Antimicrobial Target Discovery and Validation Call Guidance for Expressions of Interest Applications
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Expression of Interest Stage - Guidance

The guidance set out below is based on usual MRC guidance but has been tailored solely for the purposes of this Initiative.

Eligibility: Applicants

Any UK-based researcher who can demonstrate that they will direct the proposed research and be actively engaged in carrying it through. Researchers from overseas institutions may be included in a proposal as a Co-Investigator where the nature of the research makes this necessary. Researchers from MRC Units/Institutes can also apply. Please contact the Office before applying for further information.

Researchers supported on open-ended or fixed-term contracts may apply for grants, and may request funds for their own salary. The Research Councils' conditions of grant awards do not include a requirement to appoint staff on a fixed-term basis. This is a matter for the employer to determine and is not related to eligibility for funding.

Where an applicant is expected to retire during the course of a grant, the proposal must state who will take over responsibility at the point of the grant holder’s retirement.

Individuals may be the Principal Investigator on only one application. However, individuals can act as Co-Investigators on other applications. However, please note that the assessment will consider the level of engagement of Co-Investigators with the research and their capacity to meet these requirements.

Applicants must wait at least 12 months between submission dates to resubmit any proposal rejected by MRC or another Research Council unless specifically asked to resubmit sooner by the MRC. If an unsolicited resubmission takes place before the 12 month period has elapsed, the MRC will reject the proposal.

Eligibility: Collaborations

Academic-Industrial Collaborations

The Principal Investigator must be the academic partner. If applicants intend to collaborate with an industrial partner, full proposals submitted will be classed as MRC Industry Collaboration Awards (MICAs) and applicants are advised to refer to the guidance on MICAs. MICAs are the mechanism by which academic-industrial collaborations can apply for MRC funding. Please note that, in general, industrial partners will be expected to meet their own costs. MICA forms will not need to be completed for the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage; however, a brief description of the proposed collaboration will need to be included in the EOI case for support. For full applications, MICA forms will need to be submitted.

Eligibility: Research Organisations

The Principal Investigator MUST be based at the lead organisation which must be one of the following:

- Higher Education Institutions
- Independent Research Organisations
- Government Funded Organisations (other than MRC funded Units and Institutes)
- MRC Units/Institutes
- University Units (former MRC Units)

Further information on the definition of eligible organisations can be found at the Research Councils UK website.

Eligibility: Global Research Challenge Fund

All research funded through the AMR Target Discovery and Validation call will be part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA). Applications must be primarily relevant to near-term or long-term benefits to the health or prosperity of Low or Middle Income Countries. Applications that do not meet this criterion will be rejected.

The OECD Development Assistance Committee’s list of Official Development Assistance recipients (available at [http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm)) defines the sets of countries whose health needs...
Expression of Interest Stage - Guidance

(individual or collective) are relevant. Applicants need to concentrate on ensuring that their proposal promotes the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

Further guidance on ODA definitions and interpretation is available in the OECD factsheet ‘Is it ODA?’

Responsibilities of Investigators

MRC expects all the researchers it funds, both clinical and non-clinical, to adopt the highest achievable standards in the conduct of their research. This means exhibiting impeccable scientific integrity and following the principles of good research practice detailed in the MRC Good Research Practice Guidelines (2000).

Submitting a proposal to MRC signifies acceptance of the RCUK Terms and Conditions, the MRC Additional Terms and Conditions and any award-specific Terms and Conditions, as specified on the award letter, for the entire life of the award.

Responsibilities of Collaborations

The terms of collaboration, particularly in relation to industry, must be determined early in a proposal’s development and relevant agreements put in place by the start of the collaboration. Collaboration arrangements should ensure transparency in the project design and in the analysis and publication of results (including if these are negative). Consideration should also be given to issues such as: relative responsibilities, governance arrangements, indemnity, intellectual property rights, reporting and access to data and samples.

Responsibilities of Research Organisations and Heads of Departments

All Expressions of Interest must be approved on behalf of the host institution, by the appropriate Administrative Authority (e.g. the institution’s Finance Officer) and applicant’s Head of Department to indicate their formal acceptance of the proposal, their acceptance of the terms and conditions of an MRC award and their approval of the salaries and resources sought.

Administrative Authorities and Heads of Departments have responsibility for ensuring that the salaries and resources cited in the proposals are sufficient to undertake the proposed research, to attract sufficiently experienced and skilled staff, and represent good value for money.
Financial support

Non-MRC Applications

Applicants need to show the full economic costs of a research project to the Research Organisation. The MRC will generally meet 80% of these costs (unless there are Exceptions). Please refer to the MRC Applicants Handbook for details of the eligible costs for proposals led by academics that are not based at MRC units/institutes.
How to apply

The following paragraphs set out the process for submitting your EOI Application

Expression of Interest Applications – Completing your Case for Support

You must first submit an EOI application. Successful EOI applicants will then be invited to submit a full application. The purpose of the EOI application is to assess the project aims, rationale, feasibility and novelty.

To submit an EOI application, the applicant must first complete the Expressions of Interest Form and then submit this as a PDF to DPFS&DCS@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk.

The EOI must address the following headings:

Section 1: Project Summary

- **Title of the Project**
  Please provide a concise title for your proposal.

- **Summary of the project**
  Please provide a summary of the project, including scientific rationale, fit to the scheme and management. Both the title and technical summary should be non-confidential. Please include in the summary how the research could be of benefit to the health of LMICs.

- **Project Duration and Cost**
  Please include estimates of the duration and costs you anticipate will be required to complete the project and any project partner contribution.
  If you have requested support for resources under Exceptions Costs, please describe the nature of these resources. Further guidance on Exceptions Costs can be found in Guidance for applicants.

Section 2: Investigator and co-investigator details

- **Principal Investigator**
  o Name
  o Post held
  o Department
  o Institution
- **Co-investigators** – name and institution
- **Industrial Partners**
- **Collaborators** – if applicable

Section 3: Case for Support

- Articulate the approach and how it fits within the remit of the scheme
- Fit with the principles of overseas development aid and delivery of long term health and wealth to LMICs.
- Clearly articulate the rationale for the proposed approach.
- Description of research plans including progression milestones.
- Track record of research or funding, details of the members of the team and the team and centre capabilities.
- The proposed resourcing and timescale.
- Details of how the consortia will be managed.
- Proposed research outputs and downstream development path.
• Industrial collaborations - If your proposal includes any collaborations with commercial parties, please provide a brief description outlining this partnership.

Attachments

At the EOI stage the following attachments should be included:
• A CV for the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators (2 x A4 pages per applicant)
• Supporting Data - An optional document of supporting figures and data tables (max. 2 x A4 pages)

All EOI applications must be completed using the Expression of Interest form for this call using Arial 11pt typeface.

Data Sharing

Please note that sharing information and knowledge about MRC’s research grants is central to the MRC’s mission. The following details on successful applications will be made available through the Research Portfolio Search on the MRC website:

• Project Title
• Technical Summary
• Lay summary
• Grant holders
• Host institution
• Value and duration of award

Once completed, the EOI form should be saved as a PDF file and submitted to - DPFS&DCS@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk
Deadline Dates for Submission of Proposals

The deadline for EOI applications is 4pm on Friday 3rd November 2017. Applicants must submit their proposals via email to DPFS&DCS@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk by 4pm on deadline date. Please bear in mind that all proposals must be submitted via your Research Organisation’s Administrative department. Please ensure they have sufficient time to complete their parts of the proposal before the MRC deadline date.

Contacts

If you have enquiries regarding the Call please email AMR Targets

Email: DPFS&DCS@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk