UK Research and Innovation

UKRI Cross Research Council Responsive Mode pilot scheme Round 2

September 2024

Content

1 Introduction

Introductions, background and details of the scheme, including what we are looking for in the context of other opportunities within UKRI

2 Interdisciplinary Research

What we mean by interdisciplinary research for this scheme, including case studies from round 1 and what made them successful

3 Who can apply and what you can apply for

Covering aspects of the outline application process, including demand management, eligibility and roles, and what costs we fund

4 How to apply and assessment of your application

Overview of the application and assessment process, including the assessment questions and criteria

5 Important dates and further resources

UK Research and Innovation

Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode Team

Speakers and panellists today

Alex Amey
Strategic Lead

Hilary McNeill
Senior Programme Manager

Jenny Morris
Senior Programme Manager

Steve Meader
Director of Future Leaders Fellowships

Samantha Aspinall
Seconded from Horizon Institute, University of Leeds

Team members

Adam Woodall
Operational Lead

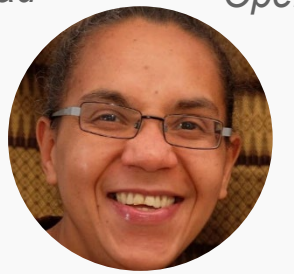
Emma Gerster
Operational Lead

Gemma Lupton-Weeks
Operational Lead

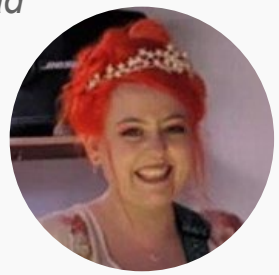
UK Research and Innovation

Michala Pulley
Officer

Montana Walcott
Officer



Caroline Parkes
Admin



Joey Tuffin
Admin

Background to the scheme

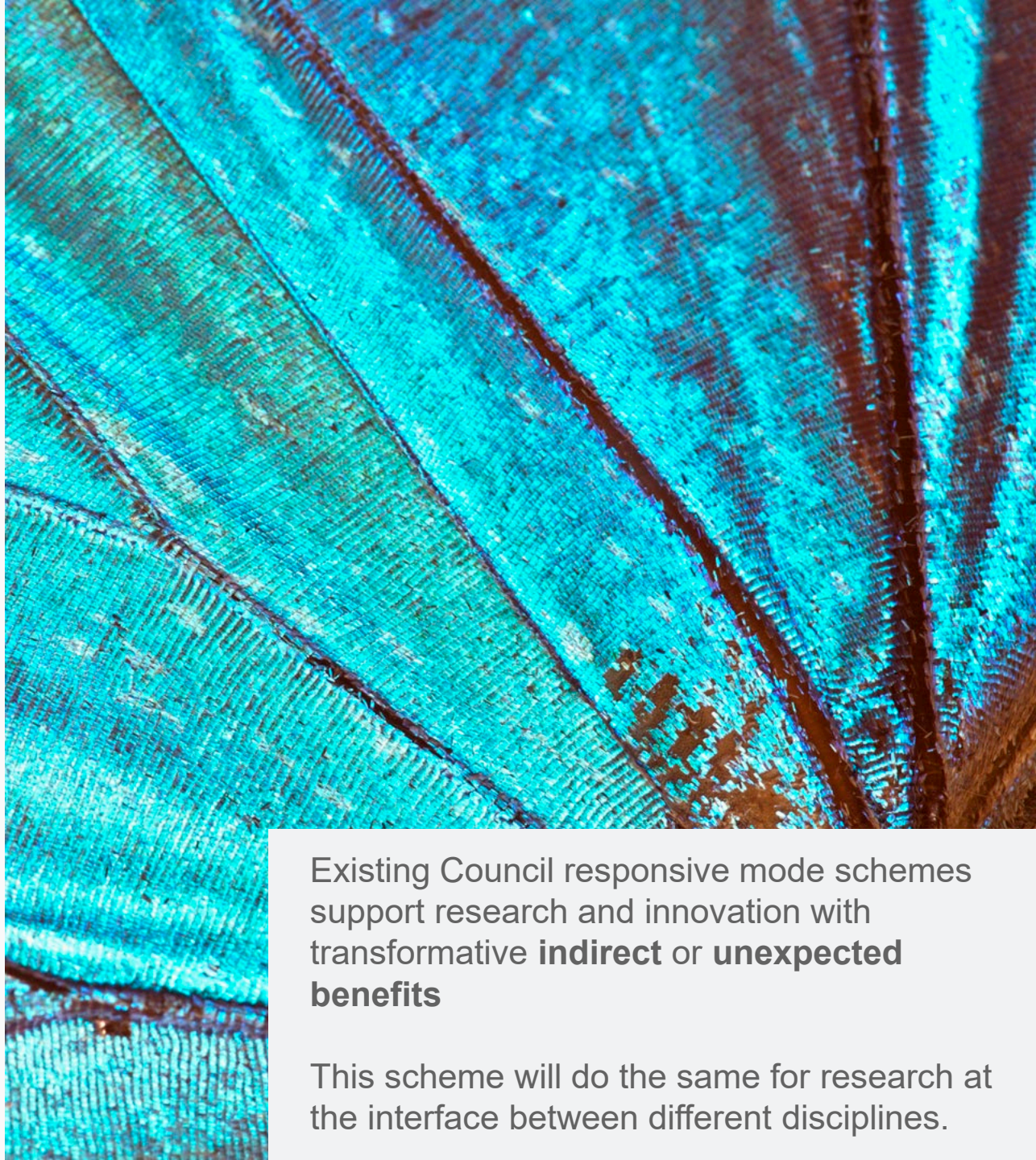
UKRI already funds interdisciplinary research through:

- strategic or challenge led programmes involving multiple Councils
- existing Research Council responsive mode schemes within a single council remit (e.g. neuroscience and mental health; engineering and chemistry)
- across council remit boundaries through the Cross-Council Remit Agreement

However, sometimes it is difficult to find a ‘home’ research council to which an applicant can submit their proposal

Address a gap in UKRI’s current provision identified by the 2016 Nurse Review and the 2022 Grant Review

UK Research and Innovation



Existing Council responsive mode schemes support research and innovation with transformative **indirect** or **unexpected benefits**

This scheme will do the same for research at the interface between different disciplines.

Cross Research Council Responsive Mode pilot scheme

The scheme is aimed at new interdisciplinary ideas emerging from the research community.

It will support projects that **transcend, combine or significantly span disciplines**, involving different knowledge and methodological spheres.

Key requirement: Applications must be interdisciplinary and must cross the remit boundaries of at least two councils.

The pilot scheme will allow us to assess demand and to test and refine our processes.

Key facts:

- **Total scheme budget for the pilot** = £65m
- **Funding over 2 rounds**
- **Award value:** between £200k and up to £1.2 m FEC*
- **Duration:** up to 2 years**
- **Expected number of awards per round**: ~36

UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council
UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
UKRI Economic and Social Research Council
UKRI Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
UKRI Medical Research Council
UKRI Natural Environment Research Council
UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council

*UKRI will fund 80% of the full economic cost (FEC) of your project. There are exceptions for some costs and the to exceed the maximum budget, which will be covered in later slides.
**Requests to delay start dates can be considered to ensure access to UKRI-supported facilities

Quotes from R1 full stage applicants on benefits of the CRCRM scheme

*I found the focus on interdisciplinary **very supportive of my work**, it allowed me to explain why and how I was using a combination of methods and how these supported each other to solve the focal challenge*

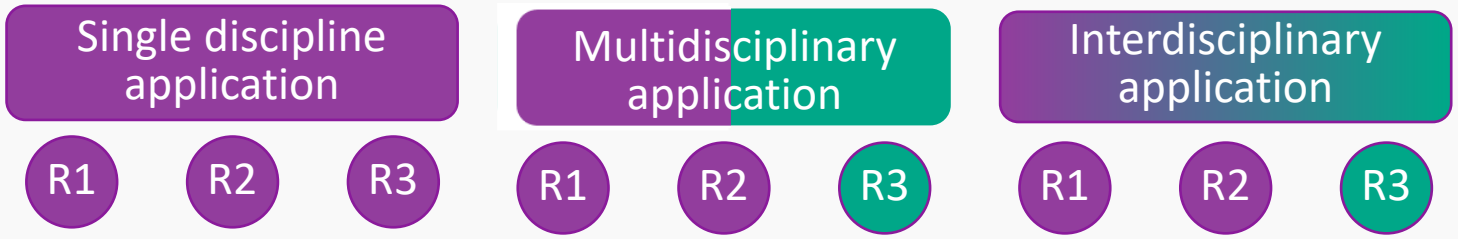
*I was able to spend **more time thinking about interdisciplinary benefits** and exploit them in the proposal.*

*Freedom to **authentically describe the idea and way of working** that was needed, rather than trying to have to force-align things with a dominant council*

*This call gave us an opportunity to develop ideas **beyond what would ever be funded by single research councils***

UK Research and Innovation

Assessing Interdisciplinary Research



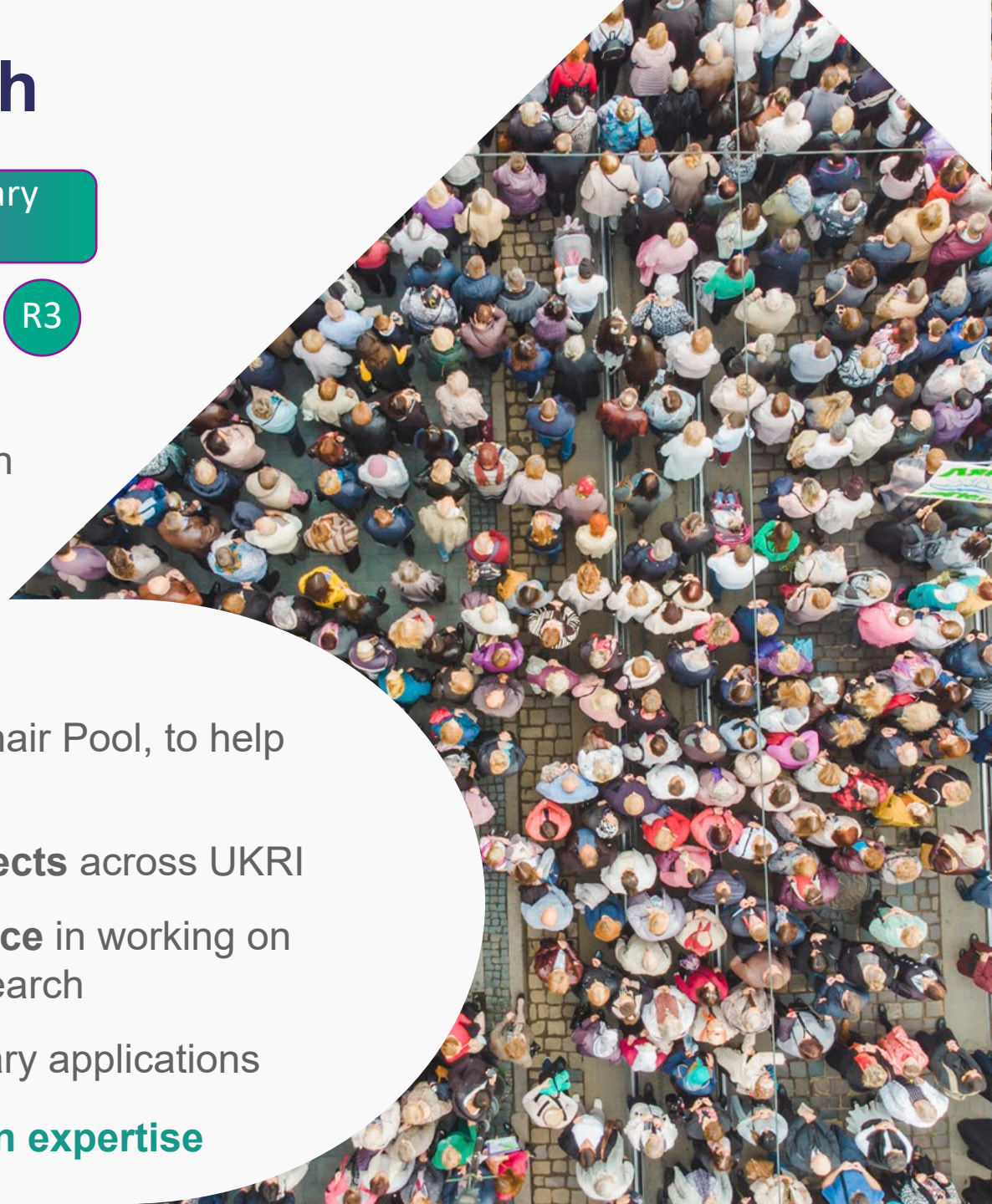
Assessment college only assessment

- Prevents ‘death by 1000 cuts’ peer review with focus only on specific discipline
- Reduces community written peer review burden

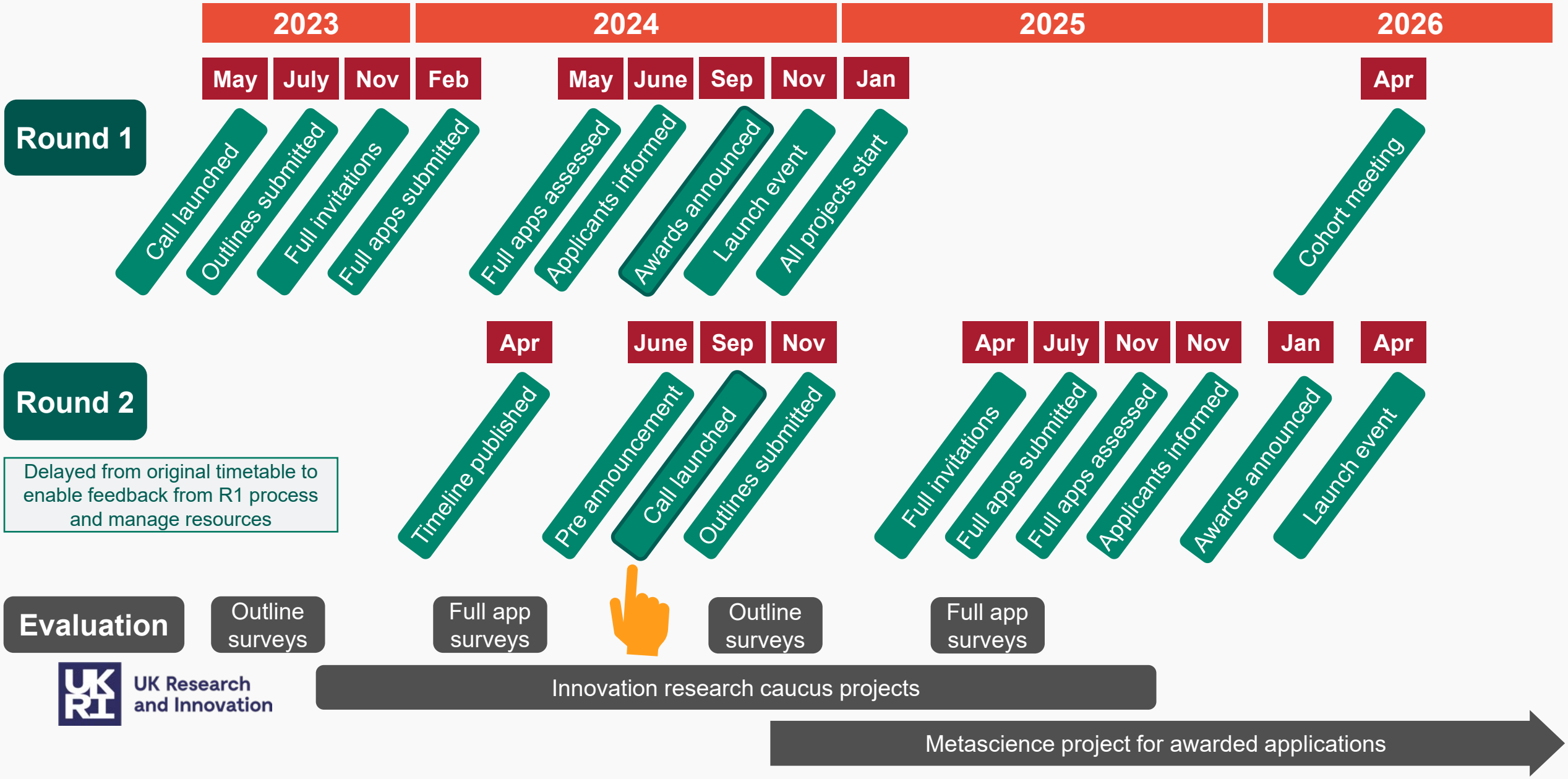
Interdisciplinary Assessment College

- Appointed c300 members, including c70 members of the Chair Pool, to help respond to potential demand and breadth of applications
- Membership **reflects the breadth of disciplines and subjects** across UKRI
- Interdisciplinary experts who have a **high level of experience** in working on interdisciplinary research or supporting interdisciplinary research
- **Trained on scheme aims** and how to assess interdisciplinary applications

Potential to refresh the college to fill gaps in expertise



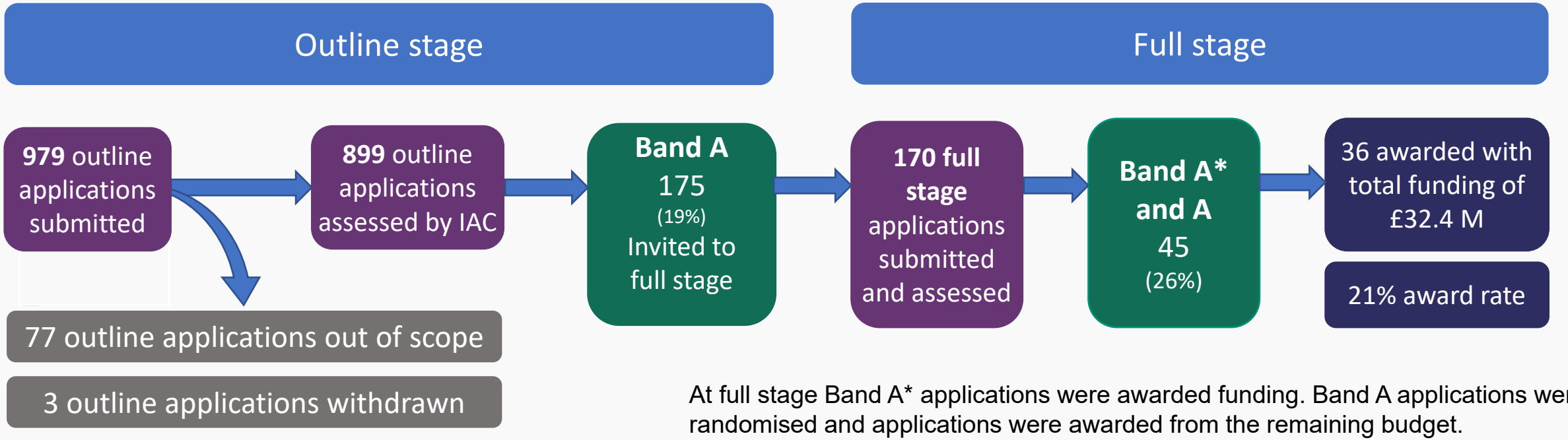
Where are we in pilot scheme - timelines



Round 1 outcomes summary

Band	Definition
A*	These applications are judged to have addressed all of the assessment criteria and are of the highest standards and obvious added value from a CRCRM award. **They are of exceptional or outstanding quality and can be clearly distinguished from the other applications. They are a top priority for the panel for funding.**
A	These applications are judged to have addressed all of the assessment criteria and show evidence of the highest standards and obvious added value from a CRCRM award. **They are a priority for funding.**

The full range of banding definitions are provided in the guidance document



At full stage Band A* applications were awarded funding. Band A applications were randomised and applications were awarded from the remaining budget.

2. What do we mean by Interdisciplinary Research?

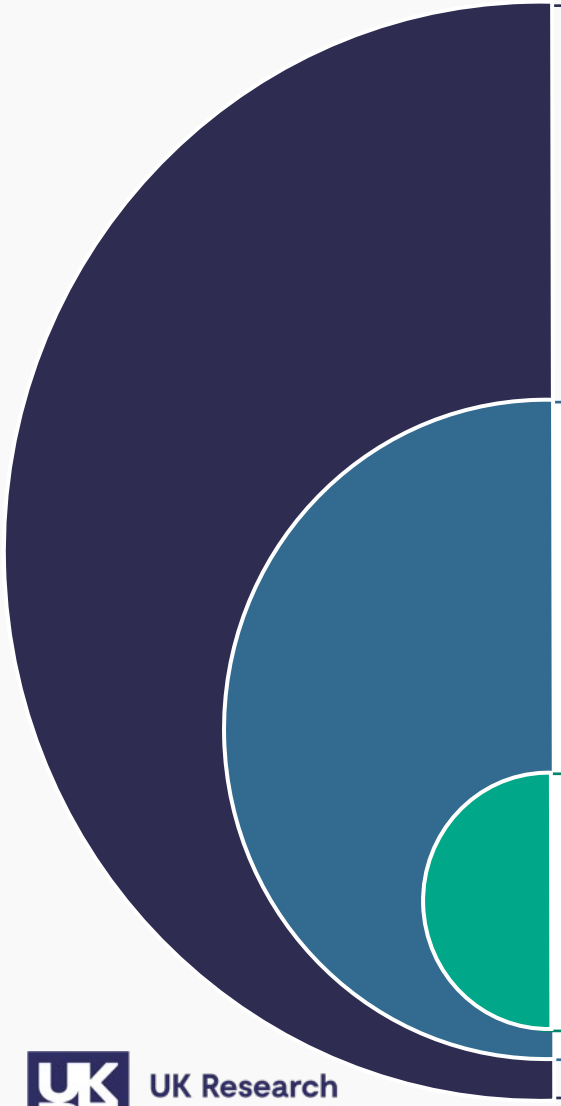
Using definition from the REF 2021 Interdisciplinary Advisory Panel final report:

"Interdisciplinary research is understood to achieve outcomes (including new approaches) that could not be achieved within the framework of a single discipline. Interdisciplinary research features significant interaction between two or more disciplines and / or moves beyond established disciplinary foundations in applying or integrating research approaches from other disciplines"

Video guidance available here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17cqurocESM&t=3s

UK Research and Innovation

So what does exceptional interdisciplinary research look like?



Integration of disciplines

- Are the disciplines integrated or are they delivered as separate work packages?
- What is being integrated?
- Why is an integrative approach necessary?
- How will it be integrated – from both intellectual and organisational standpoints?

Reciprocal Benefits

- What is the lasting impact on each of the contributing disciplines?
- Can you demonstrate that contributing disciplines have gained something significant from the collaboration?
- “Reciprocity” does not necessarily imply equal benefits in a quantitative sense

Co-creation/ Co Design

- Have all disciplines been involved from the start?
- Have all disciplines inputted to the research design?
- Is there an unbalanced hierarchy across the disciplines?

UK Research and Innovation

Elements of good practice

Good interdisciplinary proposals will explicitly state what the applicants mean by integration (for example, reaching consensus, relating different viewpoints) and why this is the adequate kind of integration given the project's purpose

Poor proposals will see integration as something that happens by itself, as a natural by-product of scholars working on the same topic

UK Research and Innovation

(Pohl, 2023)

What is in scope for this scheme

Interdisciplinary research

- significant interaction between disciplines and / or moves beyond established disciplinary foundations in applying or integrating research approaches from other disciplines
- co-creation of project framework
- reciprocal research benefits for all the disciplines involved
- integration of disciplines across and within work packages

Multidisciplinary research

- researchers work independently within their disciplines
- little or no integration of disciplines
- can result in distinct outputs.
- work packages are discrete and discipline specific rather than integrating disciplinary knowledge
- some disciplines may not need to be included from the start and not involved in the project framing or the research design
- clear asymmetries of leadership within the project due to the project objectives.

Transdisciplinary research (could be part of interdisciplinary research but not eligible on its own)

Often defined as research that transgresses boundaries between disciplinary knowledge or integrates different bodies of knowledge and actively co-creates knowledge between academic and societal partners such as policy makers or business.

Existing UKRI opportunities for interdisciplinary research

The existing research council responsive mode schemes remain open for a wide range of interdisciplinary research applications, both within and across council boundaries through the Cross-Council Remit Agreement.

Interdisciplinary research applications that fall within a single research council boundary are ineligible for this scheme.

The following slide illustrates what is eligible for the CRCRM scheme and what should go to an individual research council responsive mode scheme.

You should carefully consider whether your proposal meets the criteria for this new scheme, or if it would fit existing council led responsive mode funding opportunities. A small proportion of applications might be suitable for both. You must determine which scheme to make your submission to.

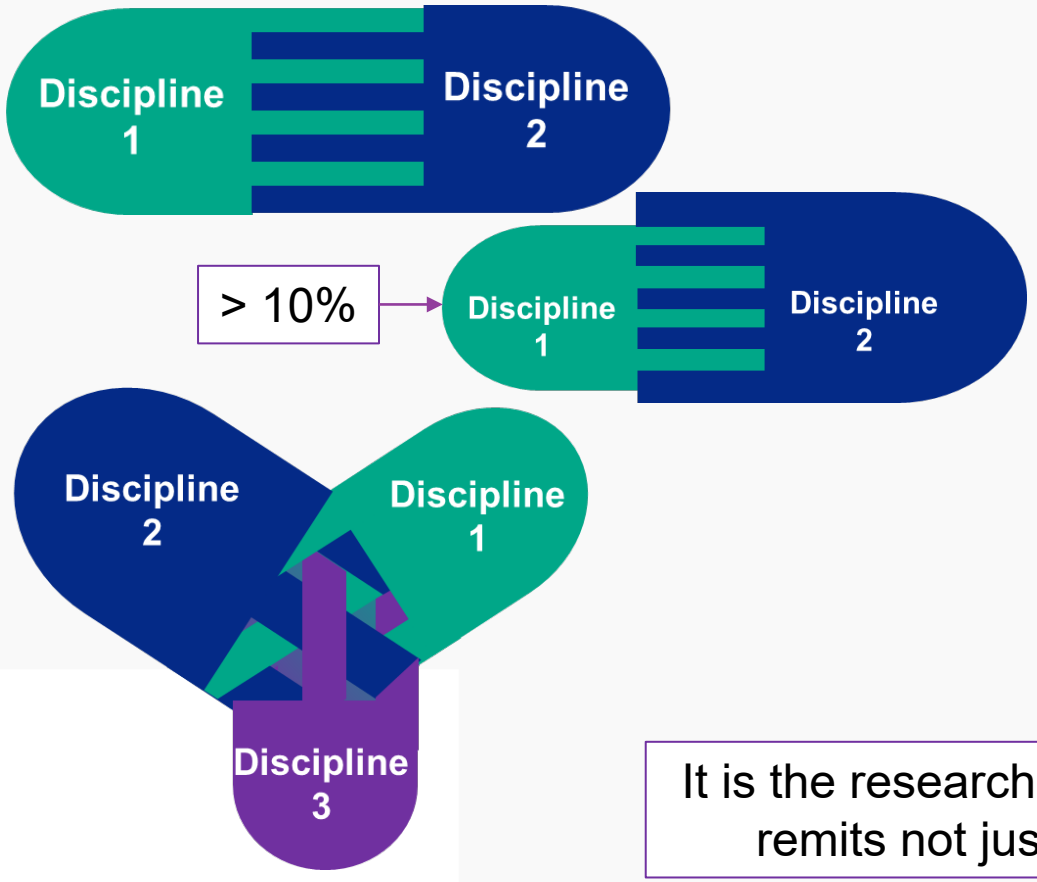
Duplicate applications are not permitted.

UK Research and Innovation

What is in scope for CRCRM and what should go through single councils

In Scope

Interdisciplinary research with disciplines from 2 or more research councils
Disciplines do not need to be equal



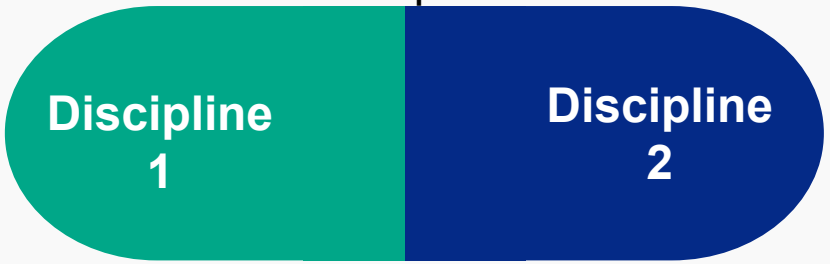
Council A

Council B

Council C

Out of Scope

Interdisciplinary research but disciplines are covered by remit of 1 council – Single Council Responsive Mode



Project with disciplines from 2 or more research councils but is multidisciplinary – Cross Council Remit Agreement

It is the research that needs to cross research council remits not just the expertise of the researchers

Common themes from outline assessments

Interdisciplinarity and research team

- Reciprocal benefits were not obvious or not sufficiently explained
- Co-creation/co-design was not outlined and/or the importance in addressing the research challenge
- Perspectives of different disciplines often absent
- Multidisciplinary not interdisciplinary
  - A tool was being applied from one discipline to another but not being developed itself (AI)
  - The disciplinary approach was siloed – no integration of disciplines or reciprocal benefits to the different disciplines
- Challenges to interdisciplinary working were not addressed.

Advice

- Do not overcomplicate the project by unnecessarily involving disciplines from more research council remits.
- Allow sufficient time to work with colleagues to ensure all co-applicants are fully involved in the creation of the application

UK Research and Innovation

Full feedback published on scheme webpage

Quotes from R1 full stage applicants on their different approaches to writing CRCRM applications

*The amount of time it took to consult with all stakeholders, identify times where everyone could meet/get together, it **took longer** to get feedback from all Co-leads because of the large number of people involved across disciplines*

***More time** needed to collaboratively develop the proposal with all disciplines (rather than predominantly project lead suggesting idea and writing)*

*A lot more voices were incorporated into the proposal, which required **more iterations** compared to an individual UKRI bid, where typically the PI leads the writing process*

*This required **many in-person meetings**, so we spent a lot more time compared to a bog-standard application*

*A lot more conversations with my colleagues, which I **really enjoyed** and **heightened the quality of the science***

*differences in language and terminology across disciplines that need to be integrated into the proposal. However, this is not a negative at all and it was **a very rewarding exercise***

*The approach to developing and writing the application was more collaborative and interdisciplinary than my previous experience, which **was very welcome!”***

*I had to think more carefully about interdisciplinary linkages, but this was **actually helpful***

UK Research and Innovation

Examples of successful projects from round 1

A novel snake-like robot to treat bile duct cancer (Professor Guru Aithal, University of Nottingham plus 18 Co-Leads from University of Nottingham and Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust)

Brings together experts in medicine, endoscopy, engineering, robotics, physics, imaging, bioelectrics and genomics to improve accurate diagnosis and treatment of bile duct cancer. The technology will be used to navigate the narrow bile duct and capture images to inform the design of a 3D map, develop stents loaded with nanoparticles into the bile duct to be delivered and activated using wireless electrical fields to stimulate the death of cancer cells.

Converting historical knowledge into sustainable ocean management (Dr Alec Moore plus 2 Co-Leads, Bangor University)

Bringing together historians and marine scientists to use historical sources (17th to the early 20th centuries) to convert historical observations into knowledge that will help to identify ecologically important herring spawning areas and understand the long-term variations in spawning activity in response to changing climates.

Microbes that listen: Sono-bio technology for persistent organic pollutants (Dr Madeleine Bussemaker plus 3 Co-Leads, University of Surrey)

Combining ultrasound and microorganisms to develop a novel hybrid technology for treatment of persistent organic pollutants - two types of synthetic chemicals used in consumer products; per-and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS). The combined sono-bio technology will aim to deliver the complete, sustainable and efficient treatment.

Examples of successful projects from round 1

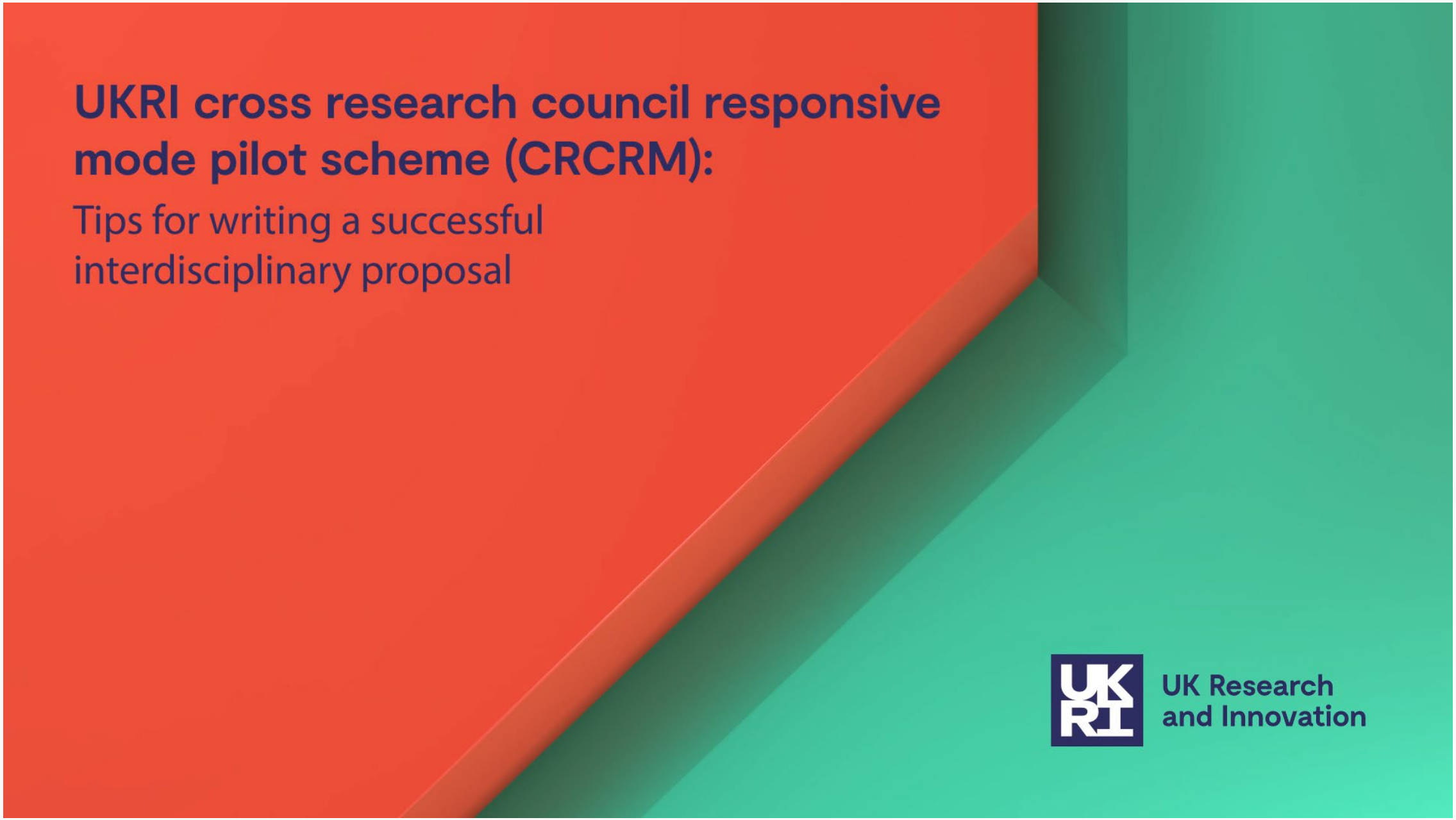
A tool to predict the age-appropriateness of children's media (Tim Smith, University of the Arts London plus 4 Co-Leads from University of the Arts London, Birkbeck University of London, Arts University Bournemouth, Queen Mary University of London)

A team of researchers from children's animation practice, media theory, developmental psychology, neuroscience and artificial intelligence aim to build an AI tool that can predict a video clip's potential impact on children's ability to learn, understand and develop self-control. The AI tool will be used to check whether content is developmentally appropriate, aiding in the creation of higher-quality content and allowing parents to make more informed decisions on content selection.

An AI powered Digital Twin for Sustainable Beef Farming (Xiao Ma, Nottingham Trent University plus 6 Co-Leads from Royal Holloway, University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University, University of Sheffield, University of Lincoln)

Bringing together environmental sciences, biological sciences, computer sciences and management sciences create an AI powered digital twin to model the whole supply chain of beef farming practices to empower decision making in beef farming practices to improve productivity, quality, animal welfare and environmental impact.

Perspectives from Successful applicants



3. Who can apply and what you can apply for

UK Research and Innovation

Who can apply

- You can apply as an individual or consortium, based in a single institute or across several institutions.
- You can only be a project lead on one application to this round of the pilot scheme.
- You may be involved in other applications to this round, providing you have the capacity to meet these commitments.

Equality diversity and inclusion

- We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers. We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances.
- We encourage you to follow the principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and the Technician Commitment.
- UKRI can offer disability and accessibility support for UKRI applicants and grant holders during the application and assessment process if required.

UK Research and Innovation

Organisation eligibility and institutional caps

Research grants are open to applicants from organisations normally eligible for funding from the UKRI Research Councils, including:

- UK higher education institutions
- research council institutes
- UKRI approved independent research organisations (IROs)
- public sector research establishments (PSREs)

Any organisation that does not meet normal eligibility for funding, such as businesses or charities, can be included as project partners.

It is the responsibility of the lead organisation to ensure that all collaborating organisations are eligible

Due to high demand, for round 2 we have introduced caps to the number of applications that can be submitted by each organisation. **Speak to your organisation's research office at an early stage** to check what their internal processes and requirements are.

UK Research and Innovation

Grant roles and eligibility

Project leads and co-leads from the UK

Responsible for the intellectual leadership and overall management of the project.

Eligibility:

- usually have at least postgraduate degree, although expect most will have a PhD or equivalent
- be a researcher based in the UK and employed by an eligible research organisation*
- have a contract of employment at lecturer level or equivalent** that extends beyond the duration of the proposed grant (or, if not employed, a formal non-salaried arrangement), or assurance that if the proposal is successful a pre-existing contract of employment will be extended beyond the end date of the grant

UK Research and Innovation

*See guidance document for exceptions

**equivalent includes applicants who are on a similar grade as lecturer but are on a research pathway at a university or are staff at a research institute

Grant roles and eligibility

International project co-leads

International project co-leads can be part of the team where they can make a significant intellectual contribution to the design and delivery of the project. They cannot be a project lead.

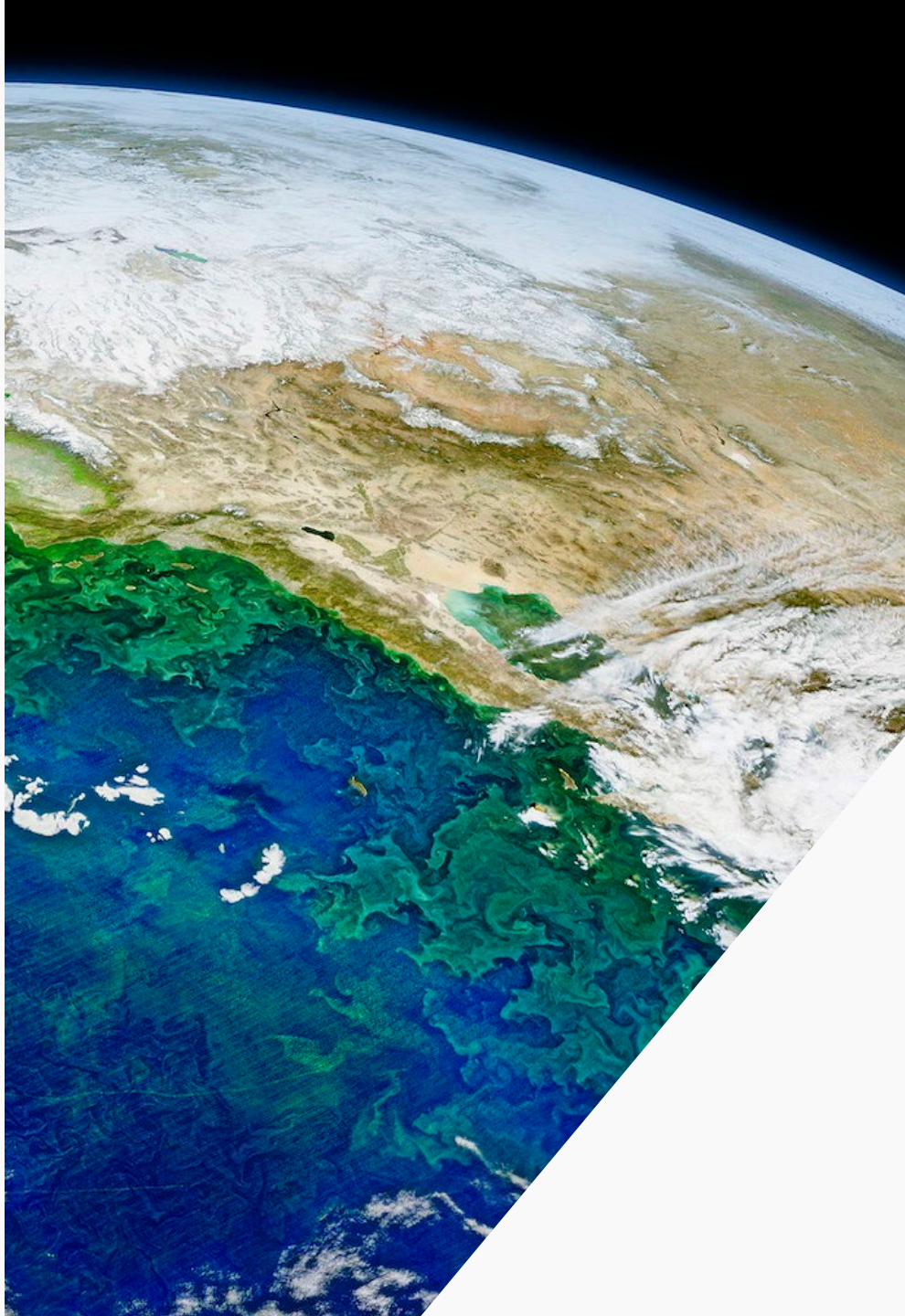
Eligibility:

- employed by a research organisation in an overseas country, but who would otherwise fit the definition for a project co-lead
- be employed by an international **research organisation** that meets the general equivalent eligibility requirements to receive UKRI funding

For further information, please refer to the UKRI project co-lead (international) policy and guidance.

There are different costings arrangements for international project co-leads and these must be considered at an early stage to ensure their involvement is feasible

UK Research and Innovation



Grant roles and eligibility

For all grant roles see the guidance on role eligibility, responsibilities and costings.

Research and innovation associates and Researcher co-leads

A research and innovation associate:
- carries out research or innovation work on a project
- must be employed by the lead organisation or one of the collaborating organisations

They are not eligible to be a project lead or project co-lead. Can be included in the core team as a researcher co-lead if they have made a substantial contribution to the formulation and development of the application.

Specialists (including public contributors)

A specialist is an individual who brings specialist skills and intellectual input to the project.
To be a specialist on a project you must be employed by the lead organisation or one of the collaborating organisations.

However, this role can also be used for public contributors, such as people with lived experience. An independent individual with this type of involvement in a project does not need to be employed by the lead or one of the collaborating organisations.

UK Research and Innovation

Doctoral students are not eligible and funds are not available for PhD studentships

Collaborators

Project partners

A project partner is defined as a third-party person or organisation who provides specific contributions to the team and project, in cash or in kind.

Project partners should not seek to claim funds from UKRI, apart from minor directly incurred costs such as travel and subsistence.

Sub-contractors

A sub-contractor is 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.

Organisations with applicants as core team members on the project cannot be included as project partners or sub-contractors

UK Research and Innovation

Collaboration agreements

Project partner entitlement to the outputs of intellectual property should be determined between the parties involved but **must** be in line with any relevant Subsidy Control regulation.

This should be set out in a **formal collaboration agreement**, and submitted as per UKRI grant T&Cs.

Letters of support from project partners are not required. At the full stage you may be asked for more details about your agreements with non-academic partners.

Speak to your organisation's department who are responsible for drafting and signing collaboration agreements.

The MRC Industry Collaboration Framework is a useful tool for discussions with collaborators and determining their role.

Other considerations

Changes between outline and full stage

This funding opportunity is looking for teams that co-create and design projects with all relevant disciplines involved from the inception.

Project co-leads or collaborators can be changed or added between the outline and full application stage with reasonable justification. If the project lead changes since submission of the outline stage application, please contact us, so that we can confirm eligibility to proceed with your full stage application.

Resubmissions

For the second round of the pilot scheme only, we are allowing applications that were unsuccessful at the outline stage of round 1 resubmit their application, subject to selection by their organisation.

If the application was unsuccessful at the full stage of round, the same application cannot be resubmitted to round 2, unless you have been invited to do so.

To be considered as a new submission, the application should overall represent a substantially different package of work, with a different idea, aims and objectives.

UK Research and Innovation

What you can apply for

Costings are not required at the outline stage

Between £200k and £1.2 million (full economic cost) for up to 2 years
UKRI will fund 80% of this (with exceptions)

Directly allocated costs (DA)	Directly incurred costs (DI)	Indirect costs	Exceptions
Staff	Staff	Non-specific costs charged to the grant that are not otherwise included as DA costs	Social surveys paid at 100% FEC
Estates	Equipment		International co-lead costs paid at 100% FEC
Other DA costs	Travel and subsistence		
	Other DI costs*		

*Other DI costs include, but are not limited to: consumables, recruitment, data management, access to research facilities and services, sub-contractor or consultancy fees, animal costs, NHS costs, training needs, additional childcare or reasonable adjustments. See the guidance document for more information.

What you cannot apply for:

- fees or stipends associated with master's and PhD studentships
- estate and indirect costs for international project co-leads or public contributors as specialists on the grant
- equipment over £10k (inclusive of VAT) for international project co-leads
- publication costs (see the UKRI open access policy for further information)
- basic computing equipment for directly allocated staff already employed by the organisation
- contingency costs for visas for unknown researchers at the point of application

Costs for international project co-leads

UKRI will award funding to the UK lead organisation, and this organisation will then be responsible for distributing funds to the international research organisation.

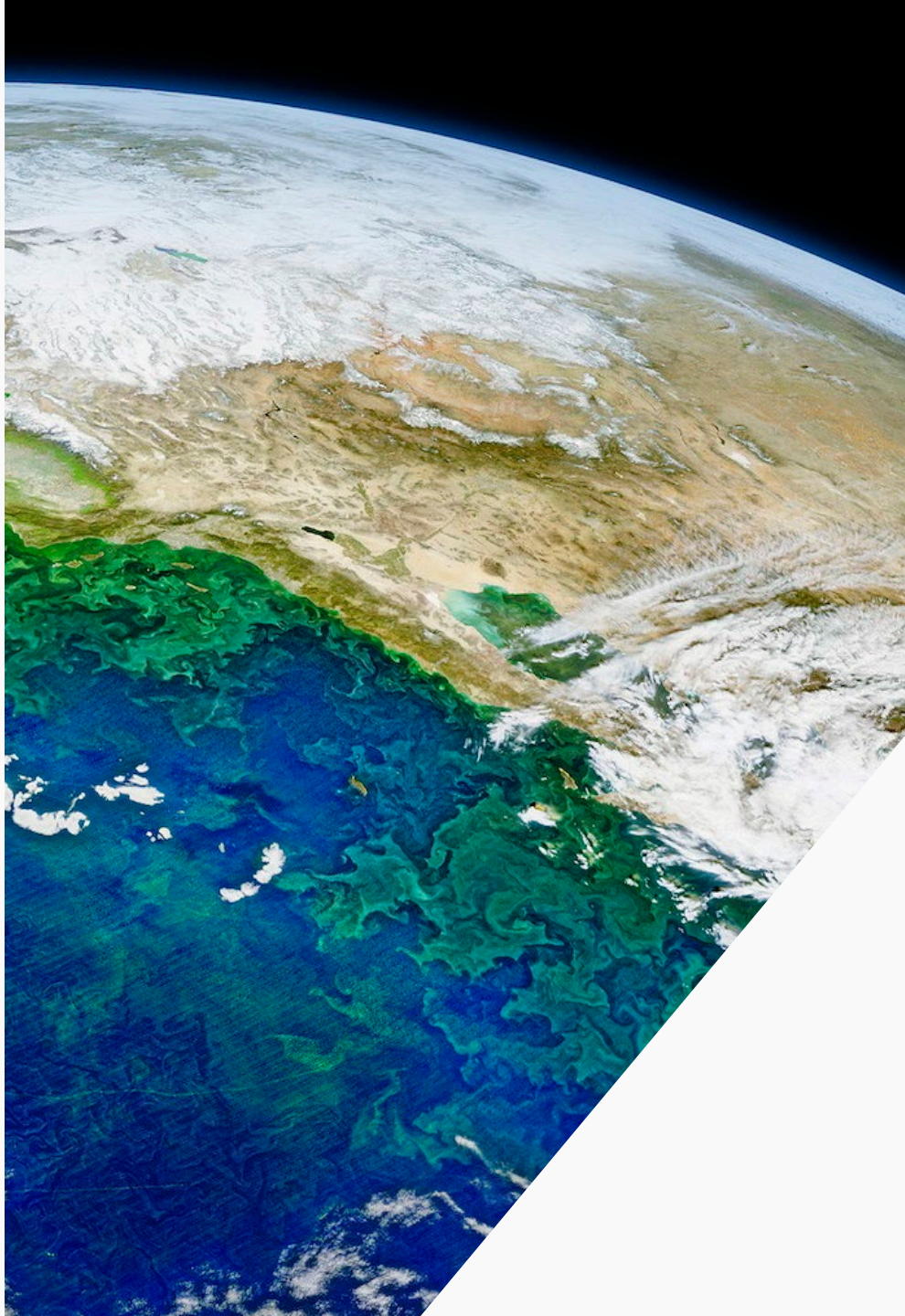
Justified costs will be funded at 100% and should be included under Exceptions. Estate and indirect costs are not eligible.

The total costs claimed for international project co-lead contribution to a project must not exceed 30% of the overall cost of the project, calculated at 100% full economic cost.

These costs can cover:

- directly incurred costs, such as travel and subsistence
- research assistants (directly incurred staff costs)
- salary costs, only where these costs are fully justified and it can be demonstrated that the funding of salaries by grants is the standard practice of the international research organisation

UK Research and Innovation



Equipment & consumables

UKRI will fund up to 80% of the costs of equipment.

This opportunity is to fund interdisciplinary research projects; applications that focus on capital requests or research infrastructure are not eligible.

Single items of equipment costing more than £10,000 (inclusive of VAT) can be included if:

- the equipment is essential to the proposed research
- no appropriate alternative provision can be accessed

These items should be subject to external competition via your organisation’s procurement processes to ensure best value for money.

UK Research and Innovation

Access to UKRI-supported facilities

Watch our webinar for an introduction to UKRI-supported facilities and services that you can request to access.

For this scheme:

- costs are funded at **80% FEC from the grant** – research organisations are responsible for the remaining 20%
- **exceptions** can be requested by email (ukrirm@ukri.org) by the outline submission deadline to:
  - delay the grant start date to allow access to facilities for up to 12 months from the date of the award letter.
  - exceed the maximum grant budget by up to £250,000 (100% FEC) to access NERC's ship-time and marine facilities, polar research facilities or FAAM

When applying to access a UKRI-supported facility, **you should:**

- check you are eligible and discuss your application with the facility or service at an early stage
- ensure you are aware of access procedures, resource availability and timelines; you may need to apply directly to the facility ahead of the application deadline

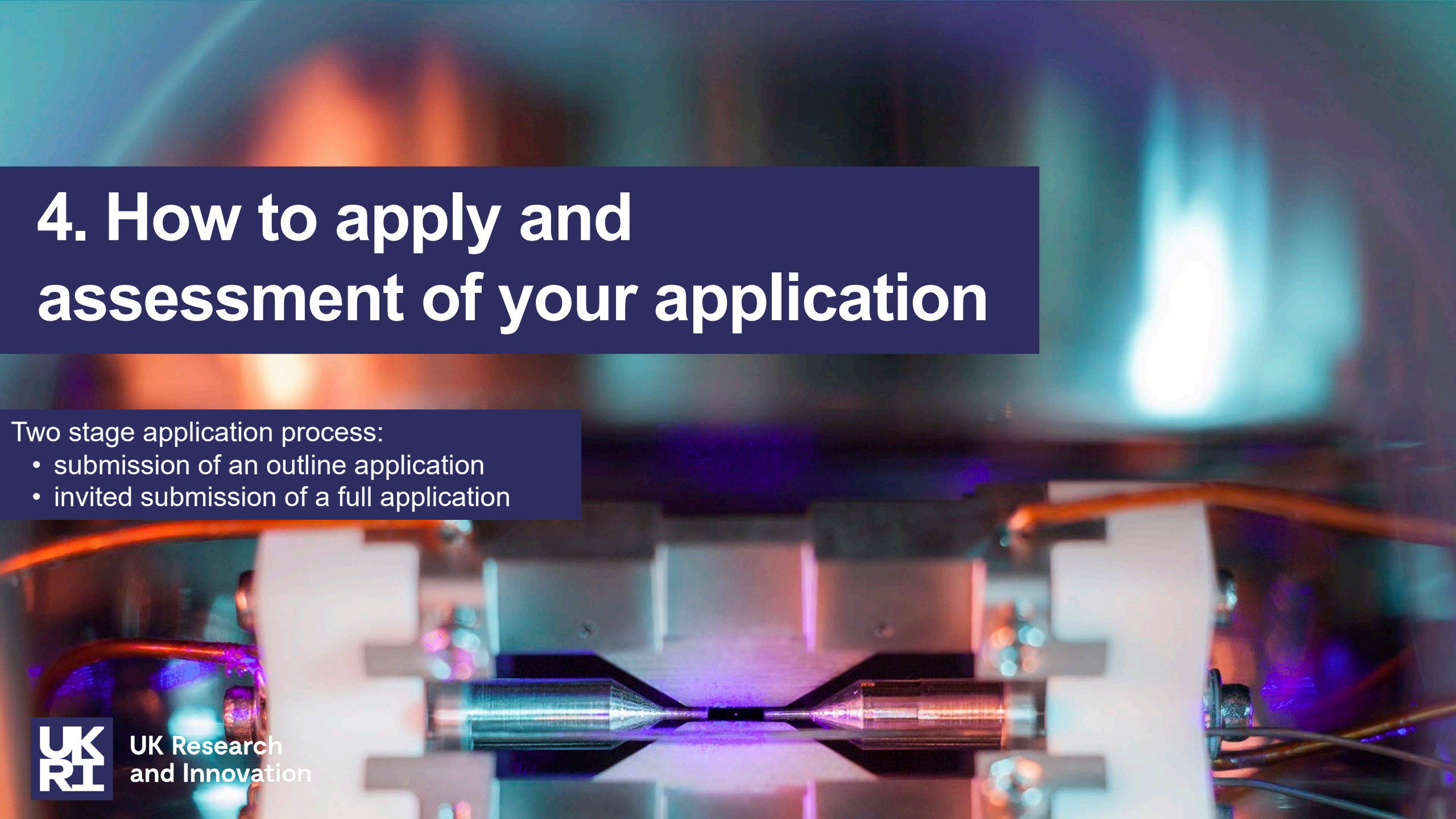
For further information about facilities access for this scheme can be found in the guidance.

UK Research and Innovation

4. How to apply and assessment of your application

Two stage application process:

- submission of an outline application
- invited submission of a full application



UK Research and Innovation

Submitting an outline application

You should submit your outline application to the **UKRI Funding Service**
OPP697: UKRI cross research council responsive mode scheme: round 2 outline stage

The deadline is **19 November 2024 at 4:00 pm UK time. Once submitted, we cannot return your application.**

Section	Requirement	Format
Summary	Summary of your proposed work; 550 words	Funding Service section
Core team	List the key members of your team and assign them roles	Funding Service section
Classification of your proposed research	Which areas of research does your proposed work include? Selection of up to 10 keywords from a list provided	Funding Service section
Application history	Did you submit this application to the outline stage of round 1 of this scheme? Yes or No; if yes provide the Je-S reference and your role on the application	Funding Service section
Fit to opportunity	Describe the interdisciplinary nature of your proposed research; 250 words	Funding Service section
Outline Vision and Approach	What are you hoping to achieve with and how will you deliver your proposed work? 2 pages	PDF attachment
Applicant and team capability to deliver	How will the application team deliver the proposed research programme? 250 words	Funding Service section
Project partners	Add details about project partners if known at this stage	Funding Service section

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

Outline assessment questions and criteria

Fit to opportunity: 250 words

Describe the interdisciplinary nature of your proposed research

You should explain:

- how your research could only be achieved through interdisciplinary research, compared to a multidisciplinary approach
- how the different disciplines will be integrated in the research application
- the potential for reciprocal research benefits for the disciplines involved
- how you have co-created/ co-designed the project with input from all the disciplines needed for successful delivery of the project

Within the Fit to opportunity section we also expect you to:

- clearly demonstrate that the research involves disciplines from more than 1 research council and explores new types of, and approaches to, interdisciplinary research not routinely funded through existing UKRI responsive mode schemes. Work that is within a single discipline or disciplines that fall within a single research council are ineligible for this scheme

Outline assessment questions and criteria

Outline Vision and Approach: two-page PDF

What are you hoping to achieve with and how will you deliver your proposed work?

Vision: half a page

For the Outline Vision, explain how your proposed work:

- is of excellent quality and importance beyond the field(s) or area(s)
- has the potential to advance current understanding, generates new knowledge, thinking or discovery 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 Outline Vision section, we also expect you to:

- explain how your proposed work is of excellent quality and importance beyond established disciplinary thinking.
- demonstrate how the interdisciplinary approach will advance current understanding and generate new knowledge, thinking, concepts, techniques, methods or technologies or discoveries
- demonstrate that the proposed work has the potential for delivering ground-breaking and transformative outcomes that could only be achieved through interdisciplinary research

Outline assessment questions and criteria

Outline Vision and Approach: two-page PDF

What are you hoping to achieve with and how will you deliver your proposed work?

Approach: 1 and a half pages

For the Outline Approach, explain how you have designed your work so that it:

- is effective and appropriate to achieve your objectives

Within the Outline Approach section, we also expect you to:

- clearly articulate how you will address the challenges that the integration of the disciplines could face
- clearly articulate the methods you will be using, particularly where new methods are being developed or where existing methodologies are being integrated.

UK Research and Innovation

Outline assessment questions and criteria

Outline Applicant and team capability to deliver: 250 words

How will the application team deliver the proposed research programme?

For the Outline Applicant and team capability to deliver, evidence how you, and if relevant your team, have:

- relevant experience and skills to develop and deliver the proposed research programme

Within the Outline Applicant and team capability to deliver section, we also expect you to:

- Consider if the team represents the right set of skills and mix of perspectives to approach the proposed work

This section does not require information on publication record, positions held or any other elements of a track record.

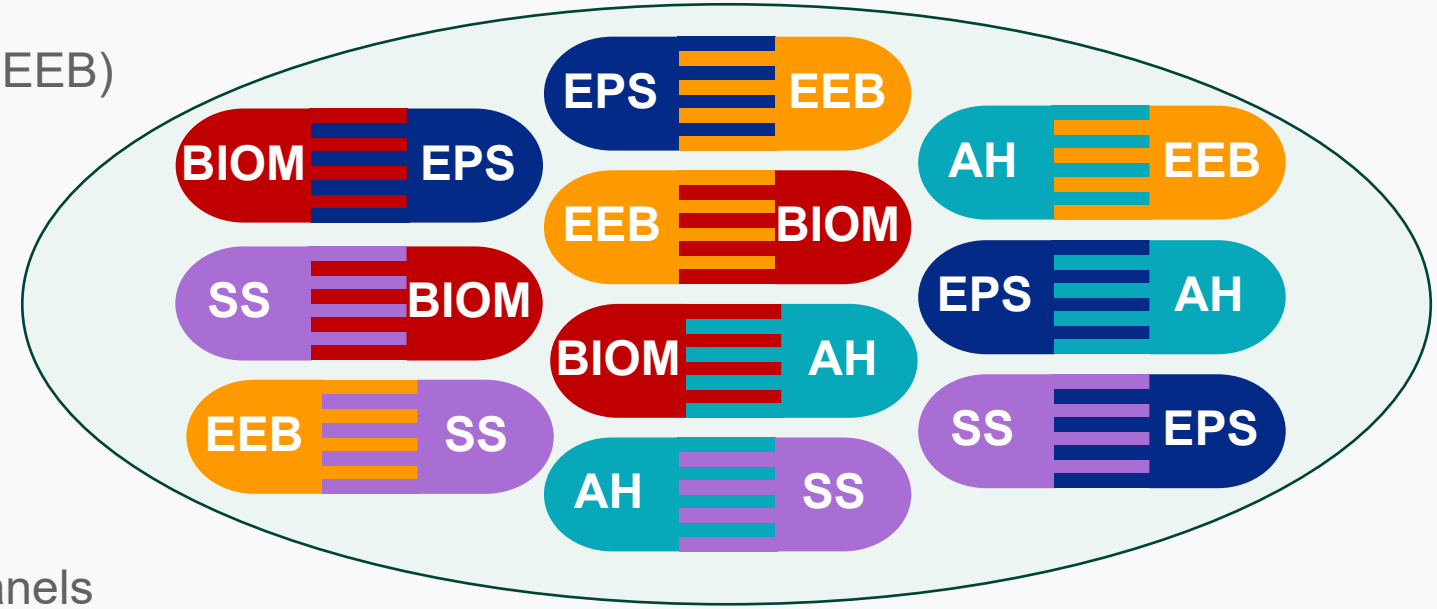
UK Research and Innovation

Interdisciplinary panels

We will use your summary and the keywords that you submit to assign your application to an appropriate interdisciplinary cluster.

The clusters reflect the interfaces between five key research domains:

- Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS)
- Earth, Environment and Biological Sciences (EEB)
- Biomedical and Health (BIOM)
- Arts and Humanities (AH)
- Social sciences (SS)



The interfaces between these 5 research domains provide a flexible framework to form panels.

Roving panel members observe a number of panels each to ensure consistency of the assessment process between panels

UK Research and Innovation

Assessment processes

Outline stage

UKRI checks and assignment to panels

office reject applications that do not cross the remit of at least 2 councils

Independent assessments

3 IAC members assess each application

IAC submit scores and comments independently

Consistently low-scoring applications sifted out

Panel meetings

Panel discuss and moderate applications with potential to proceed

Prioritisation for inviting to full stage through a banding process

Tensioning and sift

Tensioning meeting (Chairs and Rovers)

UKRI invite applications to the full stage based on panel recommendations and tensioning

Full stage

UKRI checks

standard application and conflicts of interest checks

Assessment and discussion

3 IAC members assess each application, discuss, and compile feedback for PL response

Project Lead response

Project Leads respond to panel feedback

IAC members review, submit pre-scores and comments

Panel meetings

Panels discuss and score all applications

Prioritisation for funding through a banding process

Tensioning and funding allocation

Tensioning meeting

Allocation of funding

Decision steps in selecting successful applications

Banding of applications by each panel

After each application has been discussed and scored, the panel come to a consensus on the appropriate prioritisation of applications via a banding process. Applications that can be considered of equal quality are banded together. At the full stage, panels can allocate up to 10% of applications to the A* band, which guarantees funding to the highest quality applications.

Tensioning meeting

After the assessment of applications across the panels, Rovers and Chairs attend a tensioning meeting to report back to UKRI. Rovers observe at least 3 panels and report on the consistency of how the assessment process was applied and the banding of applications, in particular the allocation of applications to the top bands.

Project Board approval and the use of partial randomisation

Based on the panel recommendations and tensioning feedback, the Project Board for the scheme consider and approve the bandings. The top banded outline applications are invited forward to the full stage, up to the maximum number we can take through. At the full stage, the A* banded applications are guaranteed funding. Subsequent bands are funded until the budget is spent.

Where the number of applications within a band exceeds the number of applications that we can invite forward or fund, a randomisation process could be applied to all the applications in the band, to produce a ranked list.

What to expect if you are invited to submit a full application

We will let you know the outcome of your outline application by **3 April 2025**.

Invited applications to full stage will receive further instructions **on 4 April 2025.**

The core assessment questions that will be asked at full application stage will include:

- **Fit to opportunity**
- **Vision and approach** (building on the information from the outline stage):
  What are you hoping to achieve with, and how will you deliver, your proposed work?
- **Applicant and team capability to deliver**:
  Why are you the right individual or team to successfully deliver the proposed work?
  This will be in the form of a narrative CV following the Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI).
  Peer Exchange Platform for narrative-style CVs (PEP-CV)
- **Ethics and Responsible Research and Innovation** (RRI):
  What are the ethical or RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work?
- **Resources and cost justification**:
  What will you need to deliver your proposed work and how much will it cost?

5. Important dates and further resources

UK Research and Innovation

Key dates

2 September 2024 9:00am UK time	Opening date for outline stage applications:
5 September 2024 10:00am to 11:30am UK time	Opportunity webinar 1
11 September 2024 2:00pm to 3:30pm UK time	Opportunity webinar 2 (same as webinar 1)
19 November 2024 4:00pm UK time	**Closing date for outline stage applications**
10 to 14 March 2025	Outline stage panel meetings
4 April 2025	Opening date for full stage applications
24 April 2025 10:00am to 11:00am 28 April 2025 2:00pm to 3:00pm	Technical webinars for full stage applicants
3 July 2025 4:00pm UK time	Closing date for full stage applications
22 September to 6 October 2025	Project Lead response stage
3 to 7 November 2025	Full stage panel meetings
End of November 2025	Successful applications announced

UK Research and Innovation

Scheme resources

- **CRCRM webpage** https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme/

- **All supporting documents**: https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme-supporting-documents/

- **Video on interdisciplinary research**: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17cqurocESM&t=3s

- **UKRI-supported facilities and resources webinar held on 4th July:**
  - **Recording available here**: https://youtu.be/_ORmTo7Poqw?si=ZCMqq_St38UoIVbR
  - **Slides presented are available here on our supporting documents page:** https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-cross-research-council-responsive-mode-pilot-scheme-supporting-documents/

UK Research and Innovation

Wider resources

- **Pathways to Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research: The SHAPE-ID Toolkit** www.shapeidtoolkit.eu Signposts to Tips, Resources, Reading lists and Reflective Tools, e.g.
  - *Reflective questions to consider if you are thinking of engaging in collaborative research*
  - *Top Ten Tips for writing interdisciplinary (and transdisciplinary) research proposals*

- Klein, J. T. (2014). “Discourses of transdisciplinarity: Looking back to the future”, *Futures*, 63:68–74
- Pohl, C. (2023) “Evaluating Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research” in Vienni Baptista, B., Fletcher, I. and Lyall, C. (eds.), *Foundations of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research: A Reader*, Bristol: Bristol University Press.
- Vienni Baptista, B., Fletcher, I., Lyall, C. and Pohl, C. (2022) “Embracing Heterogeneity: Why plural understandings strengthen inter- and transdisciplinarity”, *Science and Public Policy*, 49: 865–877

UK Research and Innovation

Where to get help

Please refer to the opportunity information on the Funding Finder page and the guidance for applicants and research organisations in the first instance.

We do not have capacity to check that your application fits to the opportunity or the councils' remits before submission. Get details of the councils' remits from their websites.

For help and advice on writing your application and costings, please contact your research office.

To support research offices, we are jointly running workshops with ARMA on 10 and 11 October.

For specific queries relating to this call:
UKRI Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode Team: Email: ukrirm@ukri.org

Getting help with applying through the Funding Service:
Email: support@funding-service.ukri.org
Phone: 01793 547490

UK Research and Innovation

Questions?

contact: ukrirm@ukri.org

@UKRI_news UK Research and Innovation UK Research and Innovation