead wish to consider submitting to the ESRC's research grants call (<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/research-grants/>), as proposals funded under the Research Grants call can be retrospectively associated with UK in a Changing Europe or Governance after Brexit provided they are sufficiently relevant.

Research organisation support

We will be looking for evidence of strong institutional commitment and contributions to hosting a fellowship; for example, through the provision of grant-associated parallel activities and capacity-building. Hosting research organisations are expected to provide the fellow with research facilities and accommodation, together with any additional research costs not covered by the fellowship payment (although additional funding could be sought from another research funder). The RO must also work with the project office on the co-ordination of any publicity arising from the grant. This institutional commitment will need to be set out in a separate attachment in the proposal – Head of Department statement. Further guidance is provided in the Je-S Guidance. Notes for Applicants are available at (<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/uk-in-a-changing-europe-senior-fellowship/>).

The closing date for applications is **16.00 on Thursday 7 February 2019**. Full proposals should be submitted electronically using the Research Councils' Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) form available at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk>.

Person specification and eligibility

Applicants to the call are expected to be individuals of high international standing in their field. They will have an outstanding track record and significant experience in designing and managing research of the highest quality, and disseminating the results and achieving impact of such research within academia and to government, policymakers, civil society, business and the general public.

Applicants from a variety of academic career backgrounds are welcome to apply to the call as it is acknowledged that not all applicants will have followed the traditional route into academia. However all applicants, regardless of background, must be able to demonstrate that they meet the full criteria for the call.

Applicants must demonstrate their ability to produce major contributions to social science and lead innovative and exciting research agendas. The applicant's international standing will also be an important criterion.

This call is open to high-quality candidates from anywhere in the world provided their proposal meets the requirements of the call. However, all potential applicants must have the strong support of and affiliation with an eligible research organisation in the UK to host them if they are successful. Grants will be available to both established and non-established members of staff of eligible UK research organisations, in line with standard ESRC eligibility requirements. For guidance on eligibility, please refer to the ESRC Research Funding Guide (<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-funding-guide/>)

Additional support for the Fellows

To support the successful candidates in their engagement and impact activities, we expect any training requirements to be developed within the framework of the proposal. It is expected that senior fellows will take advantage of communications and impact training provided by their university during the course of their grant.

In addition, all successful candidates will be required to attend an ESRC- funded one-day senior media training course to be held in London on 11 or 12 June 2019. This will form part of an induction day for all senior fellows funded under the initiative and will be an opportunity to meet Professor Menon, Professor Daniel Wincott and other senior fellows. Applicants should budget within their proposal for their travel to this event.

We anticipate that resources to cover eligible costs associated with impact-related activities will be requested. It is expected that senior fellows will attend an annual conference organised by the Research Director, as well as periodic initiative meetings. Travel and subsistence costs should include costings for these meetings also.

Fellows will benefit from the advice and guidance of the Director, Professor Anand Menon and are expected to work closely with Professor Menon and Professor Daniel Wincott, (ESRC Governance after Brexit Director): their willingness to do this should be acknowledged in the proposal. Applicants may wish to discuss their proposal with Professor Menon prior to submission. His contact details are provided at the end of this document.

How to apply

Proposals must be submitted electronically using the Je-S form available on our website or at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk>. They must be costed and approved by the relevant institutional authority before submission. The deadline for submitting proposals is **16.00 on Thursday 7 February 2019**.

Detailed guidance on the information required as part of the application is provided in the Je-S Guidance Notes for Applicants (<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/uk-in-a-changing-europe-senior-fellowship/>). Applicants are required to use this guidance rather than any generic guidance.

All UK Higher Education Institutions are eligible to receive funds for research, postgraduate training and associated activities. The higher education funding councils for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland determine whether an organisation meets the criteria to be a Higher Education Institution. Independent research organisations (IROs) and other institutes approved by UKRI are eligible to apply for ESRC funding. The current list of eligible IROs and institutes can be found here: (<https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>).

There will be no opportunity to change the proposal through Je-S, once submitted. If the proposal exceeds specified page limits, additional pages will be discounted. If the application omits any required documents, the proposal will be judged only on the information provided. If additional material is provided, the commissioning panel will be instructed to ignore it. Proposals that do not meet the criteria for the call will be office rejected.

Assessment Process

A Commissioning Panel, comprising academic experts and user members with interests and expertise in this field, will be convened. Each proposal will be reviewed by the panel of experts. The panel will consider proposals and draw up a shortlist to be taken forward for interview. Applicants shortlisted will be invited for interview by a sub-set of the Panel. Interviews will form an essential part of the assessment process and attendance will be mandatory.

Applicants will be informed of outcomes during April 2019. We expect the work to begin from 1 May 2019 to 1 June 2019 at the latest. The ESRC reserves the right not to accept a later start date.

Commissioning timetable

The timetable for the commissioning process is:

- Deadline for submission of proposals – **16.00 on Thursday 7 February 2019**
- Proposals to panel review – 21 February 2019
- Shortlisting – w/c 18 March 2019
- Interviews – w/c 8 April 2019
- Applicants informed of outcome – April 2019
- Expected start – 1 May – 1 June 2019
- Induction and media training day – 11 or 12 June 2019

Contacts

If you have any questions or would like further information about the scheme, please contact:

ESRC secretariat

- Email: esrceuropeinitiative@esrc.ukri.org
- Sam Reilly
Telephone 01793 444375
- Ann Jeffcott
Telephone: 01793 413023

UK in a Changing Europe Research Director

- Professor Anand Menon
Email: anand.menon@kcl.ac.uk

Enquiries relating to technical aspects of the Je-S form should be addressed to:

- Je-S Helpdesk
Email: jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk
Telephone: 01793 444164