

## **2019 MRC-KHIDI UK-KOREA PARTNERING AWARDS CALL GUIDANCE NOTES**

### **Call Opens:**

- **UK side: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019**
- **Korean side: late Dec 2019**

**Call Closes: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 (UK side: 4pm UK time)**

The Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Korea Health Industry Development Institute (KHIDI) are pleased to relaunch the UK-Korea Partnering Awards scheme, aimed at fostering links between researchers in the UK and in Korea. We invite joint applications from researchers based in the UK and Korea. The deadline for applications is **31st January 2020 (UK side: 4pm UK time)**. Successful awards will be announced in early 2020.

### **Background**

MRC has a strategic commitment to encourage international partnerships to tackle important and challenging research goals. KHIDI is committed to fostering collaboration between the UK and Korea and has chosen the UK as one of six of its global business offices. As part of MRC and KHIDI's on-going collaboration, the MRC and KHIDI will jointly invest up to £200,000 to support new and developing collaborations between the UK and Korea's leading researchers. The funders may consider holding similar calls in subsequent years.

### **Purpose**

The overarching aim of the UK-Korea Partnering Awards scheme is to provide resources to biomedical and health researchers in the UK and Korea that will allow them to forge long-term collaborations. It is hoped that the partnerships established through these awards will lead to the development of long-term collaborative research programmes that will be competitive for national funding.

The purpose of the UK-Korea Partnering Awards is primarily to build new links between UK and Korea-based scientists but also to strengthen existing links. The awards will add value to research taking place in both countries by facilitating closer collaboration. Specific objectives that underpin the UK-Korea Partnering Award scheme are:

- To establish and strengthen partnerships between UK and Korean researchers in biomedical and health research.
- To promote the exchange of scientists, including early career scientists.
- To promote access to facilities.

## Scope

**This funding scheme aims to support joint collaboration activities between UK- and Korea-based researchers. Each application will be a joint submission by one UK-based and one Korea-based PI.**

This call for proposals will fund 10 proposals with £20,000 available per project over one year. Funding will be split evenly between researchers based in the UK and researchers based in Korea.

There are no restrictions on the scientific area for applications to the UK-Korea Partnering Awards, provided that they fall within the MRC and KHIDI's remits; however, through this scheme we would particularly like to encourage interdisciplinary proposals or novel proposals that build on national research strengths of the two countries.

This funding is available to support the following collaborative activities:

- Travel for one or more investigators in either direction
- Visits/access to facilities
- Workshops and networking
- Researcher exchanges
- Exploratory talks
- Other collaborative activities

Partnering award funds can also be used to support student exchanges, however applications will not be accepted where this is the sole aim of the project.

Partnering awards are not a vehicle for supporting research projects and these awards cannot be used to fund:

- Salary costs
- Consumables
- Items of equipment
- Other research costs
- Conference attendance\*

\*For convenience and cost efficiency, the MRC and KHIDI will allow award holders to arrange collaborative meetings alongside conferences at which their partners are already present.

Where possible we would encourage applicants to seek further sources of funding. This could be from the applicant's institution or department or an in-kind contribution such as venue hire or accommodation costs.

MRC will pay the lead UK research organisation in arrears at the end of the award. KHIDI will make several payments throughout the year to the lead Korean research organisation.

## ELIGIBILITY

The UK and Korean Principal Investigators (PI) must put together a joint application written in English. The UK Principal Investigator must then submit a copy to the MRC and the Korean-PI must submit a copy to KHIDI.

Applications must be made by a UK PI who is eligible for MRC funding and a Korean PI who is eligible for KHIDI funding.

UK applicants must be in receipt of an active grant that was awarded through a competitive, peer-reviewed process.

UK applicants who hold an active competitive research grant from a funder other than the MRC will be required to submit a signed **Letter of Support** from their Head of Department

(1) confirming that they are in receipt of a competitively awarded research grant; and

(2) including information about the applicant's current funding (including the funder name, funding type/scheme, grant title, grant reference, amount in GBP, start date, end date and role e.g. Co-Investigator).

MRC funded research projects will not be at an advantage to those who hold funding from other organisations.

The UK applicant should have a contract of employment with the research organisation for the duration of the KHIDI partnering award.

**Researchers who have previously been awarded an MRC-KHIDI UK-Korea Partnering Award to work with each other are not eligible to apply for a subsequent award to work together again through the 2019 scheme. However, researchers who have previously been awarded an MRC-KHIDI UK-Korea Partnering Award may apply to work with a different research group through the 2019 scheme.**

Full details of eligibility criteria for MRC funding can be found in the [Guidance for Applicants](#) on the MRC website. Full details of eligibility for KHIDI funding can be found in the [Guidance for Applicants](#) on the KHIDI website.

## APPLICATION PROCESS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

### Timetable

Call opens in UK: **10<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Call opens in Korea: Late December 2019

Closing date for proposals: **31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 (4pm UK time)**

Assessment of proposals: **February-March 2020**

Grant awarded: **April 2020**

Expected project start: **April 2020**

## **Application Process**

Applications must be made jointly between researchers based in UK and Korea.

To apply please provide the following:

- UK-Korea Partnering Awards Proforma
- Case for Support (3 pages)
- Work Plan (1 page)
- CVs (UK and Korea PIs only – 2 pages per PI)
- Letter of Support (required if UK PI does not hold a MRC grant – see below for guidance)

**All documentation must be merged (in the above listed order) and submitted as a single PDF to the MRC and to KHIDI.**

**Applications must be sent to the MRC at:**

[international@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:international@mrc.ukri.org)

**Applications must be submitted to KHIDI through their R&D Portal:**

<https://www.htdream.kr>

**Please see below for further information.**

### **UK-Korea Partnering Awards Proforma**

Please complete the UK-Korea Proforma which can be [found here](#). Please see the 'budget' section of the Proforma for information about the UK cost model and reimbursement rates for this call.

Please ensure you provide separate financial information for planned spend in the UK and planned spend in Korea.

### **Case for Support**

The case for support should be a maximum of 3 sides of A4. Text must be single spaced Arial, Helvetica or Verdana typeface, font size 11, and margins must not be less than 2cm. It must contain the following sections:

- Main objectives.
- Summary of current links between UK and Korean applicants.
- Details of the activities to be carried out.
- Statement of added value: Indicate the benefit of the proposed collaboration to UK and Korean science and in particular, the relevance to your current research projects.
- Applications must demonstrate how this award will facilitate longer-term collaborations between the UK and Korean applicants.

## **Work Plan**

A Gantt chart or diagrammatic action plan should be provided in the application form. Please outline the timelines for each of the activities to be carried out. Maximum 1 side of A4

## **CVs**

A two page CV is required for both the Korean and UK Principal Investigators.

## **Letters of support (*if required*)**

UK Applicants must hold a competitive research grant and must be based in an institution eligible to receive MRC funding. Applicants who hold funding from a funder other than the MRC are required to submit a signed Letter of Support from their Head of Department:

- (1) confirming that they are in receipt of a competitively awarded research grant; and
- (2) including information about the applicant's current funding (including the funder name, funding type/scheme, grant title, grant reference, amount in GBP, start date, end date and role e.g. Co-Investigator).

## **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Applications will undergo internal assessment by MRC and KHIDI. Internal assessment of these proposals allows partnering award applications to be processed swiftly and in proportion to the size of the awards. There will not be external peer review of the scientific programme, however, the funding currently held by researchers and the body who awarded it will be used as evidence in the decision-making process. Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The value added to medical science.
- The benefits and future joint research likely to accrue from the collaboration.
- The potential sustainability of the collaboration.
- The uniqueness of the opportunity and expertise of both partners.
- The opportunities for exchange of scientists, particularly early career scientists.
- The possibility of further funding being secured as the result of the award.
- The interdisciplinary nature of the application.

## **GRANT MAINTENANCE**

All grant maintenance requests should be sent to [international@mrc.ukri.org](mailto:international@mrc.ukri.org).

### **Initiation**

Successful UK applicants will be sent a standard MRC award letter and will be required to accept this award before they start spend. The MRC will reimburse the lead research organisation in arrears by invoice.

Successful applicants based in Korea will be required to invoice the KHIDI for 20% of the awarded monies by mid-April 2020 and the remainder according to the rules set forth by the KHIDI.

### **Transfer**

Should the award holder transfer to another eligible Institution the transfer of their partnering award will be subject to MRC, KHIDI and host institute approval.

### **Termination**

If a partnering award is terminated early, MRC and KHIDI reserve the right to reclaim any unspent monies.

### **Data protection regulations**

MRC will use information provided in the application for processing the proposal, the award of any consequential grant, and for the payment, maintenance and review of the grant. To meet the Research Councils' obligations for public accountability and the dissemination of information, details of awards may also be made available on the Research Councils' web sites and other publicly available databases, and in reports, documents and mailing lists.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

All MRC Grant Holders may be required to use ResearchFish (<https://www.researchfish.com>) to record key findings and specific outputs from their grants as per standard MRC terms and conditions.

Grant Holders must report outcomes on a regular basis for all current grants and MRC will monitor submissions to ensure that acceptable levels of information are being provided into Researchfish.

Detailed information on Researchfish can be found at <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/research-outcomes1/about-researchfish>.

MRC and KHIDI may also require further information from the grant holders as part of the evaluation process for this scheme. Grant holders will be expected to assist with these requests.

## CONTACTS

Eligibility and administrative queries about this scheme should be addressed to:

Jo Frost and/or Donna Trueman  
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UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)  
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