



UK Research and Innovation

UKRI GCRF Cultures, Behaviours and Histories of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Partnership Award Call 2

UKRI GCRF Collective Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

The questions below should be read in conjunction with the main Call Document, available on the AHRC website. The questions are based on common queries that arose at the workshop and that have been received by email or phone. We may update this document as new questions arise.

Who can apply to this call?

Applications to this call must be led by a UK Research Organisation normally eligible to apply to UKRI with a UK based Principal Investigator. Overseas researchers, including those based in academic and non-profit research institutions in any country on the [OECD DAC list of ODA-recipient countries](#) can be included on proposals as Co-Investigators. Further information on eligibility can be found in Section V of the [call document](#).

Will partnerships involving particular countries be prioritised?

No. Partnerships can be built with any country or countries on the [OECD DAC list of ODA-recipient countries](#).

However, if a country is due to graduate from the list, it cannot be the sole focus of the project although it can still be included as a case study or comparator.

I'm not from an AHRC discipline, can I still apply?

Yes. This is a UKRI GCRF Collective Programme funding call, and researchers across all disciplines are eligible to apply. Projects must sit within the scope of the call which is aimed at supporting interdisciplinary, international research partnerships which seek to explore the intersection of culture, behaviours, history and society with all stages of the food systems chain in any country or countries on the [OECD DAC list of ODA-recipient countries](#). Please see the [call document](#) for further details on the scope of the call.

Are Early Career Researchers eligible to apply?

Yes. This call is open to researchers at any stage of their career, so long as they meet our eligibility requirements as set out in the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#). You do not need to be from an AHRC discipline to apply.

What is the maximum amount of funding that I can apply for?

Proposals should be submitted on a full economic cost (fEC) basis up to a maximum of £200,000. This are the 100% figures and represent the absolute maximum that can be applied for. Costs will be paid at the standard 80% rate with the exception of certain international and NGO/third sector costs as detailed in the call document.

When should successful projects start and how long can they last?

Projects funded under this call must be between 12 and 24 months in duration and must start between 1st May 2020 and 1st September 2020.

Do projects need to address the full scope of the call?

No. Applications can address issues at any stage of the food systems chain in any country or countries on the [OECD DAC list of ODA-recipient countries](#) and explore one or more intersections with culture, behaviours, history and society.

What outcomes are expected?

Activities should catalyse the creation of sustainable, balanced, equitable relationships and partnerships between UK based research organisations and researchers with those in developing countries. Learning and knowledge exchange should be reciprocal with clear mutuality of benefit for all collaborators.

Specific outcomes will depend on the aims of individual projects. We expect that proposals are realistic in terms of what can be achieved within the timescale and funding limits, and have a focus on sustainability beyond the funding period. This could include plans to submit further proposals under existing UKRI Research Council mechanisms, e.g. Research Grants, Follow on Funding. Applicants will need to identify the appropriate lead Research Council, and assessment of interdisciplinary research proposals is supported through the Cross-Council Funding Agreement (CCFA), the peer review process, and our administrative systems. Further information on the CCFA can be found on the [UKRI website](#) and applicants are encouraged to discuss such proposals at an early stage, using the listed contacts.

Will particular topics be prioritised, e.g. those listed in the call document?

No. Applicants are welcome to submit a proposal on any topic within the scope of the call. All proposals will be considered equally against the eligibility and assessment criteria, regardless of focus, and so we will not be prioritising any topics over another.

Do I need to ensure my application fits within a particular council's remit?

No, there is no restriction in relation to council/disciplinary remit. Projects must sit within the scope of the call which is aimed at supporting interdisciplinary, international research partnerships which seek to explore the intersection of culture, behaviours, history and society with all stages of the food systems chain in any country or countries on the [OECD DAC list of ODA-recipient countries](#). As a result, we expect that projects will cross traditional boundaries of council remit.

What is meant by 'interdisciplinary' in this context?

The approach this call takes to interdisciplinarity is broad, leaving applicants free to draw from any disciplines, methods and approaches which suit their proposed project. We expect to see balanced projects which draw genuinely from multiple disciplines. As such, a project could begin as transdisciplinary or multidisciplinary and then develop into an interdisciplinary project.

Is there a limit to the number of disciplines that can be represented in a proposal?

No. We expect that the disciplinary spread of researchers is appropriate to the aims of the partnership, and a clearly articulated justification is included in the application.

Can my proposal cut across the different UKRI GCRF Challenge portfolios? Is this required?

Proposals which cut across the different UKRI GCRF Challenge portfolios to explore the interactions between one or more of global health, conflict, resilience, education and/or sustainable cities, with food systems are welcome under this call. This is not a requirement of this call and proposals which focus exclusively on food systems are equally welcome. Applicants should carefully consider what is most appropriate for their proposed project in order to address the challenge(s) identified and to promote the economic development and welfare of their partner country or countries on the OECD DAC List. Regardless of whether a proposal does cut across one or more of the portfolios it must still fit the scope of the call and be clear about how it does so.

Should partnerships be fully formed before applying for funding under the call?

Not necessarily. New partnerships may still be developing, although we would expect to see proposals that have been jointly developed and have a clear plan for further engagement. There is a recognition that projects may evolve further as new partners are identified or research questions are formulated.

I have an existing partnership involving partners in a DAC-list country. Can I apply to this call with this partnership?

Yes, although we expect to see such partnerships using the funding to work in new ways. For example, this could include bringing in new partners, or expanding into a new research area.

What is the definition of an International NGO eligible for funding?

In acknowledgment of the fact some smaller third sector organisations do not have the capacity to co-fund research activities, costs to support partners from third sector organisations, e.g. NGOs, are eligible under this call. Costs will be funded at 100% fEC and should be entered as exceptions on J-eS form. This must be for additional costs incurred by the NGO which are directly related to the delivery of the partnership and any research. This could, for example, include buy-out of existing staff time to work on the project.

If an International NGO has an office in a DAC list country and the majority of the spending will be on staff or activities relating to that country's office, the NGO is treated as an overseas partner. This is the same irrespective of the location of a multi-national NGO's headquarters should it be based in another country. Applications must, however, include justification for working with the in-country office of such an NGO.

What is meant by 'equitable partnerships'?

Equitable partnerships are those which encompass reciprocal learning and knowledge exchange with clear benefit for **all** collaborators. Partnerships should be transparent and based on mutual respect. Partnerships should aim to have clearly articulated equitable distribution of resources, responsibilities, efforts, benefits and outputs. Partnerships should recognise different inputs, different interests and different desired outcomes and should ensure the ethical sharing and use of data which is responsive to the identified needs of society.

The following resources may be helpful in framing an understanding of equitable partnerships:

- [Building partnerships of equals](#), UK Collaborative on Development Research
- [Connected Communities Foundation Series](#), commissioned by the Connected Communities Programme funded by AHRC
- [A guide for transboundary research partnerships](#), Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE)
- [Promoting fair and equitable research partnerships to respond to global challenges](#), Rethinking Research Collaborative
- [Fair and equitable research partnerships for international development research](#), Christian Aid
- [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), United Nations

What level of community engagement is expected?

We expect projects to be co-designed and co-created by all partners, giving full consideration to context. Proposals must identify groups, beneficiaries and partners which are appropriate to the aims of the project.

What considerations need to be given to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion?

Funded proposals will be expected to adopt the highest standards of good research conduct, safeguarding and gender, equalities, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and are required to submit a Gender Equality Statement (guidance can be found in the call document). Where appropriate, proposals should consider how they might contribute to developing and sharing best practices and building capabilities for the future in this area. All full proposals will include an assessment of risks and meet the expectations outlined in the [UKCDR statement on safeguarding](#) and in the [International Development \(Gender Equality\) Act 2014](#). Proposals must detail how they will identify and manage safeguarding risks and what policies and procedures will be in place to enable reporting and investigation of allegations when they arise.

What is the assessment process for applications?

When a proposal is received, AHRC will conduct a basic eligibility check to ensure it can proceed in the assessment process. This will include checking whether a proposal is ODA-compliant, so it is important to clearly articulate a proposal's compliance in the ODA Compliance Statement as well as throughout the Case for Support and Pathways to Impact. Further information can be found in Section V.A in the call document.

Eligible applications will go forward to be assessed at a single interdisciplinary panel with a range of expertise relating to the context of the call. All proposals will be assessed against the same criteria, and the panel will produce a ranked list of fundable awards, which the Research Councils will use to determine which projects to fund.

As the panel membership will comprise a wide range of expertise, not everyone reading your application will be an expert in your area, so ensure that your proposal is written in a way that is accessible to non-experts.

Can I resubmit an unsuccessful application from the first call to the second call?

No. An application submitted to the first call cannot be resubmitted to the second call. However, applicants are free to submit a different application to the second call should they wish.

Does my proposal fit this call?

This call is genuinely open to any proposal which fits within its broad scope of exploring the intersection of cultures, behaviours, histories, and societies with any stage of the food systems chain in any country or countries on the [OECD DAC list of ODA-recipient countries](#). Example areas given in the call document are just that: examples given to try and demonstrate, not limit, the broad scope of

the call. The call is also genuinely open to any eligible researchers working in any discipline at any stage of their career, so long as the proposal addresses the scope of the call.

However, applicants are reminded they must make clear within their proposal how it addresses the scope of the call and the panel will take into account the strength of this argument when assessing the proposal.

Is there a limit to the number of investigators that can be included on proposals?

No, there isn't a limit or quota to the number of investigators included on a proposal. This is the same for UK-based investigators and investigators based overseas. Applicants are free to determine what is most appropriate for a particular project, and must justify this within the proposal.

Can costs for overheads be included for Project Partners?

If an organisation is included in a proposal as a Project Partner or other collaborating organisation, they are not eligible to include overhead costs. Overhead costs can only be claimed for UK-based and overseas Investigators.

How can NGOs be included in this call?

NGOs based in the UK or overseas can be included on a project in one of three ways:

1. Co-Investigator: Standard eligibility requirements for UK-based Co-Investigators ([p. 34 of the Research Funding Guide](#)) or International Co-Investigators ([p. 35 of the Research Funding Guide](#)) must be met.
2. Project Partner: If a significant and specific contribution is being made. Include the NGO as a named Project Partner in the Je-S form. More information can be found on [p. 37 of the Research Funding Guide](#).
3. Other collaborating organisation: The role of the NGO should be outlined in the Case for Support.

Please note that this call includes additional funding provision for international activities. If you are working with an International NGO, refer to the relevant section of the call document for further information.

Is there a minimum time requirement for Principal Investigators or Co-Investigators?

No, although the panel is able to take the proposed time into account and may make comment if they feel that it is unbalanced (i.e. too high or too low) relative to the aims of the project or any particular investigator's involvement in the project. The proposal should include justification of all staff time charged to the project.

Do projects need to include a post-doctoral research assistant?

It is not mandatory to include a post-doctoral research assistant, although one or more may be added if this would be beneficial for the overall project. Post-doctoral research assistants can be based in any relevant country. The inclusion of a post-doctoral research assistant must be justified in the proposal.

Can consultants be included on a proposed project?

Yes, and this must be justified in the proposal. The full economic cost of the consultant must be included on the proposal form, and this will be funded at the relevant rate – either 80% if based in the UK or 100% if the consultant is overseas (see the relevant section of the call document for international costs).

Is there a limit to the number of proposals submitted by a Research Organisation or Principal Investigator?

No.

Can the same researcher apply to the call as a Principal Investigator and also be included as a Co-Investigator on another proposal?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of proposals submitted by an individual researcher or limit to the number of other proposals they can be involved in.