Antimicrobial Resistance in a Global Context – A Cross-Council call in partnership with the Department of Health

Development Stage deadline: 11th July 2017, 4pm via Je-S

Frequently Asked Questions:

For further information please read the call specific guidance available here: Call guidance

If you have further queries not addressed below, please contact amr@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk

1. Eligibility: My research idea extends beyond the remit of MRC and Department of Health: is this permissible?
   Yes. We want to fund good ideas where possible and also to support research across disciplinary boundaries. The key thing is to make sure your proposal fits to the call criteria.

2. I have previously submitted an application to the Research Councils or the DH Board or Panel. Can I resubmit this application to the AMR Call?
   It is likely to be possible to do this, but please contact us in advance to discuss.

3. What constitutes a Development Grant?
   Development grants should aim to further strengthen collaborations and research ideas through meetings and workshops and gather preliminary data. This project should work towards developing full consortia proposals. Details of what costs can be included, can be found in the Call guidance.

   Development grant holders will be expected to provide a brief report to the funders on request and to attend relevant meetings as required by the RCUK AMR Initiative.

4. Is the Development Stage a ‘Pre Requisite’ to the Full Consortia Stage?
   Yes. Only those who have been successful in the development grant stage will be able to apply for the Research Consortia grants stage.

5. When can the Award start?
   Once applicants have been notified of success, awards are expected to start on the 1st October 2017. There will be limited flexibility in the start date.

6. What is considered as 'Interdisciplinary Research'?
   Proposals must take a whole systems approach and incorporate at least 2 separate disciplines such as (but not limited to) social, economic, cultural, ecological, historical, environmental, technical and biomedical.

7. Does this AMR Call cover all Pathogens?
   The current focus of this call is on resistant bacteria of humans and animals only but we acknowledge antimicrobial issues in other classes of pathogens are important.
8. Under the ‘Estimated Resources Required’ section of the Je-S form, should the UK cost be interested as 100% FEC or 80% FEC?
The UK costs should be entered at 80% FEC, ie, the cost to the Funders. Please note that overseas costing would be at 100% FEC.

9. Can studentships be included in proposals?
No this call will not be including any studentship

10. Can I apply for more than one proposal?
You can lead as a PI on one proposal and be a co-investigator on another proposal

11. Can I include a Co-Investigator from a Non-LMIC country?
The standard MRC eligibility criteria apply. We will therefore allow co-investigators from overseas research organisations if they provide expertise not available in the UK. Please see the MRC guidance on overseas costs which can be found in section 3.1.3 and 3.1.5 of the MRC Guidance for Applicants.

12. What is the difference between a co-investigator and a planned partner?
Co-investigators are researchers that you know will be involved and planned partnerships are people/organisations that you think may be involved. Future involvement of planned partners could be as additional co-investigators, as project partners at the time of the full application, or partnerships that would be developed during the course of the project. If you know that a researcher will definitely be involved as a co-investigator you should name them in this role on the outline form. If you are unsure at the outline stage then you should add them as a planned partner.

13. Should I include CVs and other supporting information?
Please include separate 1 page CV documents/attachments for each of the following: Principal Investigators, Co-Investigators and named individual research staff. You can have an additional 1 page per applicant for publications.

14. How will proposals be reviewed?
Proposals will be assessed by an Expert Advisory Panel and recommendations for funding made to the funders. Membership of the Panel will be drawn from suggestions across the different funders and will include people with expertise of working in LMIC contexts. Final funding decisions will be made by the funders taking into account the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Panel, the strategic objectives of the call and balance of the call as a whole.

Successful development grant holders will be expected to provide a brief report to the funders on request and to attend relevant meetings as required by the Cross-council AMR Initiative.

15. What criteria will be used to assess applications?
Specific assessment criteria have been drafted for this call. Please check assessment criteria through this link.

16. How many proposals can be put forward per Institute?
We have not limited the number of proposals, however we encourage research teams/research offices within an organisation to work together and align their proposals before applying.

17. Official Development Assistance

ODA is an international definition owned by the OECD and is not only a RCUK or UK Government term: The OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) defines Official Development Assistance (ODA) as ‘flows to countries an territories’ which are on the DAC’s list of ODA recipients, provided by official agencies to promote the economic development and welfare of countries on the list. It is expected that funding streams eligible for allocation from the UK’s ODA budget should demonstrate how aims to contribute to aims to reduce poverty and increase sustainable development is required. ODA is highly relevant to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s), to which 17 goals have been described as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including zero hunger, good health and well-being.

What is the DAC list?

The OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list is the list of ODA recipients categorised by population income. Countries on the DAC list are divided among income groups according to their gross national income per capita, calculated using the World Bank Atlas method. Among the groups include ‘Least Developed’ ‘Low Income’, ‘Lower Middle Income’ and ‘Upper Middle Income’

The 2014-2016 DAC list is available on the ink below: http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/DAC%20List%20of%20ODA%20Recipients%202014%20final.pdf

More information can be found at www.oecd.org.

How do I meet the ODA criteria for the Call?

Your case for support must include a clear description of how the application is directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of those countries (DAC list) and how the outcomes will promote the health and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list, and in particular poorer people in those countries should be included. Applications that are not deemed to be ODA compliant cannot be funded.

Is collaboration with a researcher or non-academic partner in a country or countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients required?

It is expected that proposals will have partners in a country on the DAC List of ODA Recipients.

Partnerships may build on existing relationships or represent the development of a new collaborative relationship. Where partnerships are included, there must be a strong underpinning research ethic based on mutual respect and understanding for different cultural, ethnic, social and economic beliefs and practices.

Can my research also benefit the UK?
Yes, we expect that the research will also benefit the UK, in terms of the wider impacts such as new scientific knowledge, publications and training etc, however, LMICs should be the primary beneficiaries.

18. Why are applications which primarily focus on India and/or China not permissible for this call? – In light of planned AMR cross-council calls with China and India under the Newton Fund, which will be launched later this year, proposals that primarily deal with these countries are not eligible. Proposals where China and/or India are a component but where the benefit will be beyond those countries are eligible.

19. Are proposals relevant across more than one country eligible? Yes, proposals may be relevant to one or multiple countries on the DAC list.

20. Are there any priority countries on the DAC list for this call? There are no priority countries for this call. All countries on the DAC list, other than India and China, are eligible for this call and proposals will be assessed on their respective merits.