



# SPF UK Climate Resilience Programme Living with Climate Uncertainty – Research Grants Call Guidance for applicants

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## 1. Introduction

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is inviting proposals to their third round of funding opportunities through the UK Climate Resilience programme, funded through the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) Wave 1. The programme aims to draw together fragmented climate research and expertise to

deliver robust, multi- and inter-disciplinary research into climate risks and adaptation solutions. This will help to ensure that the UK is resilient to climate variability and change, and powerfully positioned to exploit the opportunities of adaptation and green growth.

The UK Climate Resilience programme is a £18.6 million collaboration between UKRI and the Met Office. UKRI delivery is led by NERC on behalf of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

In this call up to £1 million is available for research projects of up to 24 months duration. It is expected that at least 3 proposals will be awarded.

### **Living with climate uncertainty**

There is now overwhelming scientific evidence to suggest that the current rate and magnitude of climate change is unprecedented in modern human history. Anticipating how people will be affected by and will respond to future climate changes has become a priority concern, which informs the focus of this call. The call aims to deepen our understanding of the ways in which societies have understood, articulated, coped with and adapted to climate changes at a range of temporal and spatial scales and to explore how climate information has been and could be used to build resilience in a context of uncertain climate futures.

Climate change and variability affect many aspects of human life through impacts on both social and natural systems. It shapes our sense of place and identity, influences decision-making, impacts livelihoods, health and wellbeing and creates potential for new societal-environmental configurations. Slow moving changes in the environmental characteristics of loved places, for example, can contribute to feelings of depression, anxiety, fear, anger and sadness and can affect physical health, giving rise to 'solastalgia'<sup>1</sup>- the sense of grief or melancholia perceived when an environment is in some way transformed. Extreme meteorological events, such as floods, droughts, hurricanes and heatwaves can often lead to trauma and loss (of loved ones, neighbours, animals, homes, belongings or income). Equally, direct experiences of climate related changes at a range of scales can increase awareness of the vulnerability of people and places, stimulate innovation and lead to increased action and greater climate resilience<sup>2</sup>. The different social, economic and environmental characteristics of specific localities and their embedded cultural knowledges, norms, values, practices and infrastructures, also affect experience of and responses to climatic changes and inform how climate change is understood and conceptualised.

Our understanding of the likely consequences of a changing climate is also shaped and constrained by uncertainty. This uncertainty exists in many forms, for example: in how we describe and understand the current climate; which carbon emissions pathway we are following; which climate risks will be manifested; the consequences of climate impacts; which actions will be taken to respond to those consequences; the nature, goals and demands of future societies and how sensitive these are to a changing climate. Uncertainty is often a significant feature of decision-making in many aspects of our lives and we are familiar with decision making with uncertain

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<sup>1</sup> Albrecht G, Sartore G, Connor L, Higginbotham N, Freeman S, Kelly B, Tonna A, Pollard G (2007) Solastalgia: The Distress Caused by Environmental Change, *Australasian Psychiatry*, 15 Supplement 1 (1) S95-8

<sup>2</sup> The concept of **resilience** is understood differently by different academic communities and practitioners and we welcome different interpretations.

information. Given the multiple sources of uncertainty influencing how we respond to climate change it is a fallacy to think we should not act until there is more certainty.

It is important to gain a better understanding of how different groups of people act, or have acted in the past, and learn from the vulnerability and resilience of past communities in a context of climate uncertainty. This is partially evidenced by past technological and environmental adaptation such as moving to renewable forms of energy and nature based solutions for flooding, and also embedded in local knowledge systems, passed down through generations in the form of memory, folklore, narrative and cultural wisdom. Tapping into these knowledge systems is thought to be central to improving adaptability and building resilience to future climate change. It could be argued that the unprecedented scale of the climate change we will face, and the uncertainty associated with its implications, requires a wholly new way of perceiving, thinking, and operating as a society.

These themes of accepting loss, living with uncertain or disorderly change, learning how people have coped with and adapted to uncertain climate change in the past and also acknowledging new opportunities presented to us in a context of society, community and climate change, would benefit from interdisciplinary research led by the arts and humanities community working with the social, natural, and physical sciences.

Funding of up to £1 million is available to support research proposals of up to 24 months in duration. At least **three** proposals will be funded up to the value of £412,500 (at 100% FEC) with the research council contribution being £330,000 (at 80% FEC) each. Applications are anticipated to be led by arts and humanities colleagues but to include researchers from the natural, physical, engineering, health, and social sciences where appropriate.

This document sets out information related to the submission of an application and the subsequent management of an award, in the event of funding being awarded. It should be read in conjunction with the AHRC's [Research Funding Guide](#)<sup>3</sup>.

## 2. Context

The Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) has been set up to build upon the vision of a 'common research fund' set out in Sir Paul Nurse's independent review of the Research Councils. The fund will drive an increase in high-quality multi- and interdisciplinary research and innovation, ensure that UKRI's investment links up effectively with Government departments' research priorities and opportunities, and ensure that the system is able to respond to strategic priorities and opportunities.

### UK Climate Resilience

The UK Climate Resilience programme is a £18.6 million collaboration between UKRI and the Met Office which aims to draw together fragmented climate research and expertise and deliver robust, multi- and inter-disciplinary climate risk and adaptation research to ensuring the UK is resilient to climate variability and change and powerfully positioned to exploit the opportunities of adaptation and green growth.

Effective adaptation builds capacity to respond to climate variability and change and is one of two broad and important strategies (along with mitigation) for the management of risk from climate (Moss et al. 2013<sup>4</sup>). Even under the most optimistic mitigation scenarios there is an urgent need to build resilience and accelerate adaptation to built-in climate variability and change (IPCC 2018).

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/researchfundingguide>

<sup>4</sup> Moss et al., 2013 - <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/342/6159/696>

Informing the extensive range of actions needed to manage climate risks, reduce damage without exacerbating existing inequalities, and realise emerging opportunities, is a critical scientific, societal and cultural challenge.

It is widely recognised that single disciplinary approaches cannot adequately address this complex challenge. Multi-, inter- and trans-disciplinary research efforts, that include the natural, physical, engineering, health, arts, humanities and social sciences are needed to address this challenge as well as the active involvement of non-academic partners, comprising industry, other practitioners and policy-makers.

The Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) provides an opportunity to enhance UK resilience by encouraging and funding high-quality multi- and inter-disciplinary research and innovation using integrative approaches that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries. It provides space for pioneering research, laying the foundation for future capability and aims to link effectively with Government departments' research priorities and opportunities.

### Programme Objectives

The overarching objectives of the UK Climate Resilience programme seek to drive innovative multi- and inter-disciplinary research within the UKRI and the Met Office communities to address the knowledge gaps identified above. The central objectives of the programme are:

1. Characterising and quantifying climate-related risks
2. Managing climate-related risks through adaptation
3. Co-producing climate services

Further details about the programme scope are found in the [UK Climate Resilience Science Plan](#)<sup>5</sup>. This plan was informed by consultation with UKRI and Met Office communities and climate resilience stakeholders from public, private and third sectors, consideration of past and on-going programme activities, Government departments' research priorities, the evolving UK climate resilience research landscape and the state-of-the-art in relevant disciplines.

**It is strongly recommended that all applicants read the UK Climate Resilience Science Plan in advance of applying this call.**

### 3. Aim

The primary aim of this call is to explore and test our understanding of what it means to live with uncertainty, how we have learned to live with past climate uncertainty and how we might learn our way into an unknown future within the framing of the climate resilience of the UK.

We anticipate the funded research projects will raise awareness of what it means to live with uncertainty and build climate resilience in the real world. Projects under the call will deliver useful knowledge (narratives, learning histories, case studies, film and other material) to further inform practices and behaviours to build confidence in practical approaches to living with uncertainty and climate resilience building.

Successful projects will engage closely with at least one organisation with practical experience of resilience building and decision making with uncertainty, who want to improve how they make climate resilient decisions and build adaptive capacity. Organisations may come from either the private, public or third sector. Successful projects will demonstrate clear co-design and co-

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<sup>5</sup> <https://nerc.ukri.org/research/funded/programmes/ukclimate/news/jsp-champions/ukcr-jsp>

production methodologies with their chosen organisation/s, and have a clear vision of how they will raise awareness and create impact.

Potential themes/research questions that could be included are:

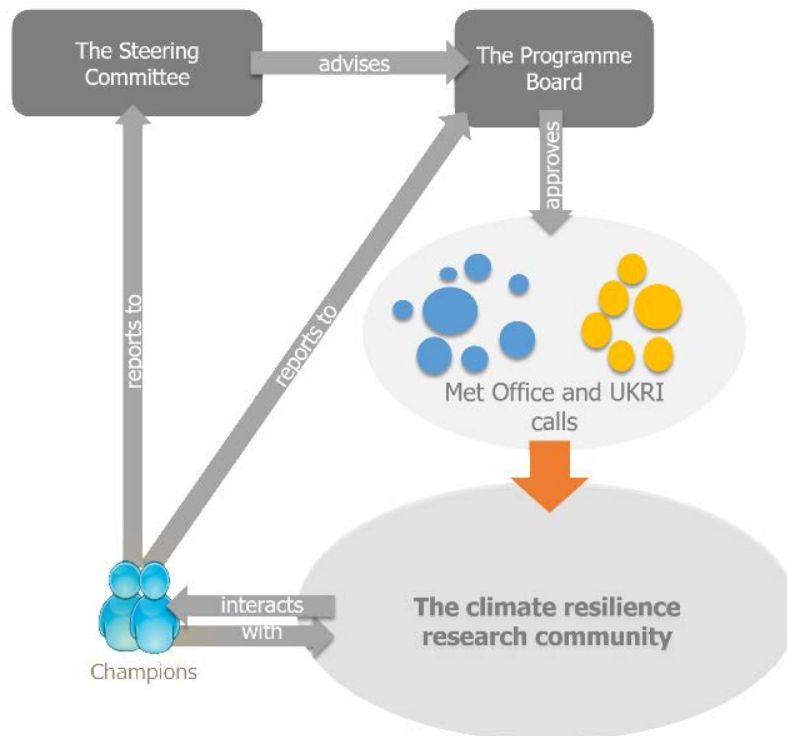
- How is uncertainty about the anticipated impacts of changing climate affecting, or is likely to affect, the distinctiveness of places we care about? How might a changing climate (and our perceptions and attitudes towards a changing climate) influence national and local culture (e.g. stories, art, beliefs and histories), tangible physical realities (e.g. coastlines, woodlands, parks, the built environment, and architecture), personal memories of loved places, identity and feelings of belonging?
- How do the narratives and language used to describe uncertain climate risks explain how and why the climate is changing and act to motivate or demotivate personal or collective behavioural responses? How can feelings of anxiety, fear, apathy or denial be transformed into practical hope?
- How does awareness of our own vulnerability, or that of cherished places and artefacts, influence how we choose to reshape, re-value, grow and transform how we engage with our environment and take action? Is 'letting go' and even losing control over decision-making, a necessary part of resilience building?
- What can we learn from different communities about their historical and current experience of change and loss and about what it means to be resilient to disorderly change? (This could bring in broader themes of change and loss where the learning can be applied in a climate resilience context.) How can we use experience of past changes in climate to learn into the unknown? What can we learn from these communities about the skills, attitudes, values and approaches needed to live with ongoing uncertainty?

The UK Climate Resilience Champions and the UK Climate Resilience programme Steering Committee will provide guidance and support to the awarded projects. Investigators are expected to engage with the champions and other investigators funded under the UK Climate Resilience Programme.

As well as being assessed on research excellence and potential impact, a portfolio approach will be taken in the selection of the successful projects.

#### 4. Programme management

UKRI and the Met Office jointly deliver the UK Climate Resilience programme. The Programme is managed and overseen by a UKRI/Met Office Programme Board, which is advised by a Steering Committee. Funded grants will be required to work with the UK Climate Resilience Champions and engage with cross-programme activities.



Further details of the governance structure as well as Steering Committee membership can be found on the [programme website](#)<sup>6</sup>

## 5. Eligibility

Unless otherwise stated, the eligibility criteria as published in sections 1.1 and 3 of the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#)<sup>7</sup> will apply.

Applicants are required to engage with colleagues from different disciplinary perspectives especially those proposals that cross Research Council remits into the social, natural and physical sciences, in the development of their proposal. Due to the nature of the call applicants should ensure that they bring arts and humanities, and social research expertise and concepts, ideas and/or approaches into the development of their interdisciplinary proposal.

Each application must engage with at least one non-academic institution from the private, public, or third sector. For example, applicants may engage with museums, galleries, local archives, arts and heritage based organisations, community-led or grass root organisations, social enterprises, or local authorities.

## 6. Guidance on Costs and Project Timescales

### Funding Available

Research proposals should be submitted up to a maximum value of £412,500 (at 100% FEC) with the research council contribution being £330,000 (at 80% FEC) each.

<sup>6</sup> <https://nerc.ukri.org/research/funded/programmes/ukclimate/#xcollapse2>

<sup>7</sup> <https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/researchfundingguide>

Projects should have a start date no later than 1 July 2020 and be up to 24 months in duration.

### Eligible Costs

You should design your proposal in a way that best addresses the aims of the project. Eligible costs for UKRI funding are outlined in the AHRC Research Funding Guide.

## 7. Assessment Process and Criteria

The assessment process for this call will principally follow the AHRC's standard process for assessing research grants as laid out in Section 5 of the current Research Funding Guide (see assessment headings listed below) with specific consideration to the call specific aims laid out in this document. All criteria are equally weighted.

- Quality and importance
- People
- Management of the project
- Data management
- Value for money
- Outputs, dissemination and impact

The application will be subject to scrutiny by expert peer reviewers to which, provided the proposal does not receive two unfundable grades, the Principal Investigator will be given a week to respond.

A multidisciplinary peer review panel will determine a final grade for each application and will rank proposals in order of priority for funding. The panel will consider only the expert peer reviews and the PI's response to these reviews to reach its decisions.

Final funding decisions will rest with the UK Climate Resilience Programme Board.

## 8. Required Attachments

You should refer to the list of permitted attachments for this call which is laid out in section 14 of this document when preparing your application. The required documents for this call are predominantly similar to those required for a standard AHRC Research Grant application, but you should note the following differences which are specific to this call:

- Requirement to engage with colleagues from different disciplinary perspectives
- Requirement to engage closely with at least one organisation with practical experience of resilience building and decision making with uncertainty and who want to improve how they make climate resilient decisions and build adaptive capacity

## 9. Award Practicalities

### Funding Allocation

If successful, you will receive a notification email and your institution will receive Offer Documentation that will detail the overall cash limit of the award. This will also include the terms and conditions of the award, a budget summary and the details of the acceptance form process. The AHRC will make payments four times a year to the host organisation. The AHRC, on advice from peer reviewers or panels, may remove items from the budget if these are not justified or not permitted under the scheme rules. You will be notified of any amendments made for this reason. For further information on funding allocation, please see page 71 of the Research Funding Guide.

## Funding Terms and Conditions

All award holders are required to comply with [UKRI Grant Terms and Conditions](#)<sup>8</sup>. The AHRC and UK Climate Resilience Programme Board may also put in place processes for additional, appropriate review and progress monitoring in consultation with the award holder once an award has been made.

UKRI and the UK Climate Resilience Programme Champions may also require funded projects to respond to specific and other ad hoc queries for information as required.

## 10. Complaints and appeals procedures

For details on the complaints procedure or appeal process, please refer to the document [Complaints and Appeals Procedure](#)<sup>9</sup> for applications and awards.

## 11. Financial Reporting

No later than three months after the end of the funded period, you will be required to submit a final expenditure statement (FES). Final expenditure statements are made available in the Research Organisation's Je-S account as soon as the end date of the grant has been reached. The Research Organisation will need to complete and submit the statement using Je-S. Please note that it is the responsibility of the Research Organisation to monitor when the FES is due and to submit on time accordingly. Further information can be found on page 72 of the current Research Funding Guide.

## 12. Research outputs, outcomes and impact

If successful, you will be required to submit outputs, outcomes and impacts linked to your award through the Researchfish system as well as contributing to programme-wide reporting and synthesis activities. Information can be added to Researchfish at any point once the grant has been made and beyond its conclusion. Although you can add information to Researchfish at any time you will be required to submit this information to AHRC at a point during the year which will be communicated in advance to all Research Organisations. This allows for a deeper and longer-term record of the results of AHRC funding. More details on Researchfish are available on the [UKRI website](#).

We encourage applicants to be imaginative with their planned outputs, which can include performances, films, exhibitions, compositions, artefacts, walks as well as more traditional published materials.

## 13. Timetable

Activity	Date
Call Launch	Friday 6 December
Call Closes	4pm on Thursday 27 February 2020
PI Response	Late April 2020
Outcomes	Late May/Early June 2020
Award Start Date	1 July 2020

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://ahrc.ukri.org/about/policies/complaints-procedure/>



## 14. How to apply

A full application should be submitted through the Je-S system at the latest by **16:00pm on Thursday 27 February 2020** and will need to go through the appropriate host HEI or IRO 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 'Documents' from the menu;
- then select 'New Document';
- 'AHRC' as the Council,
- 'Standard Proposal' as the Document Type;
- 'Large Grants' as the Scheme;
- 'UK Climate Resilience Programme- Living With Uncertain Change RG 27 Feb 2020' as the Call/Type/Mode and 'Create Document'.
- Je-S will then create a proposal form for you to fill in.

***Please remember to allow sufficient time for your host HEI's or IRO's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the call closing date.***

Applications should address the aims of the call as listed in this call specification. The following are a list of attachments that are permitted for this call. Please see Section 4 of the AHRC Research Funding Guide for further information about these attachments:

Attachment	Requirement and page limits (sides of A4)
Case for Support	Compulsory. 7 sides A4
Curriculum Vitae	Compulsory for the PI, Co-I and any named researchers. (no more than 2 sides A4 each)
Publication Lists	Compulsory. 1 side of A4
Justification of Resources	Compulsory. 2 sides of A4
Data Management Plan	Compulsory. 2 sides of A4
Project Partner Letter of Support	Optional. 2 sides of A4
Work plan	Optional. 1 sides of A4
Visual Evidence	Optional. 2 sides of A4

You should use the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 as the start date of your proposal.

***Please also note that your application must have an AHRC Primary Classification as part of the JeS application form. A list of eligible Primary Classifications can be found on p.77-82 of the current Research Funding Guide***

Due to the [UK Research and Innovation wide changes to requirements on 'Pathways to Impact'](#), applicants are no longer required to submit a 'Pathways to Impact' document or to write an Impact Summary when applying to this call. However, Je-S will not allow you to proceed without uploading an attachment under the 'Pathways to Impact' heading. Therefore, please attach a blank document under the Pathways to Impact heading to proceed with your application. Please also input "N/A" in the Impact Summary section.

The outputs, dissemination and impact criteria of this call should instead be articulated within the case for support (maximum 7 sides A4). If this causes issues with the submission of your proposal please contact the Je-S Helpdesk on 01793 444164 or [JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org](mailto:JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org) (Monday to Friday 08:30–17:00).

## 15. Contact Information

For queries about this call such as eligible activities and costs or remit of the call please contact AHRC at [enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org](mailto:enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org) or telephone: 01793 416060 (Monday to Friday 08:30–16:30).

For queries on using Je-S, such as creating and submitting the application form or Je-S account creation, please contact the Je-S Helpdesk on 01793 444164 or [JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org](mailto:JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org) (Monday to Friday 08:30–17:00).

## 16. Equal Opportunities Statement

UKRI are committed to embedding equality, diversity and inclusion at all levels, both as an organisation and as a funder. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion statement for UKRI can be found [here](#)<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/equality-diversity-and-inclusion>