

UK-China AMR Partnerships Hubs

Full stage deadline: 14 June 2018, 16:00 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:

international@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk

1. Eligibility: My research idea extends beyond the remit of NSFC: is this permissible?

The overarching aim of the research must fit within the remit of NSFC and the Research Councils. Where specific elements of the research fall outside of NSFC's remit, but within the remit of the Research Councils, associated costs can be charged to the UK budget. This must be discussed with the UK funders prior to submission.

2. I have previously submitted an application to the UK Research Councils. Can I resubmit this application to this UK-China AMR call?

It is likely to be possible to do this, but please contact us in advance to discuss. Please contact NSFC for specific rules around resubmission in China.

3. When can the award start?

Once applicants have been notified of success, awards are expected to start on or before 1 January 2019 in the UK and on 1 January 2019 in China. There will be limited flexibility in the start date.

4. What is considered as 'interdisciplinary research'?

As the challenge of ABR arises from a complex interplay between social, economic, cultural, ecological, historical, environmental, technical and biological factors, the funders are encouraging proposals that span these domains. Bids should seek to engage an appropriate range of disciplines and consider the specific social, economic and cultural context of China. Near disciplines will be considered eligible for this interdisciplinary funding initiative where justified and will be assessed according to the [call specific criteria](#).

5. Does this AMR call cover all pathogens?

The focus of this call is on resistant bacteria of humans and animals only.

6. Under the 'Estimated Resources Required' section of the Je-S form, should the UK cost be entered as 100% FEC or 80% FEC?

The UK costs should be entered at 80% FEC, i.e. the cost to the funders. Anyone planning to apply for costs outside the UK and China should contact the funders prior to applying.

7. Can studentships be included in proposals?

The UK budget cannot be used to cover studentships. Please contact NSFC for specific rules in China.

8. Can I apply for more than one proposal?

UK based applicants can lead as a PI on one proposal and be a co-investigator on multiple proposals. Chinese applicants should consult the specific call guidance from NSFC.

9. Can I include a co-investigator from beyond the UK and China?

The aim of this call is to enhance existing partnerships and develop new partnerships between the UK and China in the area of AMR. Therefore, PIs and CoIs should be based in the UK and China and be eligible to receive UKRI/NSFC funding. In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible to include researchers from outside the UK and China. This must be discussed with the office prior to submission.

10. How will proposals be reviewed?

Proposals will be jointly assessed by the UK and China. Proposals will be externally peer reviewed by experts in the relevant research areas and then assessed by an Expert Advisory Panel who will make recommendations for funding to the joint funders. Membership of the panel will be drawn from suggestions across the different funders and will include people with expertise of interdisciplinary working. 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.

11. What criteria will be used to assess applications?

- Significance and potential impact of the Partnership Hub, including added value
- Rationale: novelty, importance, interdisciplinarity and timeliness of the joint research proposal
- Partnership Hub development: including strength and clarity of collaborations and opportunities provided, quality of the project management structure proposed
- Design and feasibility of the proposal
- Capacity building potential
- Quality and suitability of the research environment and of the facilities
- Value for money
- Ethical considerations and governance arrangements.

12. What are the requirements of 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 and 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

research aims will contribute to aims to reduce poverty and increase sustainable development. ODA is highly relevant to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to which 17 goals have been described as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including zero hunger, good health and wellbeing.

13. How do I meet the ODA criteria for the call?

Your ODA Compliance Statement 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 the world's most vulnerable people. Applications that are not deemed to be ODA compliant will not be peer reviewed and will be rejected by the office.

14. 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 the primary beneficiary must be China.

15. Are there any additional ethical requirements for international collaborations?

It is the responsibility of the principal investigator based in the UK and China, and the research organisations involved to ensure that for any study, appropriate ethical approval is granted and adhered to, and that no research requiring ethical approval is initiated until it has been granted.

MRC's [current policy](#) is that for research involving humans/animals to be undertaken overseas, both in country and UK ethical approval is required. If awarded, the principal investigator/research organisation must be prepared to furnish the MRC with a copy of the ethical approval, and any correspondence with the committees, if requested by the funders.

UK letters of support should be attached to your application if:

- From both PIs when animal research is proposed. Please see 'Use of Animals' in this guidance for further information
- From both PIs when human/human tissue research is proposed. Please see 'Use of Humans/Human Tissue' in this guidance for further information
- We would require an additional letter when a third party (either in the UK or China) is responsible for recruitment of people as research participants and/or providing human tissue.

Information provided in the application relating to ethics of the proposed research will be scrutinised as part of the review process. Please ensure that ethical considerations are explored in full and detailed in your application.

16. Are there clinical trial regulations that need to be considered?

All research involving human participants must be undertaken in accordance with relevant policies and guidance.

The MRC provide useful UK-relevant information on page 26 of the [‘Guidance for Applicants and Award Holders 2018’](#) document.

Researchers should ensure equivalent up-to-date information relevant to ethical and legislative requirement is determined and addressed in any application. Chinese applicants should consult the specific call guidance from NSFC.

17. Can I propose research involving animals?

Yes. UK applicants must ensure that all of the proposed research, both that in the UK and China, will comply with the principles of the MRC, and other UK funders. Please see common guidance on [Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#).

In particular, UK institutions should be aware of the following aspect of the guidance relating to research or collaboration outside the UK:

“When collaborating with other laboratories, or where animal facilities are provided by third parties, researchers and the local ethics committee in the UK should satisfy themselves that welfare standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation (such as the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986), and set out in this guidance, are applied and maintained. Where there are significant deviations, prior approval from the funding body should be sought and agreed.”

Chinese applicants should consult the specific call guidance from NSFC.

18. Are there limits on the funding I can request?

In total, up to £8m will be made available on the UK side. The UK contribution will be made available to the UK collaborators to fund the UK component of the Partnership Hub. UK based applicants may request £1m - £2m at 80% FEC to cover the UK component of the research projects.

The NSFC’s contribution will be made available to fund the Chinese collaborators eligible to receive funds. NSFC will make 9 million RMB available to fund the Chinese component of each research project.

The Partnership Hub should present a coherent programme of work which we envisage would include different work strands within it. The funding model requires each proposal to present a single GBP bid to MRC for the full programme and to be split between 3 x 3m RMB bids to NSFC. The number of work strands should be appropriate for the proposed research. There is no requirement to fit to three work strands. Where there are more than three, the budget should be split between the 3 x 3m RMB submissions to NSFC as it best fits.

UK capital items (i.e. equipment costing over £10,000 including VAT) cannot be requested in this call.

19. Can I apply for publication costs?

UK publication costs are no longer awarded and should not form part of your application. This is in line with RCUK terms and conditions. These costs are available from your

research organisation via the block grant they receive for publication costs. If you are experiencing difficulties in obtaining funds to cover publications, please contact RFPD@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk

20. How should costs associated with travel or subsistence be allocated?

There are no specific rules regarding travel and subsistence costings for proposals. In international collaborations, there is a precedent for the country sending a researcher to pay for the airfare and the country hosting to pay for accommodation, but there is no specific requirement. As with all costs, a clear explanation will be necessary to justify all travel and associated costs.

21. Where do I record my Chinese PI's and Co-I's costs?

These costs should be recorded on the **Joint Funding Summary form**. The costs should be calculated using the international currency. This should be PDF'd and uploaded onto the Je-S system in the attachments under 'Non-UK Component', please ensure you title the document 'International Costs Pro-forma' so it is easily identifiable.

22. Which documents are mandatory to attach to my application and which are optional?

All applications consist of a number of components. The following are mandatory:

- A completed Je-S form
- A jointly prepared Case for Support (up to 12 pages including references and 1 page for methodology experimental design annex)
- CV and publications (2 page CV and 1 page publications for each UK and Chinese investigators on the grant)
- Joint Funding Summary form (4 pages)
- Justification of Resources (4 pages)
- Data Management Plan (3 pages, 4 for longitudinal studies)
- Pathways to Impact (2 pages)
- ODA Compliance Statement (1 page)
- Signed letter of support from the UK and Chinese research organisations and others as applicable (up to 2 pages per letter).

The following are optional:

- A covering letter (2 pages)
- Additional letters of support
- Rodents overseas form if applicable.

23. Do all investigators need to be registered on Je-S?

Yes. For any submission through the UK Research Council online submission system which is used by the MRC, ALL named investigators (Principal investigator and all co-investigators) must be registered users. For this initiative, that includes all named UK and Chinese investigators. Easy instructions to register are available [here](#). For help with using Je-S please contact the Je-S helpdesk:



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National Natural Science
Foundation of China

Email: JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk
Phone: +44 (0)1793 444164

Je-S website: <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/JeS2WebLoginSite/Login.aspx>

24. Is it OK if the Chinese applicants do not start their grant on the same day?

The Chinese side of the projects must start on 1 January 2019. The UK side must start by the end of January 2019 and will receive the first payments at end of February/beginning of March.