



## Funding opportunity

# ESRC responsive mode: secondary data analysis round two

<b>Opportunity status:</b>	Open
<b>Funders:</b>	<a href="#">Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)</a>
<b>Funding type:</b>	Grant
<b>Maximum award:</b>	£300,000
<b>Publication date:</b>	29 September 2023
<b>Opening date:</b>	29 September 2023 9:00am UK time
<b>Closing date:</b>	Open - no closing date

Last updated: 17 October 2025 - [see all updates](#)

Apply for funding to support research that exploits existing data resources for social and economic research, created by ESRC or other agencies.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for ESRC funding.

Proposals can draw from the wider sciences, as long as the social sciences are more than 50% of the research focus and effort.

Applications are via the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service and will run as consecutive rounds with closing dates.

The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to £300,000. ESRC will fund 80% of the FEC.

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## Who can apply

Before applying for funding, check the [Eligibility of your organisation](#).

UKRI has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the new Funding Service.

For full details, visit [Eligibility as an individual](#).

## Who is eligible to apply

The project lead for this funding opportunity can be based at any organisation eligible for ESRC funding throughout the duration of the grant.

You can be at any stage of your academic career; but the project team must have a level of skills, knowledge and experience that is appropriate to the proposed project.

Applications may be submitted jointly by more than one applicant. In such cases, one person must be regarded as the project lead taking the lead responsibility for the conduct of the project and the observance of the terms and conditions. Correspondence regarding the proposal and grant will be addressed to the project lead only and, in the case of any offer letter, to their research office.

Additional applicants making a significant contribution to the conduct of the project should be identified as project co-leads.

See the ESRC [research funding guide](#) for further information on costs that can be included on ESRC grants.

## International applicants

Project leads from non-UK organisations are not eligible to apply for funding for this opportunity.

Project co-leads based in non-UK research organisations can be included in research grant applications. Read [project co-lead \(international\) policy guidance](#) for details of eligible organisations and costs.

## Business, third sector or government body project co-leads

Business, third sector or government body project co-leads based in the UK can also be included on research grant proposals as a project co-lead. Read [Including project co-leads from business, third sector or government bodies](#) for details of eligible organisations and costs.

## Resubmissions

We will not accept uninvited resubmissions of projects that have been submitted to UKRI.

Find out more about ESRC's [resubmissions policy](#).

## 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

Find out more about [equality, diversity and inclusion at UKRI](#).

## Remit

Complete and submit [the remit query form](#), if you are unsure whether your proposed research falls within the remit of ESRC.

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## What we're looking for

### Scope

This funding opportunity supports research that exploits existing data resources for social and economic research. Applicants have considerable flexibility to focus on any subject area or topic providing that it falls within ESRC's remit.

Proposed research is not required to use [ESRC-funded data resources](#), though this is encouraged.

This funding opportunity also aims to develop the capacity and skills of social sciences communities in using large and complex existing data resources. We encourage partnerships with non-academic stakeholders to ensure generation of high-impact, policy and practitioner-relevant research.

Proposals can draw from the wider sciences, but the social sciences must represent more than 50% of the research focus and effort. We will work with other research councils to ensure that applications close to remit boundaries are assessed by the most appropriate lead council. For a full list of [ESRC](#)

[disciplines](#), or if you are unsure whether your project is suitable for ESRC funding, please [check the eligibility of your proposal](#).

Ambitious and novel research proposals addressing new concepts and techniques are encouraged, as are those with the potential for significant scientific or societal and economic impact. Fresh ideas from new researchers are also encouraged, and proposals are welcomed from early career researchers.

## Duration

The duration of this award is up to two years (24 months).

## Funding available

The FEC of your project can be up to £300,000.

ESRC will fund 80% of the FEC.

## What we will fund

Funding can support:

- research projects that use qualitative or quantitative data from at least one existing UK or international data resource
- methodological development
- researchers at different career stages

## What we will not fund

Applications cannot be accepted under this funding opportunity solely for:

- primary data collection
- unspecified research work
- research that will have been carried out before the grant start date
- writing up previous research
- literature surveys
- conference attendance, not related to a project
- travel for general study
- expeditions
- requests to hold conferences, workshops or seminars where these constitute the primary project component
- preparation of books and publications
- preparation and production of materials such as curriculum materials and software development where these constitute the primary project component

Associated studentships cannot be funded under this funding opportunity.

## Highlight notice

There is currently a highlight notice in operation for this funding opportunity, which means in addition to activity from any disciplines and on any topics in ESRC's remit, we particularly welcome applications in the area of Artificial Intelligence for social science, as outlined below.

The purpose of the highlight notice is purely to stimulate applications in a particular area. Applications submitted under the highlight notice will be assessed in the same way as (and alongside) other applications submitted to this funding opportunity using the standard responsive mode assessment criteria. There is no additional or ring-fenced funding for highlight applications, and applicants are not required to identify their application as being in the area of the highlight notice.

### Artificial Intelligence for Social Science

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies can provide solutions to many challenges that we face – from detecting fraud to tackling misinformation and diagnosing illness. Advances in AI are opening new research frontiers in economics and social science. The rapid expansion in tasks that can be performed by machine-learning is enhancing capability for analysis of vast quantities of data – including new forms of data – yielding new insights about society, behaviour and the economy.

ESRC invites applications under this highlight notice which focus on the innovative use of AI-powered research tools to address a real-world social or economic issue. Specifically, we welcome applications which harness cutting-edge developments in areas such as deep learning, neural networks, and generative AI to build on conventional research methods.

Areas of application where ESRC has a strategic interest include: digital trace or smart data; modelling complex economic and social systems; and AI-driven evidence synthesis.

Applicants are encouraged to leverage existing research infrastructure (for example, [ADR UK](#), [Smart Data Research UK](#), [Longitudinal Studies](#), [Understanding Society](#), [UK Data Service](#)) where relevant, to unlock the transformative potential of AI.

Applicants proposing to use administrative datasets are encouraged to contact the ADR UK Strategic Hub to discuss the feasibility of their proposed approach by emailing [hub@adruk.org](mailto:hub@adruk.org).

ESRC is using the definition of AI set out in the UK Science and Technology Framework: 'machines that perform tasks normally performed by human intelligence, especially when the machines learn from data how to do those tasks.' Read [the UK Science and Technology Framework – GOV.UK](#)

UKRI recognises the strategic importance to the UK of the critical technologies set out in the UK Science and Technology Framework. This highlight notice on AI is part of a cross-UKRI initiative to encourage applications to responsive mode funding opportunities that are associated with the advancement, development, and deployment of these technologies.

This highlight notice was announced in April 2024.

ESRC will give notice before closing this highlight notice opportunity.

## 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](#).

## International collaboration

If your application includes international applicants, project partners or collaborators, visit [UKRI's trusted research and innovation](#) for more information on effective international collaboration.

Find out about [getting funding for international collaboration](#).

## ESRC data infrastructure

ESRC supports a range of data infrastructure. Where relevant, we encourage applicants to consider whether the use of these resources could add value to the project. See [facilities and resources](#) for information on finding and using ESRC datasets which are available across the UK.

Where relevant, details of datasets and infrastructure to be used in your project should be given in the Facilities section.

## New datasets

Primary data collection will not be funded under this funding opportunity. However, where new datasets are created by the linkage of existing resources (which is permissible under this funding opportunity), applicants are required to include a data management plan which discusses how this data will be stored and shared.

## Data requirements

ESRC recognises the importance of data quality and provenance. Data generated by ESRC-funded research must be well-managed by the grant holder to enable their data to be exploited to the maximum potential for further research. See our [research data policy](#) for details and further information on [data requirements](#). The requirements of the research data policy are a condition of ESRC research funding.

Where relevant, details on data management and sharing should be provided in the Data management and sharing section. See [the importance of managing and sharing data](#) and [content for inclusion in a data management plan](#) on the UK Data Service (UKDS) website for further guidance. We expect applicants to provide a summary of the points provided. The UKDS will be pleased to advise applicants on the availability of data within the academic community and provide advice on data deposit requirements. Email: [datasharing@ukdataservice.ac.uk](mailto:datasharing@ukdataservice.ac.uk)

## Impact, innovation and interdisciplinarity

We expect applicants to consider the potential [scientific, societal and economic impacts of their research](#). Outputs, dissemination and impact are a key part of the criteria for most peer review and assessment processes. We also encourage applications that demonstrate [innovation and interdisciplinarity](#) (research combining approaches from more than one discipline).

## Knowledge exchange and collaboration

We are committed to knowledge exchange and encouraging collaboration between researchers and the private, public and civil society sectors. Collaborative working benefits both the researchers and the individuals/organisations involved.

Through collaboration, partners learn about each other's expertise, share knowledge and gain an appreciation of different professional cultures. Collaborative activity can therefore lead to a better understanding of the ways that academic research can add value and offer insights to key issues of concern for policy and practice.

Knowledge exchange should not be treated as an 'add-on' at the end of a project but considered before the start and built into a project.

## Equitable partnership principles

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

Researchers should also follow the 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 low and middle-income countries (LMICs), while maintaining incentives 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](#).

## Research ethics

ESRC requires that the research we support is designed and conducted in such a way that it meets ethical principles and is subject to proper professional and institutional oversight in terms of research governance. We have agreed a framework for research ethics that all submitted proposals must comply with. Read [further details about the framework for research ethics](#) and guidance on compliance.

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## How to apply

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.

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

### To apply:

Select 'Start application' near the beginning of this Funding finder page:

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](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org)
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.

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

## Deadline

There is no deadline for the submission of applications to this opportunity. However, due to systems requirements a closing date will appear on the Funding Service.

You should apply when your application is ready for submission and not wait for a closing date. ESRC will continue to initiate the assessment process once an application is received, ensuring applicants receive a timely decision. ESRC will commit to holding regular decision points.

## Personal data

### Processing personal data

As part of UKRI, we 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](#).

### Institutional matched funding

There is no requirement for matched funding from the institutions hosting the project lead, project co-leads or other staff employed on the application, beyond the standard 20% FEC. Expert reviewers and panels assessing UKRI funding applications must not consider levels of institutional matched funding as a factor on which to base recommendations. Direct and in-kind contributions from third party project partners are encouraged.

This policy does not remove the need for support from host organisations who must provide the necessary research environment and infrastructure for award-specific activities funded by UKRI. For example, research facilities, training and development of staff.

### Publication of outcomes

As part of UKRI, we will publish the outcomes of this funding opportunity at [What ESRC has funded](#).

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 may make this summary publicly available on external-facing websites, so 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

## 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))
- specialist
- grant manager
- professional enabling staff
- research and innovation associate
- technician
- visiting researcher

Only list one individual as project lead.

Find out more about [UKRI's new grant roles](#).

## Vision

Word limit: 500

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

Within the Vision section we also expect you to:

- consider potential beneficiaries and users of the proposed research, including the relevance of the research to these beneficiaries
- indicate the expected outputs; both academic and those orientated to users

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant:

- use images sparingly and only to convey important information that cannot easily be put into words
- insert each new image onto a new line
- provide a descriptive legend for each image immediately underneath it (this counts towards your word limit)
- files must be smaller than 8MB and in JPEG, JPG, JPE, JFI, JIF, JFIF, PNG, GIF, BMP or WEBP format

## Approach

Word limit: 2,500

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 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 (if applicable)
- summarises the previous work and describes how this will be built upon and progressed (if applicable)
- will maximise translation of outputs into outcomes and impacts
- describes how your, and if applicable your team's, research environment (in terms of the place and relevance to the project) will contribute to the success of the work

Within the Approach section we also expect you to:

- clearly describe both the framework and specific analysis methods proposed and explain the reasons for their choice. You should particularly mention any innovation in this or how different methodologies or methods may be combined
- explain what steps you will take to provide opportunities for users to benefit from your research, and to ensure that your research has maximum economic and societal impact

All applicants planning to generate data as part of their grant must complete the separate Data management and sharing question.

A list of references used to support your application can be added in the References question.

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant:

- use images sparingly and only to convey important information that cannot easily be put into words
- insert each new image onto a new line
- provide a descriptive legend for each image immediately underneath it (this counts towards your word limit)
- files must be smaller than 8MB and in JPEG, JPG, JPE, JFI, JIF, JFIF, PNG, GIF, BMP or WEBP format

## Applicant and team capability to deliver

Word limit: 1,500

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

### What the assessors are looking for in your response

Evidence of how you, and if relevant your team, have:

- 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

The word count for this section is 1,500 words, 1,000 words to be used for R4RI modules 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

## 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.

UKRI has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the new Funding Service.

For full details, see [Eligibility as an individual](#).

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant:

- use images sparingly and only to convey important information that cannot easily be put into words
- insert each new image onto a new line
- provide a descriptive legend for each image immediately underneath it (this counts towards your word limit)
- files must be smaller than 8MB and in JPEG, JPG, JPE, JFI, JIF, JFIF, PNG, GIF, BMP or WEBP format

## 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

All proposals have to comply with the [ESRC framework for research ethics](#) which includes guidance for applicants and links to related web resources.

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.

If you are generating data as part of your project, you should complete the Data management and sharing question and should cover ethical considerations relating to data in your response.

If you are not generating data and have not completed the Data management and sharing question you should address any legal or ethical considerations relating to your use of data here.

Additional sub-questions (to be answered only if appropriate) relating to research involving:

- animals
- human participants
- genetically modified organisms

You may demonstrate elements of your responses in visual form if relevant:

- use images sparingly and only to convey important information that cannot easily be put into words
- insert each new image onto a new line
- provide a descriptive legend for each image immediately underneath it (this counts towards your word limit)
- files must be smaller than 8MB and in JPEG, JPG, JPE, JFI, JIF, JFIF, PNG, GIF, BMP or WEBP format

## 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, page 14](#).

Ensure all named applicants in the UK and overseas are aware of this requirement. 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.

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, select, download, and complete the relevant Word checklist or checklists from this list:

- [Additional questions on the use of rodents overseas \(DOCX, 49.1KB\)](#)
- [Additional questions on the use of rabbits overseas \(DOCX, 49.2KB\)](#)
- [Additional questions on the use of sheep overseas \(DOCX, 50.9KB\)](#)
- [Additional questions on the use of goats overseas \(DOCX, 47.3KB\)](#)
- [Additional questions on the use of pigs overseas \(DOCX, 51.4KB\)](#)
- [Additional questions on the use of cattle overseas \(DOCX, 57.0KB\)](#)
- [Additional questions on the use of \*Xenopus laevis\* and \*Xenopus tropicalis\* overseas \(DOCX, 57.3KB\)](#)

Save as a PDF. If you use more than one checklist, save it as a single 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.

## 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 £25,000
- 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'

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

For detailed guidance on eligible costs please see the [ESRC research funding guide](#).

## Primary discipline classification

Word limit: 5

Enter the primary discipline for this project

### **What the assessors are looking for in your response**

Select one primary area of research from the list of social disciplines below and enter into the text field:

- area studies
- demography
- development studies
- economics
- education
- environmental planning
- history
- human geography
- law and legal studies
- linguistics
- management and business studies
- political science and international studies

- psychology
- science and technology studies
- social anthropology
- social policy
- social work
- sociology
- tools, technologies and methods

This information is used to determine eligibility for ESRC funding and to assist in the selection of appropriate reviewers.

## 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 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, including partners based in the EU.

Add the following project partner details:

- the organisation name and address (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 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 partner section (if applicable).

### **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'.

Each 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
- be no more than one A4 page in length

Save letters or emails of support from each partner in a single PDF no bigger than 8MB. Unless specially requested, please do not include any sensitive personal data within the attachment.

For the file name, use the unique Funding Service number the system gives you when you create an application, followed by the words 'Project partner'.

If the attachment does not meet these requirements, the application will be rejected.

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 contributions template.

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

Do not provide letters of support from host and project co-leads' research organisations.

## Data management and sharing

Word limit: 500

How will you manage and share data generated through the proposed work?

### **What the assessors are looking for in your response**

Demonstrate that you have designed your proposed work so that you can:

- appropriately manage and share data in accordance with [ESRC's research data policy](#) and [ESRC framework for research ethics](#) (if applicable)

Within the Data management and sharing section we also expect you to:

- plan [for the research through the life cycle of the award](#) until data is accepted for archiving by the UK Data Service (UKDS) or a responsible data repository

- demonstrate compliance with [ESRC's research data policy](#) and [ESRC framework for research ethics](#). This should include confirmation that existing datasets have been reviewed and why currently available datasets are inadequate for the proposed research
- cover any legal and ethical considerations of collecting, releasing or storing the data, including consent, confidentiality, anonymisation, security and other ethical issues
- include any challenges to data sharing (for example, copyright or data confidentiality), with possible solutions discussed to optimise data sharing

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

## Facilities

Word limit: 250

Does your proposed work 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 (including access to, and use of data infrastructure), 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. ESRC encourages the use of secondary and linked datasets.

For each requested facility you will need to provide the:

- name of facility, copied and pasted from the [facility information list \(DOCX, 35KB\)](#)
- proposed usage or costs, or costs per unit where indicated on the facility information list
- confirmation you have their agreement where required

If you will not need to use a facility, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

## References

Word limit: 1,000

List the references you have used to support your application.

### **What the assessors are looking for in your response**

Include all references in this section, not in the rest of the application questions.

You should not include any other information in this section.

We advise you not to include hyperlinks, as assessors are not obliged to access the information they lead to or consider it in their assessment of your application.

If linking to web resources, to maintain the information's integrity, include persistent identifiers (such as digital object identifiers) where possible.

You must not include links to web resources to extend your application.

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## How we will assess your application

### Peer 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 Funding Service. Research councils 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.

### Application Sift and Applicant Response

Applications receiving sufficiently supportive reviewers' comments will be invited to respond to reviewers' comments. You will be given 14 calendar days to provide a response or ten working days if longer. Applications which do not receive sufficiently supportive reviewers' comments will normally be rejected at this stage.

### Panel

Following peer review, we will invite experts to use the evidence provided by reviewers and your applicant response to assess the quality of your application and rank it alongside other applications after which the panel will make a funding recommendation.

ESRC will make the final funding decision.

### Timescale

You should apply when your application is ready for submission and not wait for a closing date. We will be holding regular decision points and will continue to initiate the assessment process once an application is received, ensuring you receive a timely decision.

## Feedback

The form of feedback provided to applicants is based on the point in the assessment journey where a decision is made, and the type of assessment used.

Applications submitted to opportunities that use expert review followed by panels, such as our responsive mode opportunities, will receive expert reviewer comments as feedback. Additional feedback will not be available. For applications that proceed to panel, the score range will be available on our website once the decisions for the opportunity have been processed fully.

## 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](#).

## Assessment criteria

The assessment areas we will use are:

- vision
- approach
- data management and sharing
- applicant and team capability to deliver
- ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)
- resources and cost justification

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

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## 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 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 proposal 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 [esrcenquiries@esrc.ukri.org](mailto:esrcenquiries@esrc.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](mailto: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.

You can also find information on submitting an application here: [Improving your funding experience](#)

## Sensitive information

If you or a core team member need to tell us something you wish to remain confidential, email the Funding Service helpdesk on [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.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](#).

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## Additional info

### Global Talent visa

Fellowship holders are eligible for a [Global Talent visa](#) under the 'exceptional promise' category for future research leaders.

### 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.

### Supporting documents

[Equality impact assessment \(PDF, 254KB\)](#)

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## Updates

**17 October 2025**

Under 'How to apply' updated 'Institutional matched funding' section.

**19 September 2025**

Institutional matched funding information added in 'How to apply' section.

**8 May 2025**

Content updated under the 'Highlight notice' heading in the 'What we're looking for' section, under the 'Deadline' heading in the 'How to apply' section and under the 'Feedback' heading in the 'How we will assess your application' section.

**10 April 2025**

ESRC email address updated in the 'Contact details' section.

**1 April 2025**

Under 'How to apply' updated Resources and cost justification section, Under 'How we will assess your application' section updated the Timescale section.

**21 January 2025**

New sentence added under the 'Project partners' heading in the 'How to apply' section: Project partners may be in industry, academia, third sector or government organisations in the UK or overseas, including partners based in the EU.

**21 June 2024**

Content updated under the 'Timescale' heading in the 'How we will assess your application' section.

## Guidance on good research

[Good research resource hub](#)

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<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/esrc-responsive-mode-secondary-data-analysis-round-two>