



Funding opportunity

Interdisciplinary research to tackle epidemic threats

Opportunity status:	Upcoming
Funders:	UK Research and Innovation, Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) , Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) , Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) , Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) , Medical Research Council (MRC) , Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) , Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)
Co-funders:	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£20,000,000
Maximum award:	£3,750,000
Publication date:	18 March 2025
Opening date:	27 March 2025 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	19 June 2025 4:00pm UK time

Apply for funding to undertake ambitious interdisciplinary research to tackle epidemic diseases of animals, humans or plants for a duration of up to five years.

Project leads must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funding.

Your team and programme of research will bring new perspectives crossing Councils' remits to understand infectious disease threats.

The full economic cost (FEC) of your application can be up to £3,750,000.

UKRI will fund 80% of the FEC and 100% of permitted exceptions, including project co-leads (international).

Who can apply

To lead a project, you must be based at an eligible organisation. [Check if your organisation is eligible](#).

Who is eligible to apply

To be eligible to apply for this funding opportunity you must:

- focus your application to deliver ambitious interdisciplinary insights to better understand, predict or prevent infectious diseases of animals, humans or plants with epidemic potential

Given the interdisciplinary nature of the opportunity, note that:

- the project lead should be the individual who will act as our main contact and coordinator of the research programme. The project lead's research organisation will be responsible for all administration relating to the award
- the project lead can be from any discipline
- the intellectual leadership of the project can be shared and is encouraged including with project co-leads (international). Details of the management structure of your project can be captured in your application
- the research proposed, and therefore team expertise, must cross the disciplinary remits of at least three UKRI research councils

For applicants who do not have a contract of employment for the duration of the proposed project, by submitting an application the research organisation is confirming, if it is successful:

- contracts will be extended beyond the end date of the project
- all necessary support for the project and the applicants will be provided, including mentorship and career development for early career researchers

Who is not eligible to apply

You are not eligible to apply for this funding opportunity as the project lead if you are based at an international research organisation. This does not include

project leads from MRC Unit The Gambia or MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

International researchers

International researchers, including those from low and middle-income countries (LMICs), can apply as 'project co-lead (international)'. Project co-leads (international) should make a major intellectual contribution to the design or conduct of the project. A project co-lead (international) is an individual employed by an international research organisation (including registered higher education institutions, national funder or government-supported research establishments, independent research organisations, for example charitable or non-governmental organisations) who otherwise fits the normal definition of a co-lead.

Read [UKRI project co-lead \(international\) eligibility](#) for more details. Please contact us if you are uncertain about eligibility.

Project partners

A project partner is defined as a third-party person or organisation that will support your research project through cash or in-kind contributions such as:

- staff time
- access to equipment
- sites or facilities
- the provision of data
- software or materials
- recruitment of people as research participants
- providing samples for the project

Project partners could include:

- members of the business community
- policymakers and others in the public, private and third sectors
- practitioners such as clinicians, crop breeders, farmers, veterinarians, landowners
- representatives from civil society, humanitarian and independent non-government organisations
- people with lived experience
- local communities

Each project partner must provide a statement of support. If your application involves industry partners, they must provide information if the relationship falls within the [industry collaboration framework](#).

Who cannot be included as a team project partner

Any individual included in your application [core team](#) cannot also be a project partner.

Any organisation that employs a member of the application core team cannot be a project partner organisation, this includes other departments within the same organisation.

If you are collaborating with someone in your organisation, consider including them in the core team as project co-lead, or specialist. They cannot be a project partner.

Project subcontractor

A project subcontractor is defined as a third-party individual who is not employed as staff on the grant, who is subcontracted by a participating organisation to deliver a specific piece of work. Subcontractors will be allowed in line with [UKRI terms and conditions for research grants](#).

Project partner and subcontractor entitlement to project outputs and intellectual property

Entitlement to the outputs of a project or intellectual property will be determined between the parties involved, however any access to project outputs or intellectual property must be in line with any relevant Subsidy Control regulation. Under UKRI terms and conditions for research grants you must ensure at all times that the grant funding awarded to you is compliant with the [Subsidy Control Act 2022](#). Any entitlements will need to be set out in a formal collaboration agreement if a grant is awarded, as per FEC Grant condition RGC 12.1.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are [committed to achieving equality of opportunity](#) for all funding applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns

UKRI can [offer disability and accessibility support for UKRI applicants and grant holders](#) during the application and assessment process.

What we're looking for

Aim

This funding opportunity is phase two of a flagship investment to better prepare for future epidemics as part of the UKRI Tackling Infections strategic theme.

Scope

This flagship initiative is an opportunity to better understand, predict and prevent (re)emergence of infectious animal, human, or plant diseases of epidemic potential.

It aims to improve epidemic preparedness by supporting ambitious interdisciplinary research that will:

- improve our understanding of factors that influence the risk and severity of infectious disease threats
- inform new ways to manage and respond to infectious disease threats

The conducting of such research will enhance our capability to respond to these threats, through stimulating interdisciplinary research capacity and expertise.

Phase one provided seed funding to build interdisciplinary teams and develop research ideas to encourage new disciplines and groups into this research and innovation area. Through this second funding opportunity, we want to fund research in a range of key areas where there is a clear epidemic threat. You do not need to be in receipt of phase one funding to apply and we welcome applications from new or established groups.

Funded projects are expected to become national or international focal points for epidemic-relevant interdisciplinary research in their chosen area. They will produce outputs that have positive and tangible impacts to better understand, predict and prevent epidemics in the UK or internationally. As a group of funded projects, they will work collectively to share learning, expertise and interdisciplinary best practice, where appropriate.

Pathogens (for example, bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites and oomycetes) within all reservoirs are within scope, providing they have epidemic potential. This includes, but is not exclusive to:

- animals (aquaculture, farmed, companion and wild)
- humans
- plants (crops, trees both horticultural and wild)
- natural environments
- animal-human-environment interface

This funding opportunity is aimed at projects focusing on pathogens that are considered a significant threat now or in the future to animal, human or plant health. You will be expected to justify the epidemic potential of the pathogens or types of pathogens included in your application.

Applications focusing on more fundamental, non-specific (in terms of pathogen, disease or host) or more generalisable activity (such as models, predictive tool development, policy and governance research) are in scope providing the project objectives align with the aim of the funding opportunity in terms of helping us to understand, predict and prevent infectious disease epidemic threats. These types of projects should be fully justified and demonstrate applicability beyond the study system or setting as appropriate.

A social and behavioural research perspective is encouraged. Applications may also explore the role of economic factors and incentives, culture, history, linguistics, and other humanities in understanding, predicting and preventing infectious diseases with epidemic potential.

Areas of research could include, but are not limited to:

- understanding the context, impacts of and interplay between biological, physiological, cultural, environmental (natural and built), political, historical, linguistic, legal and socioeconomic factors affecting infectious disease (re-)emergence, transmission and epidemiology
- understanding factors contributing to the spill over of infectious diseases between different species, as well as the different factors affecting these risks and the opportunities for intervening to effect change
- understanding communities' concerns, priorities, risks, needs, and capacities in their response to outbreaks, through for example, lessons learned from previous outbreaks to inform prediction and prevention activities
- developing and evaluating multifaceted evidence-based disease prevention and control interventions to prevent spillover and infection and interrupt transmission in and between animals, humans, or plants, that go beyond pharmacological interventions. For example, social, ecological and cultural measures (including structural or system interventions) that could be at an individual, community or regional level; biosecurity or environmental strategies; aspects of the built environment
- novel analytical or modelling methods, for example, the integration of diverse data sets yielding new interdisciplinary insights
- developing ways of comparing the impact of prevention strategies that factors in the complex and wide-ranging effects these can have. This might include multiparameter modelling, learning from communities affected by prior outbreak prevention strategies, and assessment of cost effectiveness
- within low and middle-income country (LMIC) settings, areas of research could also include identifying and demonstrating effects of processes intended to enhance resilience and responsiveness of systems (that is, preparedness) to support populations at high risk of zoonotic spillover or epidemic spread due to ecological, climatic factors, or conflict and migration

Approaches including for example 'One Health' and 'Planetary Health' framing are encouraged where appropriate but not explicitly required.

A place-based approach may be acceptable, for example with a focus on a geographically defined community, which may be characterised by vulnerabilities such as from flooding, water scarcity, drought, population density, economic instability and conflict. Where this approach is taken, potential for wider scale up and applicability should be demonstrated.

The intention is to support a portfolio of research programmes across a range of pathogens, hosts, and contexts. We particularly encourage applications that expect to yield insights applicable to more than one pathogen, host, or context.

The research proposed should be ambitiously interdisciplinary and cross the distinct disciplinary remits of at least three UKRI research councils. We're looking for novel and ambitious applications that could not be funded through standard, single council-led opportunities, with the goal of integrating knowledge and approaches across a broad range of disciplines and research and innovation areas. Such applications will bring fresh perspectives and evidence to our understanding of (re-)emerging animal, human, or plant infectious diseases, leading to outputs that will enable better prediction and prevention of future threats.

As this flagship is intended to stimulate new and creative ways of defining and then addressing a complex research area, it is a great opportunity for researchers to make new connections with disciplines and institutions outside their usual area. Working together with communities, people with lived experience, practitioners and policy makers and other stakeholders (which can include government, industry, charities or other non-governmental organisations) is encouraged, and expected where research insights are anticipated to feed directly into policy and practice. Partnerships should be equitable and sustainable with all parties committed to the co-creation and implementation of ideas.

Research undertaken both within and beyond the UK is permitted. Infectious disease emergence and spread does not conform to national boundaries, being controlled by many factors including geography, society, and geo-politics. As such we expect research to be undertaken internationally as appropriate. Applications with significant input and contribution from researchers based in LMICs are welcome, and LMIC leadership as co-leads (international) is expected where projects have an LMIC focus.

We will provide opportunities for award holders to showcase their research and share insights and best practice to help build an interdisciplinary research community better prepared to address future threats. We anticipate that this will include a one-day launch event and a one to two day end of project workshop to be held in person at a major UK city (to be determined). Travel and subsistence for up to three attendees per event should be costed into your

application, to include representatives from the core team, including international co-lead, if appropriate, and an early career researcher.

For more information on the background of this funding opportunity, go to the 'Additional information' section.

UKRI and our partners are involved in national and international epidemic preparedness fora. Where discussions are relevant to the subject area of funded projects, we may draw on advice, knowledge and expertise from these projects, including in the event of a relevant outbreak over the course of an award. We expect that research outputs will be shared as appropriate, for example:

- ongoing strategic sharing of information between projects
- findings should be published in a timely way, and in a manner and format accessible to the relevant audience
- in the event of an outbreak, we expect relevant findings and data to be shared rapidly and openly to inform the response, in line with principles [reaffirmed for the Covid-19 outbreak](#)

Project leads and co-leads should anticipate this and build in flexibility as relevant.

Duration

The duration of this award is up to five years.

Projects should start between one to six months after the funding decision date.

Funding available

The FEC of your application can be up to £3.75 million. We will fund 80% of the FEC and 100% of permitted exceptions. For example:

- for a project costing the maximum £3.75 million available, without any exceptions, we will fund £3 million and your research organisation will be expected to fund £750,000
- for a project including, say, £1.875 million of permitted exceptions, the FEC cost of your project can be up to £3.75 million. In this example, we will fund £3.375 million and your research organisation will be expected to fund £375,000

Find out more about [full economic costing](#).

We expect to fund a minimum of six applications from core UKRI funds, with final award numbers depending on co-funding agreements.

What we will fund

You can request funding for:

- interdisciplinary programmes of research that have been co-developed and cross the boundaries of at least three research councils
- international research collaborations where suitable collaborators in the UK do not exist or where this adds significant value
- research focusing on LMIC contexts and needs, which also will require local partners, leadership and research inputs

You can request funding for costs such as:

- a contribution to the salary of the project lead and co-leads
- support for other posts such as research and technical staff
- research consumables
- equipment
- travel costs, including for coordination and networking activities across the UKRI Tackling Epidemics portfolio
- data preservation, data sharing and dissemination costs
- secondary data analysis
- knowledge synthesis and dissemination
- estates and indirect costs
- [NHS research costs](#), when they are associated with NHS studies
- public partnerships and related activities, including [payments to public contributors](#) and people with lived experience
- professional enabling staff where they are providing project specific support that goes beyond activities included in estates and indirect costs

You can also request costs for work to be undertaken at international organisations by international project co-leads. We will fund 100% of the eligible costs in these organisations.

The total of such costs requested for international applicants from high-income countries (those not on the [OECD DAC List of ODA Recipients](#)), India and China must not exceed 30% of the total resources requested. There is no cap on costs requested for international applicants from DAC list countries and we will additionally pay overhead support and for equipment providing such costs are justified.

For more information on international costs and what we will and will not fund see the [UKRI project co-lead \(international\) policy](#).

What we will not fund

We will not fund:

- single discipline research programmes that lack interdisciplinary integration, perspectives or approaches

- applications that do not cover the disciplinary remits of at least three UKRI research councils
- projects that do not embed the research and innovation community in the process
- development or evaluation of agrochemicals, diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines, and vaccine/diagnostic technology platforms
- projects related to antimicrobial resistance
- operationalisation of public health and social health measures
- health systems research where the project objectives are not directly relevant to the understanding, prediction or prevention of infectious disease threats
- disease surveillance; such work could only be eligible as a minor, facilitating component if critical to enable a wider holistic programme of research. In such instances we would expect evidence of sustainability through relevant government agency or ministry support
- pests and parasites that affect humans, animals or plants but do not transmit or cause disease

You cannot request funding for costs such as:

- product development costs
- fees or stipends for postgraduate studentships
- publication costs, except towards LMIC-led publications
- funding to use as a 'bridge' between grants

Supporting skills and talent

We encourage you to follow the principles of the [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#) and the [Technician Commitment](#).

Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I)

UKRI is committed in ensuring that effective international collaboration in research and innovation takes place with integrity and within strong ethical frameworks. Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I) is a UKRI work programme designed to help protect all those working in our thriving and collaborative international sector by enabling partnerships to be as open as possible, and as secure as necessary. Our [TR&I Principles](#) set out UKRI's expectations of organisations funded by UKRI in relation to due diligence for international collaboration.

As such, applicants for UKRI funding may be asked to demonstrate how their proposed projects will comply with our approach and expectation towards TR&I, identifying potential risks and the relevant controls you will put in place to help proportionately reduce these risks.

See [further guidance and information about TR&I](#), including where applicants can find additional support.

Equitable partnership principles

When undertaking research and innovation activities outside the UK, you must recognise and address the possible impact contextual, societal and cultural difference on the ethical conduct of those activities.

Researchers should also follow principles of equitable partnerships to address inherent power imbalances when working with partners in resource-poor settings.

Applying the principles will encourage equitable access, especially in LMICs, while maintaining incentive for innovation. You should consider the principles from the start of the research and development cycle.

Read UKRI's [guidance on research in a global setting](#).

How to apply

We are running this funding opportunity on the new UKRI Funding Service so please ensure that your organisation is registered. You cannot apply on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

The project lead is responsible for completing the application process on the Funding Service, but we expect all team members and project partners to contribute to the application.

If the lead research organisation is an NHS organisation, check it is available in the Funding Service. You are encouraged to check this early as there may be additional steps for the organisation to be set up before you can apply.

Only the lead research organisation can submit an application to UKRI.

To apply

Select 'Start application' near the beginning of this Funding finder page. This will be available to select from 27 March 2025 9:00am UK time.

1. Confirm you are the project lead.
2. Sign in or create a Funding Service account. To create an account, select your organisation, verify your email address, and set a password. If your organisation is not listed, email support@funding-service.ukri.org Please allow at least 10 working days for your organisation to be added to the Funding Service. We strongly suggest that if you are asking UKRI to add your organisation to the Funding Service to enable you to apply to this Opportunity, you also create an organisation Administration Account. This will be needed to allow the acceptance and management of any grant that might be offered to you.

3. Answer questions directly in the text boxes. You can save your answers and come back to complete them or work offline and return to copy and paste your answers. If we need you to upload a document, follow the upload instructions in the Funding Service. All questions and assessment criteria are listed in the How to apply section on this Funding finder page.
4. Allow enough time to check your application in 'read-only' view before sending to your research office.
5. Send the completed application to your research office for checking. They will return it to you if it needs editing.
6. Your research office will submit the completed and checked application to UKRI.

Where indicated, you can also demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant.

When including images you must:

- provide a descriptive caption or legend for each image immediately underneath it in the text box (this counts towards your word limit)
- insert each new image onto a new line
- use files smaller than 5MB and in JPEG, JPG, JPE, JFI, JIF, JFIF, PNG, GIF, BMP or WEBP format

Images should only be used to convey important visual information that cannot easily be put into words. The following are not permitted, and your application may be rejected if you include:

- sentences or paragraphs of text
- tables
- excessive quantities of images

A few words are permitted where the image would lack clarity without the contextual words, such as a diagram, where text labels are required for an axis or graph column.

Watch our [research office webinars about the Funding Service](#).

For more guidance on the Funding Service, see:

- [how applicants use the Funding Service](#)
- [how research offices use the Funding Service](#)
- [how reviewers use the Funding Service](#)

References

References should be included within the word count of the appropriate question section. You should use your discretion when including references and prioritise those most pertinent to the application.

Hyperlinks can be used in reference information. When including references, you should consider how your references will be viewed and used by the assessors, ensuring that:

- references are easily identifiable by the assessors
- references are formatted as appropriate to your research
- persistent identifiers are used where possible

General use of hyperlinks

Applications should be self-contained. You should only use hyperlinks to link directly to reference information. You must not include links to web resources to extend your application. Assessors are not required to access links to conduct assessment or recommend a funding decision.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI)

Use of generative AI tools to prepare funding applications is permitted, however, caution should be applied.

For more information see our [policy on the use of generative AI in application and assessment](#).

Deadline

We must receive your application by 19 June 2025 at 4:00pm UK time.

You will not be able to apply after this time.

Make sure you are aware of and follow any internal institutional deadlines.

Following the submission of your application to the funding opportunity, your application cannot be changed, and applications will not be returned for amendment. If your application does not follow the guidance, it may be rejected.

Personal data

Processing personal data

UKRI will need to collect some personal information to manage your Funding Service account and the registration of your funding applications.

We will handle personal data in line with UK data protection legislation and manage it securely. For more information, including how to exercise your rights, read [our privacy notice](#).

UKRI will need to share the application and any personal information that it contains with our co-funders, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural

Affairs (Defra) and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) so that they can participate in the assessment process.

For more information on how Defra uses personal information [visit Defra's Personal information charter](#).

For more information on how FCDO uses personal information, [visit FCDO's data protection information](#).

Sensitive information

If you or a core team member need to tell us something you wish to remain confidential, email tacklingepidemics@ukri.org

Include in the subject line: [the funding opportunity title; sensitive information; your Funding Service application number].

Typical examples of confidential information include:

- individual is unavailable until a certain date (for example due to parental leave)
- declaration of interest
- additional information about eligibility to apply that would not be appropriately shared in the 'Applicant and team capability' section
- conflict of interest for UKRI to consider in reviewer or panel participant selection
- the application is an invited resubmission

For information about how UKRI handles personal data, read [UKRI's privacy notice](#).

Publication of outcomes

UKRI will publish the outcomes of this funding opportunity on the [Tackling infections webpage](#).

If your application is successful, we will publish some personal information on the [UKRI Gateway to Research](#).

Summary

Word limit: 550

In plain English, provide a summary we can use to identify the most suitable experts to assess your application.

We usually make this summary publicly available on external-facing websites, therefore do not include any confidential or sensitive information. Make it suitable for a variety of readers, for example:

- opinion-formers
- policymakers
- the public
- the wider research community

Guidance for writing a summary

Clearly describe your proposed work in terms of:

- context
- the challenge the project addresses
- aims and objectives
- potential applications and benefits
- the team and approach to interdisciplinary working

Core team

List the key members of your team and assign them roles from the following:

- project lead (PL)
- project co-lead (UK) (PcL)
- project co-lead (international) (PcL (I))
- researcher co-lead (RcL)
- specialist
- professional enabling staff
- research and innovation associate
- technician
- visiting researcher

Only list one individual as project lead. If you include more than one project lead your application will fail at the checking stage.

We expect all applications to this funding opportunity that intend to conduct research in an LMIC to include project co-lead (international), based at an LMIC research organisation.

UKRI has introduced a new addition to the 'Specialist' role type. Public contributors such as people with lived experience can now be added to an application.

Find out more about [UKRI's core team roles in funding applications](#).

Application questions

Research council remit

Word limit: 250

Select which research councils' disciplinary remits your application meets.

What we are looking for in your response

In the text box, list the name of each applicable research council from the following list, where their disciplinary remit is relevant to your application:

- AHRC
- BBSRC
- EPSRC
- ESRC
- MRC
- NERC
- STFC

Within this section we also expect you to explain:

- how your application is relevant to the disciplinary remits of three or more research councils
- why the proposed work would not be suitable for single research council led funding

This is for administrative purposes and to aid initial application checking. Applications not meeting the distinct disciplinary remits of three research councils will be rejected.

Vision

Word limit: 550

What are you hoping to achieve with your proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how your proposed work:

- is of excellent quality and importance within or beyond the fields or areas
- has the potential to advance current understanding, or generate new knowledge, thinking or discovery within or beyond the field or area
- is timely given current trends, context, and needs
- impacts world-leading research, society, the economy, or the environment
- is driven by the needs of populations where the research is taking place (where appropriate)
- will purposefully seek to translate and maximise the impact of your research on policy, programmes and practice (where research is positioned at the more translational or applied end of the spectrum)

Within the Vision section we also expect you to:

- justify the epidemic potential of the pathogens or disease type chosen
- identify the potential direct or indirect benefits and who the beneficiaries might be
- explain how the proposal is ambitious, novel and adds value to the current research landscape
- identify potential impacts of your research on animal, plant or human health
- explain how your work has potential to bring benefit to the LMICs involved (where appropriate)
- provide evidence that the answer to your research questions is needed and wanted by relevant users, policy makers or both describing the changes that might be implemented as a result of the project, and by whom (where research is positioned at the more translational or applied end of the spectrum)

References may be included within this section.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

Approach

Word limit: 5,500

How are you going to deliver your proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how you have designed your approach so that it:

- is innovative, effective and appropriate to achieve your objectives
- is feasible, and comprehensively identifies any risks to delivery and how they will be managed
- uses a clearly written and transparent methodology
- embeds interdisciplinary approaches, including identifying potential challenges in delivering interdisciplinary research and how these will be overcome
- takes into account previous work and identifies limitations of current approaches
- will maximise translation of outputs into outcomes and impacts
- describes how your team's research environment (in terms of the place and relevance to the project) will contribute to the success of the work
- if applicable, ensures an equitable role for the LMIC co-leads and researchers in the intellectual design and the setting of the research agenda and its ongoing strategic direction. This includes arrangements for equitable sharing of intellectual property

Within the Approach section we also expect you to:

- demonstrate co-creation and design involving the range of disciplines or experiences required for successful delivery of the research programme
- show how the work will enable new research opportunities, approaches and methods through the integration of distinct disciplinary perspectives
- demonstrate access to the appropriate services, facilities, infrastructure, or equipment to deliver the project
- provide a project plan including deliverables and timelines, in the form of an embedded Gantt chart or similar
- explain and justify how you will approach diversity and inclusion in the study population and follow the [MRC embedding diversity in research design policy](#) (if applicable)
- show how you will use male and female animals or tissues and cells from male and female donors (and follow the [MRC sex in experimental design policy](#) (if applicable)). If you are not proposing to do this you must justify why
- explain and justify the inclusion of public partnerships (if applicable) and the added value these offer

References may be included within this section.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

Reproducibility and statistical design

Word limit: 500

How will you ensure your proposed work is reliable, robust and reproducible?

What assessors are looking for in your response

Information about reproducibility and how you will ensure reliability and robustness of your proposed work, such as further details of statistical analyses, methodology and experimental design, not provided in your approach. Note that in this context the methodology refers to the rationale for choosing which methods to use and not the provision of detailed descriptions of the methods to be used.

We encourage the involvement of statisticians and other methodological expertise in the design and integration of projects. Where this is not appropriate, we expect you to seek professional statistical or other relevant advice in preparing your response, which should include, as appropriate:

- sample and effect sizes
- planned statistical analyses
- models chosen (for example animal model, cell line) or data sources (for example social surveys, administrative data, environmental and climatic data)
- potential sources of bias and how these will be mitigated during analysis

- how your approach to addressing diversity is reflected in the experimental design and analyses

If your proposed work includes human populations, you should specify these in terms of their diversity characteristics and the analysis ([Embedding diversity in research design](#)).

If your proposed work involves animals, and you provide information on animal sample sizes and statistical analyses here, you should not duplicate it in the 'Research involving the use of animals' section. You should include the sex of animals, cells and tissues and use females and males as default. Learn more about the circumstances in which we will fund single-sex animal, tissue and cell studies at [sex in experimental design](#). See also [worked examples of experimental design](#). Use the 'Research involving the use of animals' section to provide information on the rationale for using animals, choice of species, welfare and procedure severity.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

The length of your response will vary depending on the type of project, you may not need to use 500 words. Do not repeat information included elsewhere in your application.

Data management and sharing

Word limit: 1,500

How will you manage and share data collected or acquired through the proposed research?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Provide a data management plan that clearly details how you will comply with UKRI's published [data management and sharing policies](#), which includes detailed guidance notes.

You should:

- demonstrate how you will manage and share data collected or acquired through the proposed research
- determine if, how and where your data should be shared based on good practice for the type, or types, of research data that will be generated
- refer to the research council [research data sharing policy \(or policies\) and guidance](#) most applicable to the type (or types) of research data that will be generated from your research. These policies include best practice and preferred repositories for some types of data. For example, the ESRC-supported UK Data Service and the NERC-supported Environmental Data Service

UKRI and our funding partners expect you to make your research data openly available with as few restrictions as possible in a timely and responsible manner including, in the event of a relevant outbreak, in-line with [principles reaffirmed for the Covid-19 outbreak](#).

Applicant and team capability to deliver

Word limit: 1,650

Why are you the right team to successfully deliver the proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Evidence of how your team has:

- the relevant experience (appropriate to career stage) to deliver the proposed work
- the right balance of skills and expertise to cover the proposed work
- the appropriate leadership and management skills to deliver the work and your approach to develop others
- contributed to developing a positive research environment and wider community
- included appropriate approaches to ensure true interdisciplinary working
- if relevant, opportunities for LMIC co-leadership and career development through the research

You should also justify the inclusion of project co-leads (international) and professional enabling staff and show how you have ensured an equitable role for LMIC researchers in setting the research agenda, if applicable.

We recognise that applications might draw together relevant expertise from multiple organisations and regions. For administrative purposes it is necessary to identify a single project lead who must be affiliated with the lead research organisation. The project lead and their research office will be ultimately responsible for the administration of the grant and collaboration arrangements. However, the balance of research activity and leadership across the leadership team and partner organisations can be shared as is appropriate for your application.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

The word limit for this section is 1,650 words: 1,150 words to be used for R4RI modules (including references) and, if necessary, a further 500 words for Additions.

Use the Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) format to showcase the range of relevant skills you and, if relevant, your team (project and project co-leads, researchers, technicians, specialists, partners and so on) have and how

this will help deliver the proposed work. You can include individuals' specific achievements but only choose past contributions that best evidence their ability to deliver this work.

Complete this section using the R4RI module headings listed. Use each heading once and include a response for the whole team, see the [UKRI guidance on R4RI](#). You should consider how to balance your answer, and emphasise where appropriate the key skills each team member brings:

- contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge
- the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships
- contributions to the wider research and innovation community
- contributions to broader research or innovation users and audiences and towards wider societal benefit, including public partnerships

Additions

Provide any further details relevant to your application. This section is optional and can be up to 500 words. You should not use it to describe additional skills, experiences, or outputs, but you can use it to describe any factors that provide context for the rest of your R4RI (for example, details of career breaks if you wish to disclose them).

Complete this as a narrative. Do not format it like a CV.

References may be included within this section.

The [roles in funding applications policy](#) has descriptions of the different project roles.

Project partners

Add details about any project partners' contributions. If there are no project partners, you can indicate this on the Funding Service.

A project partner is a collaborating third party organisation who will have an integral role in the proposed research. This may include direct (cash) or indirect (in-kind) contributions such as expertise, staff time or use of facilities. Project partners may be in industry, academia, third sector or government organisations in the UK or overseas.

Important note: If your application includes industry project partners, you will also need to complete the Industry Collaboration Framework (ICF) section. Find out [more about ICF](#).

You must ensure that any third party individual or organisation you include within the Funding Service as a project partner, also provides you with a supporting email or letter of support (see next section 'Project partners: letters or emails of support').

The individual named as the project partner contact, cannot be included in your application as a member of the core team, in any [core team role](#).

The project partner organisation cannot be an applicant organisation, where any member of the core team is based. For example, you cannot include a different department based within the applicant organisation as a project partner.

If an individual or organisation outside the core team is responsible for recruitment of people as research participants or providing human tissue for this project, list them as a project partner.

Add the following project partner details:

- the organisation name (searchable via a drop-down list or enter the organisation's details manually, as applicable)
- the project partner contact name and email address
- the type of contribution (direct or in-direct) and its monetary value

If there are specific circumstances where project partners do require funding for minor costs such as travel and subsistence, these project partner costs should be claimed and justified within the resources and costs section of your application.

If a detail is entered incorrectly and you have saved the entry, remove the specific project partner record and re-add it with the correct information. For audit purposes, UKRI requires formal collaboration agreements to be put in place if an award is made.

Project partners: letters (or emails) of support

Word limit: 10

Upload a single PDF containing the letters or emails of support from each partner you named in the 'Project partners' section. These should be uploaded in English or Welsh only.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Enter the words 'attachment supplied' in the text box, or if you do not have any project partners enter 'N/A'.

What supporting statements we are looking for

Important note: We are only looking for you to provide project partner letters or emails of support from the following:

- a third-party individual
- a third-party organisation

Third party means the individual and organisation must not be involved in the application core team. You must ensure that any project partners providing a supporting document, are also added to the 'Project partners' section within the Funding Service.

What supporting statements we are not looking for

We are not looking for you to provide any letters or emails of support from individuals or organisations included in your application core team (this includes other departments within the same organisation). Any individual or organisation included in your application with a core team role cannot also be a project partner.

Do not include any other statements or any other type of information we have not requested, including letter or emails of support from colleagues simply expressing supportive opinions. We only expect letters or emails of support from your third-party project partners uploaded to this section.

If you include any information not requested by MRC, your application will be rejected.

Supporting letter and email guidance for third party project partners

Each project partner letter or email you provide should:

- confirm the partner's commitment to the project
- clearly explain the value, relevance, and possible benefits of the work to them
- describe any additional value that they bring to the project
- include the name of the project partner organisation and contact information (this should match the partner contact and organisation name details you must add to the 'Project partners' section)
- have a page limit of two sides of A4 per partner

Project partners letters and emails of support are not required to be on headed paper or include handwritten signatures (electronic signatures are acceptable from the nominated partner contact).

Industry or company project partner letter and email of support guidance

Industry or company project partners are required to complete the industry or company letter of support template by exploring the document download section of [MRC Industry Collaboration Framework \(ICF\)](#). This will ensure the letter or email they provide you contains all the relevant information we need.

Project partner responsibility for the recruitment of people

If the project partner is responsible for the recruitment of people as research participants or providing human tissue their letter or email of support should include:

- agreement that the project partner will recruit the participants or provide tissue
- confirmation that what is being supplied is suitable for the proposed work
- confirmation that the quantity of tissue being supplied is suitable, but not excessive for achieving meaningful results (if applicable)

Multiple project partners

If you have multiple project partners, you should:

- ensure each separate partner letter or email of support, does not exceed two pages of A4
- consolidate all the supporting documents provided by each project partner into a single PDF file before uploading
- ensure the PDF does not exceed the maximum file size of 8MB

The Funding Service will provide document upload details when you apply.

If you do not have any project partners, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Ensure you have prior agreement from project partners so that, if you are offered funding, they will support your project as indicated in the 'Project partners' section.

For audit purposes, UKRI requires formal collaboration agreements to be put in place if an award is made.

Industry Collaboration Framework (ICF)

Word limit: 1,500

Does your application include collaboration with industry or company project partners?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

The assessors are looking for you to confirm if your proposed work involves collaboration with an industry or company project partner. If it does, you will need to follow the MRC industry collaboration framework (ICF).

By 'industry or company' we mean an enterprise that puts or has intention to put goods or services on a market.

For guidance to assist your decision if your proposed work requires you to follow ICF, you should explore the [ICF decision tree](#) and find out [more about ICF](#) which includes:

- collaboration agreements
- definitions of basic or applied research

- internationally based companies
- subsidy control
- intellectual property (IP) arrangements
- fully flexible and gated contributions
- the ICF assessment criteria

Enter 'Yes' in the text box if you have industry or company project partners and you are likely to follow ICF. You should also confirm your answers to the ICF questions one to nine in the text box for each ICF project partner.

Contact tacklingepidemics@ukri.org if you are unsure if your application should follow ICF.

In addition to the project partner information completed in the previous section, the assessors are looking for information relating to the nature, goals and conditions of the collaboration and any restrictions or rights to the project results that could be claimed by the industry or company project partner.

Confirm your answers to the ICF questions in the text box, repeat this process for each ICF project partner:

1. Name the industry or company project partner considered under ICF.
2. Indicate whether your application is basic research or applied research.
3. Explain why, in the absence of the requested UKRI funding, the collaboration and the planned research could not be undertaken.
4. State whether your application is under the category of fully flexible contribution or gated contribution (based on the IP sharing arrangements with the industry or company).
5. Outline the pre-existing IP ('background IP') that each partner, including the academic partner, will bring to the collaborative research project and the terms under which partners may access these assets.
6. Outline the IP that is expected to be developed during the collaborative research project ('foreground IP') and briefly outline how it will be managed, including:
 - who will own this IP
 - what rights industry or company partners will have to use academically-generated foreground IP during and after the research project, for internal research and development or for commercial purposes
 - any rights of the academic partner to commercialise the foreground IP, including foreground IP generated by industry or company partners
7. Outline any restrictions to dissemination of the project results, including the rights of the industry or company partner to:
 - review, approve or delay publications (including the time period associated with such rights)
 - request or require the removal of any information

8. Declare any conflicts of interest held by the applicants in relation to the industry or company project partners and describe how they will be managed.
9. Justify collaborating with an overseas industry or company under ICF (if applicable).

Failure to provide the information requested for industry or company partners under ICF could result in your application being rejected.

You are recommended to discuss the goals and conditions of any collaboration with an industry or company with your technology transfer or contracts office before applying.

For audit purposes, UKRI requires formal collaboration agreements to be put in place if an award is made. You must provide us with a copy of the collaboration agreement, signed by all partners, before an ICF award starts.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Word limit: 250

What approaches and activities do you have planned that will embed EDI into your proposed work?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Explain how your EDI plan:

- is effective and appropriate to embed EDI
- comprehensively identifies the key EDI challenges and how they will be addressed and managed
- will report and measure EDI outcomes
- will maximise awareness of and mitigate against bias in your team and the wider community in terms of gender, ethnicity or any other protected characteristics through processes, behaviours and culture
- describes how your approach will build upon and integrate existing EDI good practice into your proposed work
- will share good practice with the wider community to ensure your research has maximum impact

EDI plans should be project-specific and focus on activities beyond any institutional activities already in place.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

References may be included within this section.

Trusted Research and Innovation (TR&I)

Word limit: 100

Does the proposed work involve international collaboration in a sensitive research or technology area?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Demonstrate how your proposed international collaboration relates to Trusted Research and Innovation, including:

- list the countries your international project co-leads, project partners and visiting researchers, or other collaborators are based in
- if international collaboration is involved, explain whether this project is relevant to one or more of the [17 areas](#) of the UK National Security and Investment (NSI) Act
- if one or more of the [17 areas](#) of the UK National Security and Investment (NSI) Act are involved list the areas

If your proposed work does not involve international collaboration, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

We may contact you following submission of your application to provide additional information about how your proposed project will comply with our approach and expectation towards TR&I, identifying potential risks and the relevant controls you will put in place to help manage these risks.

Facilities

Word limit: 250

Does your proposed research require the support and use of a facility?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you will need to use a facility, follow your proposed facility's normal access request procedures. Ensure you have prior agreement so that if you are offered funding, they will support the use of their facility on your project.

For each requested facility you will need to provide the:

- name of facility, copied and pasted from the [facility information list \(DOCX, 42KB\)](#)
- proposed usage or costs, or costs per unit where indicated on the facility information list
- confirmation you have their agreement where required

Facilities should only be named if they are on the facility information list above. If you will not need to use a facility, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

Word limit: 500

What are the ethical or RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work? If you do not think that the proposed work raises any ethical or RRI issues, explain why.

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Demonstrate that you have identified and evaluated:

- the relevant ethical or responsible research and innovation considerations
- how you will manage these considerations, and the timescale for doing so

All necessary ethical approvals must be in place before the project commences, but do not need to have been secured at the time of application.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant. Further details are provided in the Funding Service.

Genetic and biological risk

Word limit: 700

Does your proposed research involve any genetic or biological risk?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

In respect of animals, plants or microbes, are you proposing to:

- use genetic modification as an experimental tool, like studying gene function in a genetically modified organism
- release genetically modified organisms
- ultimately develop commercial and industrial genetically modified outcomes

If yes, provide the name of any required approving body and state if approval is already in place. If it is not, provide an indicative timeframe for obtaining the required approval.

Identify the organism or organisms as a plant, animal or microbe and specify the species and which of the three categories the research relates to.

Identify the genetic and biological risks resulting from the proposed research, their implications, and any mitigation you plan on taking. Assessors will want to

know you have considered the risks and their implications to justify that any identified risks do not outweigh any benefits of the proposed research.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Research involving the use of animals

Word limit: 10

Does your proposed research involve the use of vertebrate animals or other organisms covered by the Animals Scientific Procedures Act?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you are proposing research that requires using animals, download and complete the [Animals Scientific Procedures Act template \(DOCX, 74KB\)](#), which contains all the questions relating to research using vertebrate animals or other Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 regulated organisms.

Save it as a PDF. The Funding Service will provide document upload details when you apply.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Conducting research with animals overseas

Word limit: 700

Will any of the proposed animal research be conducted overseas?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you are proposing to conduct overseas research, it must be conducted in accordance with welfare standards consistent with those in the UK, as in [Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#). Ensure all named applicants in the UK and overseas are aware of this requirement.

If your application proposes animal research to be conducted overseas, you must provide a statement in the text box. Depending on the species involved, you may also need to upload a completed template for each species listed.

Statement

Provide a statement to confirm that:

- all named applicants are aware of the requirements and have agreed to abide by them
- this overseas research will be conducted in accordance with welfare standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation

- the expectation set out in Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research will be applied and maintained
- appropriate national and institutional approvals are in place

Templates

Overseas studies proposing to use non-human primates, cats, dogs, equines or pigs will be assessed during [NC3Rs review](#) of research applications. Provide the required information by completing the template from the question 'Research involving the use of animals'.

For studies involving other species, such as:

- rodents
- rabbits
- sheep
- goats
- pigs
- cattle
- xenopus laevis and xenopus tropicalis
- zebrafish

Select, download, and complete the relevant Word checklist or checklists by [exploring NC3Rs checklist for the use of animals overseas](#).

Save your completed template as a PDF and upload to the Funding service. If you use more than one checklist template, save it as a single PDF.

The Funding Service will provide document upload details when you apply.

If conducting research with animals overseas does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Research involving human participation

Word limit: 700

Will the project involve the use of human subjects or their personal information?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you are proposing research that requires the involvement of human subjects, provide the name of any required approving body and whether approval is already in place.

Justify the number and the diversity of the participants involved, as well as any procedures.

Provide details of any areas of substantial or moderate severity of impact.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Research involving human tissues or biological samples

Word limit: 700

Does your proposed research involve the use of human tissues, or biological samples?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you are proposing work that involves human tissues or biological samples, provide the name of any required approving body and whether approval is already in place.

Justify the use of human tissue or biological samples specifying the nature and quantity of the material to be used and its source.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Resources and cost justification

Word limit: 1,000

What will you need to deliver your proposed work and how much will it cost?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Justify the application's more costly resources, in particular:

- project staff
- significant travel for field work or collaboration (but not regular travel between collaborating organisations or to conferences)
- any equipment that will cost more than £10,000
- any consumables beyond typical requirements, or that are required in exceptional quantities
- all facilities and infrastructure costs
- all resources that have been costed as 'Exceptions'
- support for public and patient involvement and engagement. [Payments to public partners](#) can be included under the exceptions fund heading
- support for preserving, long-term storage, or sharing of data
- support for international co-leads, demonstrating this is within the 30% costs cap for co-leads from high-income countries, India and China. There is no cap on costs requested for international applicants from DAC list countries
- [NHS research costs](#), when they are associated with NHS studies
- animal costs, such as numbers that need to be bred or maintained and to maintain high welfare standards

Assessors are not looking for detailed costs or a line-by-line breakdown of all project resources. Overall, they want you to demonstrate how the resources you anticipate needing for your proposed work:

- are comprehensive, appropriate, and justified
- represent the optimal use of resources to achieve the intended outcomes
- maximise potential outcomes and impacts

Clinical research using NHS resources

Word limit: 250

Are you applying to do clinical research in the UK?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Researchers applying to do clinical research in the NHS, public health or social care usually need to complete a Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT).

We request the SoECAT because we want to know that you have taken the appropriate steps to request National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) support and for the full costs of your research to be attributed, calculated and paid.

We want to see the expected total resources required for your project to consider if these are appropriate.

Enter 'Yes' and complete and upload a SoECAT if you are applying for clinical research and:

- you will carry out your research in the UK
- your research will use NHS resources
- the research requires approval by Health Research Authority (England) or its equivalents in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales
- you will need support from the NIHR Research Delivery Network, this may include studies in a social care or public health setting

It is important to complete a SoECAT to be eligible for NIHR support. You must complete a SoECAT even if you don't think your clinical research will involve excess treatment costs (ETCs).

See MRC [guidance on who needs to complete a SoECAT](#).

How to complete a SoECAT

SoECAT guidance can be found on the [NIHR website](#).

These are the steps you need to take:

1. Contact an attributing the costs of health and social care Research & Development (AcoRD) specialist as early as possible in the application process.
2. Complete an online SoECAT. Excel versions of the form have been discontinued. If you don't have an account for NIHR's Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS) you will need create and activate one. [See the user guide for instructions](#).
3. Request authorisation of your SoECAT.
4. Once authorised extract the 'study information' and the 'summary' page from the 'Funder Export', combine them as a single PDF and upload it to your application.

Applications that require a SoECAT but have not uploaded the SoECAT funder export study information and summary may be rejected.

Ensure the AcoRD specialists name and date are included within the uploaded summary page. The SoECAT is invalid without this information.

Contact tacklingepidemics@ukri.org if your SoECAT may not be authorised in time for the application closing date.

If this does not apply to your proposed work, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

Phase one funding

Word limit: 20

Are you in receipt of phase one funding from Tackling Epidemics?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

Please enter 'Yes' or 'No' in the text box. If yes, provide grant reference number and title.

Related applications

Word limit: 500

Is this application related to another application to UKRI or other funding organisation?

What the assessors are looking for in your response

If your application is not related to another, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

If yes, state your previous reference number and explain how this new application is related to the other application. If the related application was

submitted to another funder, you should identify the name of the funder and when you applied.

How we will assess your application

Assessment process

We will assess your application using the following process.

All UKRI councils have been involved in agreeing the review process to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of this funding opportunity.

Examination of applications

If your application is outside of the scope of the funding opportunity, you will be notified by email confirming rejection of your application.

Expert review

We will invite experts to review your application independently, against the specified criteria for this funding opportunity.

You will not be able to nominate reviewers for applications on the new UKRI Funding Service. Research councils and partners will continue to select expert reviewers.

We are monitoring the requirement for applicant-nominated reviewers as we review policies and processes as part of the continued development of the new Funding Service.

We will establish a pool of expert reviewers with disciplinary, interdisciplinary and subject matter expertise drawn from the breadth of UKRI councils and our funding partners.

Shortlisting

All applications in scope will be taken forward to the shortlisting decision meeting.

If your application is not shortlisted you will be notified of the unsuccessful decision.

If your application is shortlisted, you will have 14 days to respond to reviewers' comments and any feedback from the shortlisting panel.

Panel meeting

All applications that are shortlisted will be taken forward to the panel meeting. The panel, comprising a subset of the pool of experts, will use the evidence provided by reviewers and your applicant response to assess the quality of your application and rank it alongside other applications to make its funding recommendations.

All UKRI councils and our co-funders will be involved in making the final funding decision. We'll take a portfolio approach to ensure a breadth of proposals are supported where the quality of applications allows.

We will inform you of the outcome of your application by email.

Feedback

All applications receive reviewer comments as feedback. If your application was discussed at the funding panel, any further feedback will be provided within six weeks of the panel meeting.

Principles of assessment

We support the [San Francisco declaration on research assessment](#) and recognise the relationship between research assessment and research integrity.

Find out about the [UKRI principles of assessment and decision making](#).

Using generative artificial intelligence (AI) in expert review

Reviewers and panellists are not permitted to use generative AI tools to develop their assessment. Using these tools can potentially compromise the confidentiality of the ideas that applicants have entrusted to UKRI to safeguard.

For more detail see our [policy on the use of generative AI](#).

Sharing data with co-funders

UKRI will need to share the application and any personal information that it contains with our co-funders, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) so that they can participate in the assessment process.

For more information on how Defra uses personal information [visit Defra's Personal information charter](#).

For more information on how FCDO uses personal information, [visit FCDO's data protection information](#).

We reserve the right to modify the assessment process as needed.

Assessment areas

The assessment areas we will use are:

- vision of the project
- approach to the project (including reproducibility and statistical design and data management)
- capability of the applicants and the project team to deliver the project
- ethical and responsible research and innovation considerations of the project
- resources requested to do the project
- equality, diversity and inclusion

Find details of assessment questions and criteria under the 'Application questions' heading in the 'How to apply' section.

Contact details

Get help with your application

If you have a question and the answers aren't provided on this page

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Helpdesk is committed to helping users of the UKRI Funding Service as effectively and as quickly as possible. In order to manage cases at peak volume times, the Helpdesk will triage and prioritise those queries with an imminent opportunity deadline or a technical issue. Enquiries raised where information is available on the Funding Finder opportunity page and should be understood early in the application process (for example, regarding eligibility or content/remit of an opportunity) will not constitute a priority case and will be addressed as soon as possible.

Contact details

For help and advice on costings and writing your application please contact your research office in the first instance, allowing sufficient time for your organisation's submission process.

For questions related to this specific funding opportunity please contact tacklingepidemics@ukri.org

Any queries regarding the system or the submission of applications through the Funding Service should be directed to the helpdesk.

Email: support@funding-service.ukri.org
Phone: 01793 547490

Our phone lines are open:

- Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm

- Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

To help us process queries quicker, we request that users highlight the council and opportunity name in the subject title of their email query, include the application reference number, and refrain from contacting more than one mailbox at a time.

For further information on submitting an application read [How applicants use the Funding Service](#).

Additional info

Background

This funding opportunity is part of [Tackling Infections](#), one of five strategic themes included in the [UKRI strategy 2022 to 2027: transforming tomorrow together](#).

The opportunity follows Phase one: [Develop interdisciplinary research proposals to tackle epidemic threats](#), which provided [seed funding](#) to build diverse interdisciplinary teams. You do not need to be in receipt of Phase one funding to apply to Phase two.

The initiative has been developed including insights from an international workshop held by UKRI in partnership with the Academy of Medical Sciences and InterAcademy Partnership, [Interdisciplinary research in epidemic preparedness and response](#).

Research and innovation impact

Impact can be defined as the long-term intended or unintended effect research and innovation has on society, economy and the environment; to individuals, organisations, and the wider global population.

Webinar for potential applicants

We will hold a webinar on 24 April 2025 at 11:00am UK time. This will provide more information about the funding opportunity and we will answer questions submitted in advance via the registration process.

[Register for the webinar \(Zoom\)](#)

Note the webinar will be recorded for those unable to attend and linked to from this Funding finder page.

Research disruption due to COVID-19

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major interruptions and disruptions across our communities. We are committed to ensuring that individual applicants and their wider team, including partners and networks, are not penalised for any disruption to their career, such as:

- breaks and delays
- disruptive working patterns and conditions
- the loss of ongoing work
- role changes that may have been caused by the pandemic

Reviewers and panel members will be advised to consider the unequal impacts that COVID-19 related disruption might have had on the capability to deliver and career development of those individuals included in the application. They will be asked to consider the capability of the applicant and their wider team to deliver the research they are proposing.

Where disruptions have occurred, you can highlight this within your application if you wish, but there is no requirement to detail the specific circumstances that caused the disruption.

Timeline

- **27 March 2025 9:00am**
Opening date
- **24 April 2025 11:00am**
Webinar
- **19 June 2025 4:00pm**
Closing date
- **To be confirmed**
Shortlisting decision meeting
- **To be confirmed**
Funding decision meeting
- **To be confirmed**
Informed of funding decision

Guidance on good research

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<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/interdisciplinary-research-to-tackle-epidemic-threats>