



**Partnership for Conflict, Crime, and Security Research (PaCCS) Conflict Theme
Call to support Interdisciplinary Research Innovation Awards on Conflict and
International Development**

Closing dates for calls – 1600hrs on 28 July 2016

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Background

This document details a further funding call for **Interdisciplinary Innovation Awards** under the **Conflict Theme of the Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research**. This call seeks to support inter-disciplinary research innovation and international collaboration focussed on the **interconnections between conflict and international development and with the potential to contribute to the welfare (broadly defined) and economic development of Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs)**. This call is funded from the initial allocations the AHRC and ESRC under the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

This call builds on previous calls issued under the conflict theme in 2015, complements other calls under PaCCS and other initial capability development / foundational activities under the GCRF. The call builds on previous consultation activities (see **Annex 3**) relating to the PACCS conflict theme which have been supplemented by additional activities relating to international development and conflict.

We will aim to support opportunities for collaboration, where relevant, between awards funded through this call and those funded under the PaCCS Conflict calls issued in 2015 including the 10 research innovation awards announced earlier in 2016 (see [PaCCS website for list](#)) and the larger inter-disciplinary research awards currently being commissioned which will be announced later in 2016.

This call is also designed to complement activities under the other PACCS core areas of cyber-security and transnational organised crime, including the recent call under the transnational organised crime theme, whilst also recognising the interconnections between these core areas.

Projects funded through this call will be expected to contribute to a wider programme of thematic activities organised by the Conflict Theme Leadership Fellow, Professor David Galbreath. In addition to providing networking and knowledge exchange opportunities for researchers funded through the PACCS Conflict calls, these will also provide opportunities to bring together researchers and non-academic partners to address other strands or priorities under the conflict theme, to respond to emerging issues and agendas in conflict research and to explore connections to other Research Council themes and initiatives.

This call also seeks to complement a number of other calls being considered or planned to support research capability development under the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) including recently announced calls on global health and agriculture and food systems, a possible joint call on resilience to natural disasters, a planned ESRC/AHRC call focused on forced displacement and a planned joint call under AHRC's Care for the Future and Translating Cultures theme, as well as on-going opportunities through open and networking calls (including for example a highlight notices under AHRC's Research Networking scheme, planned ESRC strategic networks call). Given the intersections between issues, applicants are advised to consider which opportunity is most appropriate for their research plans, taking into account the particular foci (for example, the focus on 'conflict' for this call); call requirements (e.g. expectations regarding innovation, interdisciplinarity between arts and humanities and social sciences, non-academic engagement, etc. for this call) and types of activities which can be supported under the calls (e.g. funding levels/ durations, provision for networking, exploratory, developmental research etc.).

Through focusing on inter-disciplinary research innovation, including projects that are more exploratory, experimental, adventurous and/or at an earlier stage of collaborative or inter-disciplinary evolution, this call seeks to complement other funding in the field, for example DfID's Conflict Research Programme.

Contribution from Research Councils

From their initial Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) allocations the AHRC and ESRC are contributing to a 'common pot' of approximately £1m to this joint PaCCS call on conflict and international development to support interdisciplinary research innovation which crosses the remits of at least the AHRC and ESRC and which will develop capacity for international collaborative research with the potential to lead to significant benefits in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs); in addition, and in line with the cross-disciplinary aims of the GCRF, proposals which also involve wider cross-disciplinary connections (beyond the core requirement for proposals to bring together insights and expertise from the arts and humanities and social sciences) will be welcomed. For example, the EPSRC has indicated that it would be willing to consider co-funding projects on a case by case which cross into its remit, particularly in relation to the connections between conflict, international development and digital technologies and/or cyber-security. Beyond this, proposals that explore the interconnections between conflict and wider issues such as health, environment, technology, food insecurity etc. and which reach into associated wider fields of expertise will be welcomed.

We will welcome project applications that include co-funding, in-kind contributions or partnership support from other sources.

Summary of the Call

This call is for **Interdisciplinary Innovation Awards**. Full proposals are invited for up to £100,000 (fEC) up to 18 months supporting the development of innovative, adventurous, collaborative, and potentially higher risk, interdisciplinary research, including projects that are at an earlier stage of interdisciplinary evolution, involve the development of international collaborations, support the development of future research capabilities and/or are led by early career researchers. As well as providing an opportunity to explore innovative research opportunities, the call also aims to build future capacity for inter-disciplinary and internationally collaborative research of relevance to the needs of Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). The types of interdisciplinary collaborative proposal supported could include, for example: exploratory, pilot, experimental, feasibility or proof of concept projects; conceptual and methodological development or innovative combinations of approaches and methods; novel integration, re-use or re-interpretation of diverse, disconnected or under-utilised research data, literatures, case studies and /or past experiences and/or uncovering 'hidden' conflict narratives and/or local knowledges; support for the development of new interdisciplinary, international and non-academic research capabilities, partnerships and collaborations and/or opportunities for research co-production.

Applications under this call can address any topic of relevance to the PaCCS conflict theme provided that they are focussed on conflict in LMIC contexts and its interconnections with issues of international development. Some illustrative research areas which proposals under this call could address are highlighted below but proposals do not need to be restricted to these areas, provided that they fall within the overall aims and focus of the call and meet the eligibility and other requirements outlined in this call document.

Research should be collaborative with non-academic partners in LMICs or in international organisations concerned with supporting international development and there should also be clear potential pathways to impact in terms of contributing to the welfare (broadly defined) and/or economic development of Low and Middle Income Countries

(LMICs). Projects involving collaborations with overseas researchers, including overseas co-investigators, are encouraged.

We anticipate making approximately 8-15 awards under this call with projects expected to start in November 2016.

Aims of the Call

This call aims to support research on conflict which is high quality, innovative, cutting edge, interdisciplinary, collaborative and has significant potential to impact on the welfare (broadly defined) and/or economic development of Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). Proposals should also address the wider objectives and principles of PaCCS as detailed in Annex 1 as well as those of Official Development Assistance (ODA) research funding as outlined below.

This call provides an opportunity to explore, and develop future capacity for more innovative, developmental or adventurous, interdisciplinary and internationally collaborative research, including exploratory or pilot studies and the development of new partnerships and collaborations. We are also keen to encourage applications led by early career researchers and/or involving international co-investigators, project partners and/or collaborators under this call.

In particular, the calls seek to stimulate research which:

- will make a significant, distinctive and potentially transformative contribution to advancing the fields of conflict and international development research, for example by: bringing together knowledge, expertise, approaches, methods etc. in ways not normally combined in this area; crossing international, disciplinary, academic/non-academic and other boundaries; filling strategically important research gaps; addressing unmet needs in policy and practice; developing new capabilities needed to support future innovative research; and/or identifying emerging research challenges or leading edge fields of enquiry;
- is highly inter- disciplinary and which generates added value through developing cross-disciplinary collaborations and approaches between the arts and humanities and the social sciences, as well as engaging with other disciplinary expertise where relevant;

- is highly collaborative, or co-produced, with non-academic partners, particularly those concerned with international development and/or those based in/ across Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs);
- is internationally focused and includes, where appropriate, the development of overseas research collaborations, particularly in LMICs;
- identifies clear pathways to impact in terms of the welfare (broadly defined) of populations in, and/or the economic development of, LMICs and has the potential to meet the needs of non-academic beneficiaries in LMICs and/or organisations that support international development, including the potential to change behaviours, policies, practices and/or technologies of relevance people in LMICs;
- is innovative and ambitious, including allowing for the higher degrees of risk which may be associated with such innovative, ambitious, cross-/inter-disciplinary research;
- recognises, and engages with, the specific cultures, histories, faiths and beliefs, social and economic contexts, languages, knowledges, expertise and experiences within LMICs;
- is independent and ethical, and addresses the potential risks or consequences for researchers, intermediaries, participants, other partners and wider communities associated with conducting research in the fields of conflict and international development.

In addition, through the calls, we are also keen to encourage applications which, where appropriate, explore opportunities for:

- the co-design, co-production and co-delivery of research with stakeholders and end users in public, private and/or third sectors in / across LMICs and/or international development organisations
- development of future capacity for cross-disciplinary, internationally collaborative research on conflict and international development (early career researchers, skills, research methods, research resources and open data, sustainable networks / partnerships, etc.)

Specific Call Requirements

In addition to meeting the aims for innovation awards, and falling within the remit of the conflict and international development call as outlined in this document, all applications are specifically required to:

- i) be highly innovative and inter-disciplinary and draw significantly on inputs, expertise and approaches from both the arts and humanities AND the social sciences but may also include additional contributions from researchers working in STEM disciplines;
- ii) include collaborations with non-academic partners (e.g. cultural, creative and heritage organisations, charities and NGOs, voluntary, non-profit, civil society, public or private sector organisations) in one or more of the 146 countries which appear on the DAC (Development Assistance Committee of the OECD) list of ODA Recipients (for 2014-2016) (Low or Middle Income Countries, LMICs, under any category) and/or with relevant international organisations with remits that include supporting development in LMICs (e.g. international aid, development, humanitarian or cultural exchange organisations); these could be project partners and/or project collaborators as appropriate;
- iii) provide an impact summary and pathways to impact attachment with a strong focus on how the research could contribute to international development policy or practice and/or to the welfare (broadly defined) and development of one or more country on the DAC list of ODA recipients (LMICs) (see also section on GCRF /ODA below).

All funded award holders under these calls will be expected to collaborate with the Theme Leadership Fellow (Professor David Galbreath, University of Bath) to support networking, knowledge exchange, dissemination and research impact, the sharing of knowledge, data and research outcomes, and the wider development of interdisciplinary research agendas and capabilities in the conflict field. They will also be expected to contribute to relevant wider activities under PaCCS, including the PaCCS website and wider PaCCS engagement activities.

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and Fit of Proposals to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) Aspects of this Call

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) aims to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries through:

- challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research
- strengthening capacity for research and innovation within both the UK and developing countries
- providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.

GCRF forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). ODA-funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list. GCRF funding will be awarded in a manner that fits with Official ODA guidelines.

When assessing whether an activity is for funding under this call, we will consider whether projects satisfy OECD criteria on eligibility by whether or not they:

- aim to promote the welfare and economic development of a country or countries on the DAC list of ODA recipients
- are designed to address a development need, and
- focus on developing country problems.

Applications under this call are expected to demonstrate the relevance of their proposed research to ODA requirements in a number of ways including through collaboration with non-academic partners in one or more of the 146 countries which appear on the DAC (Development Assistance Committee of the OECD) list of ODA recipients (Low and Middle Income Countries, LMICs) and/or with an ODA-eligible international organisation (a list of large eligible international organisations is maintained by the OECD DAC Committee <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/annex2.htm> but other smaller organisations, charities, cultural and community groups focused on supporting international development may also meet the criteria). The provision of an impact summary and pathways to impact section with a strong focus on how the research could contribute to international development policy or practice and/or to the welfare (broadly defined) and development of one or more LMIC is another key requirement.

Further background information relating to the OECD DAC definitions of Official Development Assistance (ODA) specifically relating to the field of peace and security,

which will be used to provide the framework for assessing the fit of proposals to the International Development / ODA requirements of this call, is provided at **Annex 3**.

The OECD DAC guidance on ODA also refers to activities linked to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN and proposals linked to conflict which also address these global goals could also fall within the scope of this call (see **Annex 3** for further information).

Whilst the focus of research under this call should be on conflict in the contexts of LMICs, it is recognised that many such conflict contexts cannot be effectively understood or researched without reference to their interconnections with other countries and boundary-crossing issues such as international histories and relations; geopolitics; migration, refugees and diaspora; flows of resources; cross-national networks and communications; transnational organised crime; and so on. Proposals which explore these boundary-crossing contexts to conflict in LMICs will be welcomed.

Finally the new UK Government Aid Strategy, (see Also **Annex 3**) published in November 2015, provides further context, with one of the four key objectives highlighted being “strengthening global peace, security and governance”.

Research Areas Covered by the Call

In order to support innovation, this call is open to applications which address ***any topic of relevance to the PaCCS conflict theme*** provided that they are focussed on ***conflict and human security in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) contexts*** (at a community, national, regional or global scale) and its interconnections with issues of international development.

Proposals may focus on any stage of the lifecycles of conflict at a variety of scales from the community level through to the global which affect the welfare of people in LMICs, including: conflict avoidance; historical, deep rooted and protracted conflicts; phases in the development, (de-) escalation, (re-) emergence or spread of conflict; the prosecution of conflict; in-conflict development; living with conflict; international and local responses to conflict and its impacts; transitions from conflict; conflict resolution; post conflict development; peacebuilding; and addressing the legacies from conflict.

Although the call is focused on the PaCCS Conflict theme, we will welcome proposals that seek to explore the interfaces, interactions and interconnections between conflict, international development and other current core PaCCS areas (transnational organised crime and cyber-security).

The following list of exemplar areas (all of which are closely interconnected) which could be considered under this call is intended to illustrate the potential breadth of areas which could be covered, and not to constrain applications to these areas. Potential areas which have emerged in consultations as providing opportunities to explore the intersections between conflict and international development include:

- ***Understanding the intersections between international development and the causes and consequences of conflict and fragility*** - The UN's Millennium Development Goals report 2015 noted that "conflicts remain the biggest threat to human development" and that "fragile and conflict-affected countries typically have the highest poverty rates". However, the interconnections between issues of development, poverty, conflict and fragility are complex and multi-faceted. Proposals will be welcomed which involve innovative approaches to analysing the complex interactions, social, economic, historic and cultural contexts and cycles through which conflicts emerge, sustain, evolve and transition over time. This could include interactions and intersections with issues such as: poverty, international aid, humanitarian relief and development strategies; trade; fragility; geopolitics; heritage; historical legacies; food insecurity; environmental change, faiths, values, beliefs, ideas and ideologies; social cohesion; identities; gender; children in conflict; vulnerability; marginalisation; urbanisation; access to resources; (in)equalities and (human) rights; exclusion, power, participation; migration histories and/or forced displacement of populations; slavery, human exploitation and/or limits on cultural / political expression; struggles over access to resources; technological developments and asymmetries; communication, media and representations of conflict. Other issues could include: the origins, causes and consequences of moments of transformation in international development policy in conflict contexts; how research might inform more contextually relevant processes, communication, cross-cultural interaction engagement and/or interventions which may alleviate or reduce tensions, inhibit escalation or disrupt cycles of conflict; and, the development of better methods and approaches for tracking / assessing the long-term impacts of policy and practice interventions in conflict contexts over time and against a broad range of development and welfare outcomes.

- ***Boundary crossing inter-connections from the local to the global -***
 Potential topics under this heading could include: exploring the potential to move beyond state-focused approaches to conflict and development through, for instance: examining the role of regional or sub-regional organisations and collaborations or local interconnections; investigating the role that mobility of people, ideas, artefacts etc. and development of diasporas and/or displaced communities in the evolution and dynamics of conflict; impacts of changing modes of communication across boundaries on the development and evolution of conflict identities; roles of financial flows and trade in supporting conflict; influence of external actors on conflict pathways and lifecycles, including proxy, displaced and 'at distance' conflicts; tensions and translations between different world views of development and security at different scales from the local through to the global.
- ***Conflict avoidance and alternatives to conflict –*** Areas under this heading could include: identifying and addressing the root causes of, and historic antecedents to, conflicts in LMICs; the changing representation and communication of conflict and counter-conflict narratives and inter-generational dynamics of conflict; building and re-interpreting the evidence base on the ways that development assistance might, or might not, provide positive alternatives to, or counteract, the development, re-emergence of escalation of conflict and /or causes of violent extremism; research to build the evidence base on the effectiveness of past or present initiatives to develop positive alternatives to conflict in LMICs; role of community led initiatives in addressing conflict pressures and/or approaches to building community resilience or resistance to conflict; addressing the challenges of fragility and building effective justice and legal systems, protection of human rights or alternative pathways for expressing grievances; developing positive alternatives to those most at risk of violent extremism and countering the narrative of violent extremism that incites support for violence.
- ***Living with, and recovery from, conflict and fragility, including community participation, social innovation, creative arts and the role of local actors -*** Research under this heading could explore issues around the agency of conflict-affected communities in response to, and recovery from, conflict and /or the constraints to such agency and interactions with the roles of other actors (e.g. governmental, international, faith-based, cultural, civic, etc.

organisations). Other areas include: resilience, dignity and the emergence of adaptive strategies in communities affected by fragility and conflict, including issues such as voice (including marginalised or absent / displaced voices), experience, power, informal, formal and alternative systems of governance in conflict zones, empowerment, inequalities, participatory engagement in decision-making, collaborative working between different groups, sectors or agencies; impact of leadership and activism at different scales; the importance of locally generated knowledge, indigenous cultures and local community assets for strengthening protection from violence and/or in inhibiting local action or engagement with external support; ways that conflict coping capabilities or strategies might be facilitated or enabled and/or whether social and cultural capital developed in response to conflict (e.g. amongst displaced populations) can be sustained through transitions from conflict; innovative ways of supporting victims and/or recovery from conflict. Projects could also build in innovative ways on the increasing interest in the role of community engaged and participatory processes, social innovation, the creative and performing arts and wider cultural learning in conflict affected contexts, including addressing the challenges associated with such approaches, for example in terms of assessing their longer term impacts, affects and/or cultural value and/or comparing evidence, assessing scalability and transferability and sharing learning from such initiatives across diverse conflict contexts.

- ***Aid and humanitarian relief in conflict affected societies*** – Research under this strand could explore the distinctive challenges faced by aid and humanitarian organisations operating in contexts of conflict and fragility, including: how conflict affects responses to other humanitarian crises (e.g. natural disasters, disease outbreaks, food insecurity, etc.) and interconnected issues such as humanitarian responses to the forced displacement of people by conflict; potential transformational impact of information/ digital and other technologies e.g. social media for mobilizing responses; the role and effectiveness of rapid responses to conflict and approaches to long-term responses in protracted conflict zones; trauma and psychosocial support; legacies (positive and or negative) of past humanitarian and development support; ensuring broader understanding of the legal, and ethical considerations, human rights, politics and power structures, cultural and historical perspectives on humanitarian action in response to conflict; critical appraisals of the role of international and intergovernmental organisations and policies in addressing the intersections between conflict and international development and/or in addressing potential tensions and/or cross-

cultural communication issues which might emerge between issues such as respect for human rights / justice; peacekeeping / maintaining law and order; independence/ impartiality; risks / safety of aid workers/ local agents; building trust, gaining access / providing support to the most needy; potential risks and constraints around corruption and/or aid / assistance being mis-appropriated / mis-directed towards supporting conflict; legal and ethical frameworks, missions, values and approaches which shape the ways that aid and development organisations act; challenges of assessing the effectiveness of, and learning from, development support in relation to complex and often long-standing conflict contexts. (See also **Annex 3** regarding research agendas linked to the First World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016.

- ***Women and conflict, including gender-based violence*** - projects could investigate issues such as: the potential to learn from the history of gender-based and sexual violence in conflict affected societies and the exploitation of women as weapons or shields in war; the changing roles of women in different contexts as protagonists in conflict or perpetrators of violence; impacts of the experience or fear of violence on women; the empowerment of women and girls in post-conflict transitions; effective support for the victims of gender-based violence, sexual abuse, forced displacement or separation of families during periods of conflict; and issues of transitional justice (e.g. treatment of perpetrators of gender-based violence) and longer term legacies (e.g. sexually transmitted diseases or injuries acquired as a result of gender-based abuse during conflict, children of victims of rape, women and children as witnesses of abuse, stigma, mental health issues, etc.); intersections with wider issues around gender roles, faiths, cultures and rights in development in conflict affected societies; methodological and ethical challenges with working with victims or women in disempowering contexts.
- ***Vulnerable, minority and marginalised groups and inclusive development in conflict-affected societies*** - Projects could explore issues such as: taking a human rights based approach to development in contexts of conflict and fragility; the ways in which minority or marginalised communities become targeted or entangled in conflicts or that issues of rights or equalities become submerged in fragile or conflict-affected contexts; the evolution, impacts and/or effectiveness of international regimes and norms for example on the prosecution of conflict and protection of human rights and vulnerable groups in diverse conflict contexts; the challenges of addressing the needs of, and giving voice to, displaced people (included those affected by protracted displacement as a result of conflict);

inclusion or exclusion of ethnic or religious minorities, migrant or displaced populations in conflict-affected societies; representations of minority or migrant communities in conflicts (e.g. around identities, inclusion/exclusion, alienation, belonging and 'othering'); attitudes towards peace activists or non-combatants, including those who refuse to engage in the prosecution of conflict through faith, belief conscience etc.; intersections with issues of surveillance and privacy; impacts on children (for example the UN estimates that in countries affected by conflict, the proportion of out-of-school children increased from 30 per cent in 1999 to 36 per cent in 2012); treatment of people with disabilities in conflict zones and those injured or disabled as a result of conflict (see also legacies below); intersections between conflict and wider equalities agenda, for example those relating to LGBT communities; connections between rights, equalities and conflict narratives, including deprivation of rights as a possible driver or human rights as a 'casualty' of conflict.

- ***Transitions from conflict and addressing the legacies of conflict***

Applications under this heading could explore the processes of transition from conflict including issues such as reconciliation, transitional justice, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, (re-)building legitimate institutions and civil society; roles of cultural/heritage organisations; breaking the cycles of conflict; trust building; developing post-conflict narratives; the framing of aspirations for, and visions of, alternative post-conflict futures. Research could also explore the potential legacies from conflict and how they might be handled for example issues such as: resentment; trauma; mental health impacts of conflict; injuries and disabilities resulting from conflict; bereavement; handling ex-combatants, former captives, entrapped populations or those forced into forced labour or slavery; rebuilding infrastructure and institutions; reparations, restitution, repatriation or reconstruction of heritage, and/or addressing historical injustices/ past wrongs associated with conflict; issues of inter-generational justice and legacies and the extent to which moral responsibilities can be passed between generations; how far conflict afflicted societies come to terms with difficult memories of the past, are able to mourn, forget, forgive, apologise for or commemorate difficult pasts or deal with the loss of cultural heritage; and/or the ways in which past conflicts, and/or their associated heritages, may be invoked, appropriated, forgotten, remembered, memorialised, hidden or represented in continuing or re-emerging conflict narratives and identities. Another strand under this heading could relate to the challenges of addressing the needs of displaced people (including those affected by protracted displacement as a result of conflict) in conflict

reconciliation processes and post-conflict contexts (e.g. issues of return, repatriation, compensation, segregation, re-integration, inclusion or building new communities, diaspora and identities, understanding the conflict narratives, heritages and identities which may develop around displaced people, and so on (See also **Annex 3** regarding research agendas linked to heritage and conflict)

Despite its length, the above list is intended to be indicative and not comprehensive. Applicants may also wish to refer to **Annex 2** which outlines further areas which potentially fall within the scope of the PaCCS conflict theme, many of which also intersect with international development.

Eligibility

The eligibility criteria apply to both calls.

a) **Organisational Eligibility:**

The application must be submitted by the Principal Investigator's (PI) Research Organisation. This organisation must be:

- a Higher Education Institution recognised by the ESRC or AHRC for submitting applications
- or an ESRC or AHRC-recognised [Independent Research Organisation \(IRO \) \(PDF, opens in new window\)](#)

Co-Investigators (Co-I) can be from an organisation that

- a) meets one of two criteria above
- b) is from UK business, third sector organisation or government body that meets the ESRC's requirements as detailed on its website: [ESRC guidance on inclusion of UK business, third sector or government body Co-Investigators on ESRC proposals \(opens in new window\)](#)
- c) is based at an international research organisation that meets the AHRC's requirements for International Co-Investigators as outlined in the [Research Funding Guide \(opens in new window\)](#).

d) is from an independent research organisation recognised by other UK Research Councils.

b) Roles on Project:

Please refer to Section 3.2 and 3.3.1 of the [Research Funding Guide \(opens in new window\)](#) for details about the roles of the Principal Investigator and academic Co-Investigators on projects.

c) Principal Investigator Academic Standing Eligibility:

A principal investigator must either have a PhD or be of postdoctoral standing* and have the skills and experience to undertake the role outlined for them in the proposal. (*Postdoctoral standing in this case is interpreted as having an equivalent level of research experience and publications record to someone with a PhD).

d) Contractual Eligibility:

At the point of application a Principal Investigator, and UK academic co-investigators, must have:

- an existing contractual arrangement with an eligible Research Organisation (see Organisational Eligibility). This contractual arrangement can be paid or unpaid, permanent or fixed-term, full-time or part-time.

AND

- **either** a contract duration that lasts beyond the end date of the proposed project **or** an undertaking from the Research Organisation that they will provide a contract duration that lasts beyond the end date of the project.

The length of time beyond the end date should be sufficient for the Investigator to complete all the promised dissemination activities outlined in the proposal.

The nature of the contract put in place for the undertaking of the research can vary from that which is in place at the point of application.

Applications from **early career researchers** who meet the eligibility criteria above will be welcomed.

e) PhD Studentships

Project-linked / associated PhD studentships are **not** eligible for funding as a part of applications submitted under these calls.

Range of research activities that can be supported

Given the aims of this call to support the development of more innovative, developmental or adventurous, interdisciplinary research, exploratory or pilot studies and the development of new partnerships and collaborations it is open to proposals to conduct a wide range of research and research-related or research development activities. For example, Innovation Awards could support any of the following:

- new / novel collaborative partnerships / teams across disciplines and/or internationally and/or with non-academic partners and/or bringing in researchers from research areas that have been less engaged in past research on conflict and international development;
- proposals involving innovative development or piloting of methods or approaches, exploration of novel forms or sources of data or exploratory fieldwork, bringing together research approaches and literatures in new ways, combinations or integration of different methods, data or approaches or knowledge from different languages or cultural traditions, and/or innovative applications of existing approaches to explore their relevance to different conflict and international development research contexts or challenges;
- exploration of innovative concepts or research questions, hidden, forgotten or suppressed conflict narratives, under-explored data sources or emerging dynamics or manifestations of conflict which to date have received relatively little research attention;
- developing new opportunities and approaches for research co-creation and co-design and/or stimulating social innovation in conflict contexts where significant development work is required to deepen partnerships, trust, agendas and refine ways of working in LMICs before the feasibility of further co-produced/ collaborative/ participatory research can be fully assessed but where there are opportunities to learn from the development/ co-creation/ co-design process;
- proposals led by early career researchers (with appropriate mentoring and support from research organisations as appropriate);

- proposals seeking to bring together research across diverse conflicts/ conflict contexts in innovative ways;
- higher risk, but potentially higher reward, proposals where outcomes or possible impacts are uncertain or the prospects of 'success' lower than normal but where there is significant potential to learn from the exploratory process and/or from either 'success' or 'failure'.

Notwithstanding their experimental or developmental nature, Innovation Awards should have the potential to produce significant outputs, outcomes and or learning that will contribute to the development of relevant research fields and policy or practice in relation to international development. Proposals should outline appropriate plans for communicating and disseminating the knowledge and learning generated, including consideration of appropriate engagement with audiences in LMICs and/or development organisations.

Although further research applications may emerge from, or build upon, Innovation Awards, proposals *primarily* aimed at the development of further specific research applications (or where the principal intended output is a further application for funding) will not be supported. However, proposals may be seen as supporting the first stage towards a longer term research ambition - in such cases applications will be expected to outline a vision for how that longer term ambition might be realised beyond the end of the project as well as what outputs and learning are expected to emerge from the Innovation Award itself.

Applying for Funding

a) Scheme Limit and Number of Awards

This call invites applications of up to £100,000 (fEC) up to 18 months, commencing on or by 1 November 2016.

Subject to quality, we anticipate funding approximately 8-15 innovation awards.

Projects funded through this route could in due course inform the development of new applications (e.g. through Research Council responsive mode schemes, utilising the cross-Council Funding agreement where appropriate or through future Global Challenges Research Fund calls), although there is no expectation that all proposals would lead to further applications.

Resubmission of unsuccessful applications to this call to other Research Council schemes is not permitted. Submission of parallel proposals for the same activities to other

Research Council GCRF calls is not permitted. Complementary proposals for different activities may be submitted to different calls provided that each individual application could proceed as stated with or without other proposals being funded.

b) Costing Proposals

All proposals should be costed on the basis of the full economic costs (fEC) of the research and all costs that contribute to the full economic costs of the proposal should be included. Proposals should be costed using TRAC (Transparent Approach to Costing) methodology and should only include the costs required to support the research related to the proposal (that is, costs which fall outside the scope of the grant should not be included).

Please see Section 2 of the AHRC Funding Guide for full details on how proposals should be costed. [Research Funding Guide \(opens in new window\)](#).

The Research Council contribution is paid at 80% of the fEC (with some exceptions e.g. for international co-investigators).

c) Application Deadline and How to Apply

Applications should be submitted through the Je-S system at the latest by **4pm on 28 July 2016**, and will need to go through the appropriate institution submission process. You should submit your proposal using the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>). To prepare a proposal form in Je-S log-in to your account and choose New Document, then select 'AHRC' as the Council, 'Standard Proposal' as the Document Type, 'Development Grants' as the Scheme, 'PaCCS Innovation Awards on Conflict and International Development 28 July 2016' as the Call/Type/Mode and then 'Create Document'. Je-S will then create a proposal form, displaying the relevant section headings. Using the 'Help' link at the top of each section will provide guidance relevant to that section of the form.

Note that clicking 'submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to AHRC. ***Please remember to allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the Call closing date.***

d) Attachments required

In completing the Je-S application form you must include the following attachments for each proposal (for each attachment a font size no smaller than 11 should be used):

- Case for Support (6 sides of A4)
- Justification for Resources (2 sides of A4)
- Summary CV for the Principal Investigator and each Co-Investigator (1 side of A4 per CV)
- List of publications for the Principal Investigator and each Co-Investigator (1 side of A4 per list)
- Pathways to Impact attachment (2 sides of A4)
- Letter(s) of Support from each Project Partner (1 side of A4 per letter)
- Technical Plan (dependent on project) (max 4 sides)

If digital outputs or digital technologies are essential to the planned research outcomes of your proposal, then you should complete a Technical Plan attachment.

If your only proposed digital output or technology consists in webpages containing information about the project you do not need to complete a Technical Plan.

You should note that for present purposes digital technologies do not include conventional software such as word processing packages and ICT activities such as email, which do not require any explanation or justification in this context.

Please see **Annex 4** for details on what to include in each of these attachments.

e) Assessment Criteria – Innovation Awards

Full proposals are invited under this heading and will be subject to a streamlined peer review process involving consideration by a specially convened interdisciplinary assessment panel.

The following will be taken into account when assessing proposals for Interdisciplinary Innovation Awards:

- the degree of **innovation** within the context of the wider conflict and international development research fields;
- the extent to which the proposal would support the development of genuinely **interdisciplinary** research approaches, drawing significantly upon – and supporting mutual exchanges between expertise, literatures and approaches from both the arts and humanities and social sciences (and wider research fields where appropriate);
- the extent to which the proposal meets the **specific aims of the call**, including fit to the overall objectives of PaCCS and the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and potential to make an important and innovative contribution within the scope of the PaCCS conflict and international development call;
- the **quality** of the research process outlined, including appropriateness of research agenda, design, approach and methods and intended outcomes;
- the **significance and importance** of the research question(s) to be explored, added value to existing research and potential to lead to advances in knowledge and understanding in the fields concerned;
- the extent to which the proposal identifies an appropriate set of **collaborations** / partners for the research and includes effective plans for developing collaborative relationships, particularly in respect to the requirement for inclusion of appropriate non-academic partners / collaborators in LMICs and/or organisations that support international development;
- whether the proposal identifies an appropriate range of **potential users and beneficiaries** in LMICs and/or organisations that support international development and demonstrates an appropriate strategy for exploring **pathways to impact** relevant to international development and for the dissemination and exploitation of outcomes;

- whether the Principal Investigator (and any Co-Investigators) demonstrate the requisite **skills** to manage the proposed activities and whether there is a sufficiently broad range of **expertise** amongst the other named participants, including where appropriate understanding of relevant social, political, economic, historic, language and cultural contexts;
- the extent to which there are effective plans for **management** of the activities and the monitoring of progress, including provision of a realistic timetable and feasible resourcing plan for achieving the aims and objectives of the proposal;
- whether proposals demonstrate that appropriate consideration has been given to **ethical issues** and wider issues relating to conducting research in the relevant social, political and cultural contexts, as well as to how risks associated with the research (and potential research participants / partners) would be managed;
- the extent to which the potential outcomes **justify the costs** (i.e. value for money);
- the extent to which what is proposed will have a **legacy** beyond the lifetime of the award;
- *where appropriate* (e.g. for early career applicants), the extent to which the proposal would support the **development of research capabilities** or support research career development of applicants, including (where appropriate) provision of support or mentoring by research organisations and/or the suitability of the opportunities which the project will make available to support the development of the research staff and early career researchers on the project.
- allowance will be made for the higher degrees of **risk** which may be associated with conducting the sort of ambitious, highly innovative, interdisciplinary research in the conflict and international development field which this call seeks to encourage, provided that such risks have been given appropriate attention within the proposal and consideration given to potential measures to mitigate them.

f) Timetable

The timetable is:

- 28 July 2016 (1600hrs) – Closing date for full proposals for Innovation Awards
- September 2016 - Assessment Panel meeting held
- End September 2016 – Notification of funding outcomes
- 1 November 2016 – Innovation Awards expected to start

Annex 1

Information on the Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research

The Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research (PaCCS) is an interdisciplinary partnership that brings together security research and other activities that are sensitive to the changing global context and have an impact in the prediction, detection, prevention and reduction of security threats. By working together across disciplines, researchers have greater opportunities to develop their joint knowledge to address areas of particular concern in the medium and longer terms. The Partnership aims to generate an evidence base founded on excellent and innovative research with significant potential for impact.

The PaCCS has grown out of the RCUK Global Uncertainties Programme which began in 2008. Following a five year review of the programme in 2013 it was decided to change to a partnership model that allows for greater flexibility of funding and responsiveness to new opportunities with the focus on a narrower set of thematic areas. Significant continuities remain, and a key stream of work under the new partnership will continue facilitating knowledge exchange and supporting impact from previously funded and current activities.

In order to remain adequately placed to respond to current and future challenges to global security, the Partnership is open to new opportunities for research and is committed to revisit its priority areas on a regular basis. Initially, PaCCS has identified as priorities the core areas of:

- Conflict
- Transnational Organised Crime
- Cyber-security

Further details about PaCCS and the activities supported by the Partnership can be found on its website at <http://www.paccsresearch.org.uk/>

Objectives and Key Principles

The **Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research (RCUK Global Uncertainties Programme)** will deliver high quality and cutting edge research that will help improve our understanding of current and future security challenges. It will look for opportunities for this research to deliver impact by helping those who seek to address and counter these challenges in government, businesses and societies, while considering the inter-relationships and trade-offs between security, individual

freedoms and privacy.

OBJECTIVES:

- To generate a strong research and evidence base with an initial focus on conflict, transnational organised crime and cyber-security;
- To fund innovative cross-disciplinary collaborative research and methodologies in the security field;
- To facilitate knowledge exchange and high uptake of research knowledge by policy-makers, practitioners and decision-makers in the public, private and third sectors;
- To develop enhanced capacity of UK researchers to conduct, lead and communicate high quality cross-disciplinary security research, including through effective international partnerships.

KEY PRINCIPLES

In planning and implementing activities under the auspices of the PaCCS the members agreed to adhere to the following key principles for collaboration:

Human Security

The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 established that 'everyone has a right to life, liberty, and security of person'.

The PaCCS will focus on security at a variety of levels – community, national, regional and global while recognising that the individual remains the main referent for security.

Independence

The partners emphasise the importance of independence, transparency and impartiality and will work without compromise or political bias to pursue a research agenda reflecting the wider needs of society.

Impact: Linking Research to Policy and Practice

The Research Councils expect that the researchers they fund will seek to make a positive societal and economic difference. For further information please see the [RCUK Mission and Statement of Expectation on Economic and Societal Impact](#).

PaCCS is seeking to build a knowledge base that has high potential to change

behaviours, policies, practices and technologies.

PaCCS will support and encourage researchers to co-design, co-produce and co-deliver their research with stakeholders and end users. The Partnership will also adhere to these principles and will furthermore seek to foster networks which link research base expertise with end users.

Cross-disciplinary Research

Responding to the breadth and complexity of challenges facing researchers and practitioners in the security field will entail both building on disciplinary strengths and effective linking through and across disciplines. PaCCS will therefore facilitate and support high quality cross-disciplinary research.

Partnership – within and beyond RCUK

The challenges in this area cut across many disciplinary silos. The Partnership will add value to the activities of individual members, by bringing both additional resources and a broader range of disciplinary perspectives to bear on key research questions.

PaCCS activities should therefore be jointly designed and co-funded by at least two Research Councils.

Councils will also seek to build strategic partnerships, as appropriate, with funders beyond RCUK, including international partners, government, third sector organisations and business.

Agility

The thematic content of PaCCS will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that our collaborative efforts are agile and able to exploit opportunities, respond to needs, inform debates and are well placed to anticipate future trends.

Annex 2: Background Information on the PaCCS Conflict Theme

The scope of the PaCCS Conflict theme potentially includes human conflict (both violent and non-violent) anywhere around the globe, past present and future and at a variety of levels – community, national, regional and global (while recognising that the individual remains the main referent for security).

Recent decades have seen significant changes in the mosaic and character of conflict, and changes in the roles played by different actors involved in violence. While many countries and subnational areas experience cycles of repeated violence, weak governance and instability,¹ such cycles of conflict are not inevitable and new areas of violent confrontation continue to emerge across the globe. Conflict is complex, context-specific and multi-causal, and understanding and addressing issues of conflict therefore require inter- and cross-disciplinary approaches. A broad range of expertise needs to be brought together to understand a wide range of factors that affect conflict including, for instance, unresolved historical grievances, enmities and fears; resource scarcity; environmental insecurity, migration; poverty and inequality; lack of social cohesion; weak state institutions; corruption, and identity politics.

Further cross-disciplinary research is needed to deepen our understanding of the nature of conflicts, how they have arisen and are perpetuated, their regional and global impacts, and appropriate approaches and tools for conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict development.

Questions which activities funded by the Partnership might seek to address include (but are not limited to) the following:

- What is the 'life cycle' of conflict and what are the most effective ways to avoid or break out of recurrent cycles of conflict and violence?
- What is the relationship between conflict and endemic violence?
- How are the causes and consequences of intra-state and secessionist conflicts changing?
- Do we need to reconceptualise conflict to reflect the complexity of current conflicts and the difficulty of fitting them into existing categorisations (inter-state, intra-state)?
- What is the relationship between state and non-state actors in specific contexts, and how can we better understand issues around state-sponsorship and

¹ WDR, 2011

attribution? What drivers contribute to the formation of non-state armed groups and what are their motivations?

- What is the relationship between military, economic, diplomatic and humanitarian organisations and interventions in conflict and post-conflict?
- What is the role of communities, faith groups, civil society organisations and local leadership in the design of post-conflict transformations?
- How can we better understand the interrelationships between existing global systems and changing patterns of conflict? What role do issues of borders and sovereignty play? Transnational organisations, for example in relation to international humanitarian law and the law of war.
- What are the key dynamics of coalition formation, especially in cases where unlikely or unexpected partnerships emerge?
- How do vulnerable populations respond to insecurity and how might their resilience to conflict be increased?
- How can we better understand the impacts and legacies of conflict, both direct (e.g. deaths, casualties, identity based violence, sexual violence, destruction of heritage and economic costs) and indirect (e.g. poverty, trauma, displacement, disease and environmental damage)? How can we develop better, more reliable and more meaningful ways of capturing these impacts?
- How do competing parties in conflict present and justify their grievances? How does the role and use of language and the media impact on the ways in which conflict is perceived and/or conducted?
- What is the nature of contemporary war economies and are they fuelled by external state and non-state interventions? How can we support the transition to post-conflict economies?
- How does technology influence the scale and spread of conflict, and how might technological drivers of conflict be reduced, either through technological or regulatory approaches? How is technology changing the character of contemporary conflict, for instance as an enabler of distancing?
- Can better mechanisms and approaches be developed for reparations and restitution in post-conflict societies? How is conflict memorialised and remembered? How can arts and cultural interventions effectively contribute towards peace-building and conflict resolution?
- Conflict is usually viewed entirely in negative terms. How can conflict be a positive mechanism for social change?

The Conflict theme is led by AHRC on behalf of the Partnership, working closely with other partners including the ESRC and EPSRC.

Annex 3 Further Background Information and Documents on Conflict and International Development

Consultation Activities Informing this Call

Consultation activities feeding into the development of this call include:

- a commissioned scoping study on conflict research undertaken by the University of Exeter: [Link to final report on the PaCCS website \(opens in new window\)](#);
- a Town Meeting on 26 March 2015 involving approximately 40 invited participants from research and practitioner communities;
- an open on-line consultation on the PaCCS website;
- discussions with the Global Uncertainties Leadership Fellows, PaCCS Strategic Advisory Group (supplemented with additional experts in international development & conflict) and Conflict Theme Leadership Fellow
- initial consultations and reviews of key documents undertaken by the AHRC and ESRC on research priorities relating to international development and the Global Challenges Research Fund

ODA Requirements in the field of Peace and Security

In February 2016 the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) High Level Meeting issued a Communiqué - "*Revised Reporting Directives on ODA in the field of Peace and Security*" <http://www.oecd.org/dac/DAC-HLM-Communique-2016.pdf> which provided further clarification on ODA requirements in the field of peace and security.

This communiqué reconfirms that "*As for all ODA, the reporting of peace and security-related activities is guided by the general statement that the main objective of ODA is the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries*". It also clarifies that "*Development co-operation should not be used as a vehicle to promote the provider's security interests*".

The communiqué notes that "*Development, human rights, and peace and security are indivisible and interrelated. We are committed to supporting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions...We recommit to peacebuilding and statebuilding, good governance, and effective institutions as crucial means to support the 2030 Agenda in fragile and conflict-affected contexts*"

It also provides examples of a number of areas of relevance to this call which could be eligible for ODA funding if the research meets the general statement above, including:

- identifying and addressing the root causes of conflicts, forced displacement, and refugee flows;
- support for civilian activities related to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and resolution, including capacity building, monitoring, dialogue and information exchange (this excludes engagement in military strategy and defence co-operation);
- preventing violent extremism through non-coercive, intentional and targeted use of development assistance approaches aimed at providing positive alternatives to those most at risk of violent extremism in partner countries and countering the narrative of violent extremism that incites support for violence;
- activities that support the rule of law;
- working with civil society groups specifically to prevent radicalisation, support reintegration and deradicalisation, and promote community engagement;
- building the capacity of security and justice systems in specific skills required to ensure more effective and human rights-compliant behaviours;
- research into positive alternatives to address causes of violent extremism in LMICs.

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN, also outlines a range of potential research areas linked to conflict and sustainable development which could be addressed under this call. Most notably, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 *“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”* identifies a number of targets relevant to this call (not least 16.1 *“Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere”*). However proposals addressing the intersections between conflict and other SDGs would also be welcomed (for example SDG 5 *“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”* where research within a wider conflict context could be relevant to some aspects of the target to reduce violence against all women and girls.

UK Government Aid Strategy

The new UK Government Aid Strategy, published in November 2015, provides further context, with one of the four key objectives highlighted being “strengthening global peace, security and governance” which includes addressing “the causes of instability, insecurity and conflict, and to tackle crime and corruption”. There are also potential

interconnections with the three other key objectives: “strengthening resilience and response to crises”; “promoting global prosperity”; and “tackling extreme poverty and helping the world’s most vulnerable”.

Conflict and Fragility

This call is open to proposals addressing the intersections between conflict and international development, affecting any of the 146 LMICs which appear on the DAC (Development Assistance Committee of the OECD) list of ODA Recipients. Given the boundary crossing nature of issues of conflict and development the call is not just restricted to those countries considered fragile or conflict-affected. In this regard a recent OECD report “States of Fragility 2015 - Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions” <http://www.oecd.org/dac/states-of-fragility-2015-9789264227699-en.htm> assesses fragility as an issue of universal character that can affect all countries, not only those traditionally considered “fragile” or conflict-affected. To do so it takes three indicators related to targets of SDG 16 and two from the wider SDG framework: violence, access to justice, accountable and inclusive institutions, economic inclusion and stability, and capacities to prevent and adapt to social, economic and environmental shocks and disasters.

World Humanitarian Summit, May 2016

This call is taking place in parallel to the first World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 which may highlight further inter-disciplinary / innovative research needs relating to conflict and international development. For example, the synthesis of the worldwide consultations leading up to the Summit, “Restoring Humanity – Global Voices Calling for Action”, identifies five key areas for action – Dignity, Safety, Resilience, Partnerships and Finance. It also highlights issues around affected communities being ‘recognised as the primary agents for their preparedness, response and recovery’ which relate to some of the suggested areas outlined in the call document (e.g. around community participation).

Heritage and Conflict

Issues around the protection of heritage at risk from conflict and fragility remain a significant concern despite the adoption of The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict at The Hague (Netherlands) in 1954. However the international agenda around the interactions between conflict, cultural heritage and international development has broadened significantly. For example in November 2015 UNESCO adopted a Strategy for Reinforcing UNESCO’s Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed

Conflict, noting that “Armed conflicts have always had a devastating effect on culture and heritage, including through intentional destructions of significant markers of identity. Destructive ideologies are also not new in history. In recent decades, however, culture has been increasingly at the frontline of conflicts”. Issues highlighted in the UNESCO strategy of which could provide foci for innovative / exploratory research under this call include, amongst others: intentional destruction; collateral damage; forced neglect; looting and illicit trade in cultural heritage; targeting of specific cultural and heritage groups; ‘cultural cleansing’; denial of cultural identity; inability to access cultural heritage or practice intangible cultural heritage; deprivation of cultural rights; maintenance of cultural heritage for displaced populations; the impacts on cultural diversity in communities and the implications of this for post-conflict processes; and the importance of cultural heritage-driven initiatives in the aftermath of conflict/ peacebuilding and in post-conflict sustainable development.

Annex 4: Guidance for completing attachments

All the following documents should be completed in a font no smaller than size 11. Please also note the permitted document lengths.

Please refer back to the individual call guidance on which attachments are required.

a) Case for Support

The Case for Support should outline the rationale for the proposed activity, how it will add value to current activities, a description of the proposed activities to be undertaken, and an outline of the expected outputs and dissemination plans as appropriate. Please ensure you use a font no smaller than size 11. Your Case for Support should use the following headings / covers the following issues:

Case for Support Page Limits

The page limit for the case for support for Interdisciplinary Innovation Awards (£100,000) is **6 pages**.

Contribution to the PaCCS Conflict Theme, International Development and Fit to Call

You should outline how the proposed activities will meet the aims for the call and makes an innovative contribution to the PaCCS Conflict Theme and has the potential to contribute to aims of the GCRF, for example through meeting the needs of LMICs and having the potential to contribute to the welfare (broadly defined and/or economic development of LMICs. You should also outline in what ways the proposal is highly innovative and how the proposed activities derive added value from being interdisciplinary in nature, drawing on both the arts and humanities and social sciences (and more widely where appropriate), and from being collaborative with non-academic collaborators.

Research Questions

You should give a brief, clear description of the core **research questions/problems** that you intend to address and identify the contribution these will make to the aims of the call.

Research Context and Rationale

You should briefly describe the **research context and rationale** for your project/programme of work. Why is it important that these questions or issues are

explored? What other research is being or has been conducted in this area? How will the research build upon relevant expertise, knowledge and approaches from within the arts and humanities and social sciences? How will the research cross boundaries e.g. across disciplines, thematic areas, internationally, periods and/or sectors? What expertise does the team bring to addressing these issues? How does the research meet a need in relation to international development / LMICs? What do any proposed collaborators or partners bring to the research? How will the research make an innovative and distinctive contribution to this existing research context?

Research Methods

You should describe the **research methods** you will be using to address the questions described above, or to explore the issues that will be investigated. Why have you chosen this approach? Why is it the best way to answer the research questions identified? Why is the proposed approach appropriate to addressing the research questions relating to the particular/ specific conflict contexts or issues outlined? What challenges might you face in conducting the research and how might any risks, ethical issues, problems of access or potential challenges be handled?

Management and Co-ordination

How will the activities be managed, coordinated and delivered? What roles will members of the team undertake? How will the collaborations / partnerships proposed be supported and sustained through the full lifecycle of the project? What advice will be available to the applicants if required and what support will research organisations and/or other partners provide? If the application includes additional research assistance or administrative support, please provide brief details of the activities to be undertaken.

Technical Summary

If digital outputs or digital technologies are essential to the planned research outcomes of your proposal, then you should use this section to provide a brief description of the project's proposed digital outputs and/or digital technologies AND complete a Technical Plan attachment.

If your application does involve digital outputs or digital technologies, but you believe that the inclusion of a Technical Plan is not warranted on the grounds that the digital output or technologies are not essential to the planned research outcomes. You should explain in this section

If your only proposed digital output or technology consists in webpages containing information about the project, you should say so in this section. In this last case you do not need to complete a Technical Plan.

If your application does not involve digital outputs or digital technologies you should use this section to state that this is the case. You should note that for present purposes digital technologies do not include conventional software such as word processing packages and ICT activities such as email, which do not require any explanation or justification in this context.

Timetable

You should provide a brief timetable to show the feasibility of the planned activities within the proposed timescale, indicating key milestones.

Outcomes, impact and dissemination

Please provide details of the outputs you propose to produce during the award and their proposed focus. To which audiences will the activities and their outcomes be of interest? How will any outputs be discussed with, and/or communicated and disseminated to, those audiences? What is the dissemination strategy for the findings? What specific steps are planned to ensure that outcomes will be communicated with users and/or beneficiaries in relevant international development and/or LMICs contexts (e.g. issues relating to contexts specific languages, dissemination networks or partnerships, feedback to participants, etc.)?

b) Justification of Resources

All costs associated with the project must be justified in the Justification of Resources. Applicants should:

- Explain why the indicated resources are needed, taking into account the nature and complexity of the activities proposed. Note that it is not sufficient merely to list what is required
- Refer to the breakdown of resources in the summary fund headings Directly Incurred and Directly Allocated
- Estates costs, Indirect costs, Fellowship salary costs, and some other Directly Allocated costs such as general technical services do not need to be justified

The Justification of resources should not exceed two sides of A4.

c) Curriculum Vitae

Summary curriculum vitae should be attached as separate documents for each Principal Investigator, any Co- Investigators or named postdoctoral researchers. These should be no more than two sides of A4 paper and in an Arial font no smaller than size 11. CVs should include basic information about education, employment history, and academic responsibilities.

d) Publications Lists

Summary lists of publications/research outputs should be attached as separate documents for each Principal Investigator, any Co- Investigators or named postdoctoral researchers. These should cover major publications/outputs in the last five years and should be no more than one side of A4 paper and in a font no smaller than size 11.

Brief articles, conference papers, etc. need not be included. You should asterisk those of particular relevance to your current research proposal.

e) Letters of Support

If any Project Partners have been included in the proposal, a Letter of Support is required from each partner, outlining the level of commitment of the proposed partner, the value and benefit of the work to the Project Partner, the nature of the contribution and the added value to the project of the involvement. The letter should be dated and signed by a senior member of the organisation, with the authority to make this commitment. All proposals should include a minimum of one letter of support from a non-academic partner or collaborator from a LMIC or relevant international development organisation.

f) Pathways to Impact

The Pathways to Impact attachment (of up to 2 sides of A4) asks you to expand on the Impact Summary by answering the questions: what will be done to ensure that potential beneficiaries have the opportunity to engage with the research? What steps will be taken to help realise potential of the research to contribute to international development policy or practice, to the welfare (broadly defined) and/or economic development of Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) and/or to the meeting the needs of LMICs?

The Pathways to Impact attachment is your opportunity to describe in more detail how the potential impacts of the research beyond academia, as outlined in the Impact

Summary, will be realised. Taking into account what is reasonable and appropriate given the nature of the research you propose to conduct, you are asked to describe how the proposed research will be managed to engage with the users and beneficiaries that have been identified, or to identify potential users and beneficiaries as the research progresses, and to increase the likelihood of achieving impacts. In presenting your plans, you should tailor and target your impact activities to ensure that they are relevant to the specific user and beneficiary groups likely to be interested in your research and appropriate for supporting the potential research impacts outlined. Innovative and creative approaches are strongly encouraged.

When completing the attachment, you should consider (and address if appropriate) methods for communications and engagement, collaboration and exploitation. You should also detail who will be undertaking any impact activities and include any resource implications in the financial summary and in the separate Justification of Resources attachment.

g) Technical Plan

Please see Page 51 (Section 4.2.7.5) of the AHRC Research Funding Guide for details of what to include in the Technical Plan. No more than four sides in length.

h) Visual evidence (Optional)

Applications may include no more than two sides of A4 non-textual, visual evidence in support of the proposal, to illustrate the proposed aims and objectives and/or research methods. It is not permitted to include this material to supplement or replace your CV or publications list or to illustrate previous work in any way nor should it be used to circumvent the word limit for the Case for Support.

Further information on completing this section can be found in the [AHRC Research Funding Guide \(opens in new window\)](#).

Contacts

Eligibility, Costings or Process

Enquiries regarding the type of activities that can be supported through this call should be directed to either: Natalia Alderson (n.alderson@ahrc.ac.uk 01793 416032) or Thomas Booker (t.booker@ahrc.ac.uk 01793 416046)

Je-S Registration

Enquiries about Je-S registration or completing the proposal form should be directed to the Je-S Helpdesk which is available between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, and can be contacted by email at jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk or by telephone on 01793 444164

Conflict Theme

Enquiries about the Conflict Theme may be directed to the Theme Leadership Fellow, Professor David Galbreath at the University of Bath, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, email: d.galbreath@bath.ac.uk