



## AHRC MRC Global Public Health Partnership Awards December 2017

### Frequently Asked Questions

The questions below should be used in conjunction with the [Call Specification](#) and the [Guidance for Applicants](#). Both documents are available on the AHRC and MRC websites. The questions are based on common queries that arose at the initial workshop and have been received by email or phone. We may add to them 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 the Research Councils (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs/>) with a UK Principal Investigator. Overseas researchers, including those based in academic and non-profit research institutions in Low and Middle Income Countries, can be included as Co-Investigators on proposals. The full eligibility criteria for this call are set out on Page 2 of the [Guidance for Applicants](#). You will also find further guidance in the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#) in Section 3.

- **What is the remit of the AHRC?**

The AHRC has a very broad subject remit covering around 30% of researchers in the UK. A list of the subjects covered by the AHRC is provided in Section 7.3 (pages 103 – 110) of the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#). Applicants are encouraged to read this in conjunction with Section 7.4 (pages 110-113) which covers areas of research closely shared by AHRC and ESRC and sets out how responsibility is split between the two Research Councils. Areas that ESRC has primary responsibility for (e.g. Social Anthropology, Education, Human Geography) would not, by themselves, normally fulfil the requirement that a proposal address the remit of both the AHRC and the MRC, except where the element in those subject areas falls clearly within the sub-areas (e.g. Cultural Geography) which fall within the AHRC's remit as outlined in the AHRC-ESRC subject statement in section 7.4 of the AHRC Research Funding Guide.

- **I am not from an AHRC or MRC discipline, can I still apply?**

As long as the research itself would address both the AHRC and MRC remits you would still be eligible to apply. However, the assessment criteria include consideration of the appropriateness and expertise of the research team (page 10 of the [Guidance for Applicants](#)). Applicants will need to think carefully about how they demonstrate the proposed team has the required expertise to successfully complete the proposed research and how this research meets the remit of both Research Councils. One of the common issues highlighted by the Assessment Panel which considered applications submitted to the first call was that a number of applications lacked the relevant expertise from either the arts and humanities or the medical sciences, to address the proposed research area. This was reflected in a lack of awareness or engagement with existing work and studies in the area, which would have enhanced the applications significantly.

- **What balance is required between the different disciplines involved and can this be split between the UK and other countries involved?**

The exact balance of the proposed project team is down to the applicants to agree and justify within their proposal. Proposals must address the remits of both Research Councils and draw on relevant expertise as necessary and we would expect to see a significant effort to include researchers from both Councils' remit. While expertise can be spread across the various countries involved in a proposal, we do expect the UK element of the proposal to draw on the expertise of both medical and arts and humanities researchers.

- **How established do the proposed partnerships, collaborations or networks need to be in order to apply?**

Applications can be submitted for new or existing partnerships, collaborations or networks. There is scope in this call for exploratory awards which seek to support the very early stages of development. We would encourage applications which bring together researchers from disciplines or subject areas that have not previously worked together. Applications linked to existing partnerships, collaborations or networks will need to clearly show the added value that the proposed work would bring. All applications will be judged against the same assessment criteria set out in Annex C of the [Guidance for Applicants](#).

- **What are the funding limits for this call? Will any preference be given to smaller or larger proposals?**

The total funding available for this call from MRC and AHRC is £2million. There are two funding limits for this second call:

- Small Partnership Awards with total costs of no more than £50,000 at 100% fEC; these small awards should be for a duration of no longer than 18 months and be used for initial activities that will build new partnerships between UK and LMIC researchers across the MRC and AHRC disciplines, with a focus on global public health.
- Large Partnership Awards with total costs of no more than £200,000 fEC; these larger awards should be 18-24months and include a comprehensive package of work that will build new or develop existing partnerships between UK and LMIC researchers across the MRC and AHRC disciplines, with a focus on global public health.

The majority of costs will be paid at 80% as per normal Research Council policy. There is no lower limit to this call. No preference will be given to either smaller or larger proposals: all proposals will be judged against the assessment criteria set out in the [Guidance for Applicants](#). The Research Councils will look to fund a balance of Small and Large Partnership Awards. The exact balance between Small and Large Partnership Awards will be primarily based on the quality of applications received.

- **What activities are eligible for funding and what should the balance between different activities be?**

A list of eligible activities is provided on page 3 of the [Call Document](#). The primary purpose of these partnership awards is to build research connections and capacity. However, there is some scope for small scale, exploratory work on specific interdisciplinary projects within this. Whilst we would expect the majority of the award to be around building those connections and capacity this could be linked to e.g. developing and piloting a specific intervention. The balance between the various activities a project might undertake is down to applicants to decide and justify within the proposal.

- **Are there any limits to the funding that can be claimed for NGO, third sector or overseas collaborators and what costs can this funding be used to cover?**

Annex A on page 6 of the [Guidance for Applicants](#) sets out what costs can be claimed and what the limits are. Costs for international co-investigators and NGO or third sector partners will be paid at 100% fEC. There is no limit to the total amount of costs that can be claimed for overseas co-investigators based in LMICs on the DAC list. Costs for international co-investigators not based in an LMIC and for third sector/ NGO partners are limited to 30% of the budget of the proposed project. These percentage limits should be calculated based on the 100% fEC figures.

For example, a proposal with a £100,000 budget at 100% fEC can claim up to £30,000 costs for international co-investigators not based in an LMIC and up to £30,000 costs for NGO/ third sector partners. These costs will be paid at 100% fEC while any costs incurred by the UK universities will be paid at the normal 80% fEC.

- **Can I resubmit an application to the second call?**

An application submitted to the first call cannot be resubmitted to the second call but applicants are able to submit a different application to the second call. Proposals submitted to either call are subject to the normal AHRC and MRC resubmission policies.

- **What future funding is going to be available?**

Applicants are encouraged to apply to standard AHRC and MRC funding schemes and calls. Applicants will need to make sure they submit proposals to the correct Research Council but can be reassured that there is a [cross council funding agreement](#) to support any proposals which significantly cross the remit boundaries between Research Councils. This includes providing reviewer expertise at the relevant stages. Most Research Councils have remit enquiry forms which applicants can fill in if they are unsure which Research Council a proposal should be submitted to (e.g. <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/funding/research/subjectcoverage/>).

- **What is the assessment process for this call?**

A panel is being convened to assess the proposals and will take place in early-December. This panel will include relevant expertise from across the AHRC and MRC remits as well as expertise with regards to working internationally and in partnership with NGOs and third sector organisations. The panel will consider all eligible applications against the assessment criteria set out in the [Guidance for Applicants](#) assigning an agreed grade and ranking. This call is using the standard AHRC grading scale as set out on page 88 of the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#).