Application Guidance
South Africa – UK Antibiotic Accelerator

This guidance document is for applicants wishing to apply to the South Africa – UK Antibiotic Accelerator Initiative. This guidance supplements the MRC Guidance for applicants. Please consult the 'MRC guidance for Applicants' for information such as preparing the UK budget for your proposal.

It is important that applicants read the below document as it includes important additional information that is not covered in the call text or the relevant guidance provided by SAMRC.

Where guidance in the present document differs from that in the MRC Guidance for applicants or the SAMRC-Newton grant funding guidelines (South African applicants), you should follow the guidance in this present, scheme specific, document.

Contents

1. Important application information

The UK Medical Research Council and the South African Medical Research Council are pleased to invite proposals to the South Africa – UK Antibiotic Accelerator Initiative under the umbrella of the Newton Fund.

This initiative will provide funding for high quality collaborative research partnerships focused on addressing the growing global burden of antimicrobial resistance, specifically antibacterial resistance in South Africa, through Drug Discovery.

Researchers will be responsible for developing collaborations and, once a research proposal is developed, UK and South African applicants must apply jointly for funding. For administrative purposes, all projects will have a Principal Investigator (PI) based at a UK Research Organisation (RO) and a PI based at a South African RO. Partners must work together to complete one joint application to be written in English and submitted to the MRC via the MRC Joint electronic System (Je-S) System.

Following the intention to submit, the MRC and SAMRC reserve the right to suggest alternative arrangements for the proposed consortia, were synergies are identified or repetitions can be avoided.

Research Grants under this call can be up to three years in duration and must start on **1 April 2020** and the end date of the proposed research should be no later than **31 March 2023**. **Funding for projects awarded under this call for proposals is provided by SAMRC as they will be the awarding body.**

The total funding available for this call is as follows:

- MRC UKRI - up to £2m
- SAMRC - up to ~ ZAR 24m

The funders' contributions to this initiative will form a 'collective pot' expected to support both the UK and South African component of the research grant. Total funding pool ~ R60 M or £3.3m.

It is expected that this funding will support a single Antibiotic Accelerator.

As the UK contribution will be provided by the Newton Fund allocation, the research proposed must meet Official Development Assistance (ODA) requirements and be primarily relevant to near-term or long-term benefits to the health or prosperity of South Africa.

Applications will be assessed for ODA-compliance before the peer review process and will not be assessed if the funders do not feel the proposed work is ODA compliant. For further information on ODA please visit The Newton Fund website.

Key dates

Activity	Date
Intention to Submit **(Compulsory)**	22 July 2019
Full Application submitted to MRC via the Joint Electronic System (JE-S)	5 September 2019
Principal Investigator (PI) Response	November 2019
Panel Meeting	November 2019
Inform Outcome	January 2020
Projects start	April 2020

2. Application Guidelines and Process

Pre-Award process

Please note, this is a jointly led UK-South Africa initiative.

The UK's MRC will manage the pre-award stage which includes the following:

- Manage receipt of the Intention to Submit
- Manage receipt of written applications via Je-S system
- Manage the peer review process
- Engage with PIs on peer reviewed comments

Applicants must therefore submit their jointly written application to the UK MRC via the Je-S system, please see the **MRC Guidance for applicants.**

SA Investigators should refer to the **SAMRC-Newton grant funding guidelines** when preparing proposals and budgets.

Post-Award process

SAMRC will manage the post award process of the grant which includes the following:

- Sending successful grant award letter to the Principal Investigator (PI).
- SAMRC will conclude a funding agreement with the **South African (SA) PI's host institutions**. The UK PI will then be subcontracted by the South African Institution. SAMRC will not be contracting directly with any UK institution. Final UK and SA budgets will be subject to negotiation with SAMRC, and subject to changes due to the exchange rate.
- Managing the grant for the life time of the project.

Full applications must be submitted by UK PI's on behalf of both UK and South Africa PIs to the MRC via the Je-S application system by **16:00 BST** on **Thursday, 5 September 2019**.

3. Who can apply

3.1 Types of research organisations (ROs)

The information below applies to the SA applicants:
Investigators from South African public universities, science councils (including the SAMRC) and other public research organisations. Furthermore,

- registered not-for profit research organisations are eligible to apply
- intramural and extramural SAMRC research units are eligible to apply
- for-profit institutions are NOT eligible

See **SAMRC-Newton grant funding guidelines** for further details about eligibility.

Applications from and/or inclusion of the following Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDIs) and Universities of Technology are strongly encouraged:

- Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT)
- Sefako Makgatho Health Science University (SMU)
- University of Fort Hare (UFH)
- University of Limpopo (UL)
- University of the Western Cape (UWC)
- University of Venda (UV)
- University of Zululand (UZ)
- Walter Sisulu University (WSU)

The information below applies to the UK applicants.

The UK PI MUST be based at one of the following:

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

Applications with industry engagement are welcomed, however, funding will not be provided to industrial partners by MRC UKRI or SAMRC.

The funders are not seeking to fund partners outside of the UK, South Africa or other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa through this initiative. Please contact international@mrc.ukri.ac.uk if you are planning to involve a partner from a third country in your proposal.

See MRC Guidance for applicants **for further details about eligible institutions. This call will follow standard MRC eligibility criteria.**

3.2 People named on the grant

The Principal Investigators (PI's)

For awards under the MRC-SAMRC scheme there will be a UK PI and a South African PI. The expectation is that the UK PI and associated costs for UK research will be made at amounts in line with standard MRC funding rules. And the South African PI and associated costs for research in South Africa will be made in line with standard SAMRC funding arrangements. Funding for projects awarded under this call for proposals is provided by SAMRC as they will be the awarding body. Final budgets will be subject to negotiation, and possible currency exchange fluctuations.

The PI's are responsible for the intellectual leadership of the research project and for the overall management of the research. The South African PI will be the SAMRC's main contact for the proposal throughout the lifetime of the project. However, for administrative purposes when completing the Je-S form, applicants will only be able to input one PI; **this will need to be the UK PI**. The South African PI will need to be listed as a co-Investigator (Co-I).

The award of a grant does not guarantee any further commitment to funding by the MRC or SAMRC.

MRC will consider proposals from any UK-based researcher who is based at an eligible Research Organisation and can demonstrate that they will direct the proposed research and be actively engaged in carrying it through.

Each PI in the UK and South Africa may submit only one research grant proposal for this research initiative. however, they can be Co-Investigators on multiple applications.

See the MRC Guidance for applicants for further details about UK PI eligibility.

See the SAMRC-Newton grant funding guidelines for further details about SA PI eligibility.

Co-Investigators (Co-Is)

The PI's may be supported by a number of UK and South African Co-I's named on the application. A Co-I assist's the PI in the management and leadership of the research project.

All UK and South African PI's and Co-I's must have verified Je-S accounts and **must** be added to the Je-S form under co-investigator. Please see section 3.4 'Creating a Je-S application' for information on how to add an organisation on Je-S.

It is important to register on Je-S at least two weeks before the deadline as this is not a quick process

While, it is essential that all South African PI's and Co-I's are added to the Je-S form, South African costs should not be represented on this form. A separate 'SA Budget Pro-Forma' must be completed by the South African PI's. A break down and justification of South African costs should be included in the 'Justification of Resources' template.

Other support

For information on other parties involved in research e.g. Project Partners, please see Section 2.2.7 in the MRC Guidance for applicants.

If a project partner is from industry, applicants must follow the guidance relating to the MRC Industrial Collaboration Agreement (MICA).

4. Application process

4.1 Intention to Submit

Researchers planning to submit to this scheme are asked to submit a COMPULSORY '**Intention to submit'** by clicking here. The deadline for expressions of interests is at 23:59 (BST), **Monday 22 July 2019**.

Failure to submit a valid 'Intention to Submit' by the deadline will invalidate your full submission.

The questions asked are indicated in annex 1 of this document.

The 'Intention to Submit' received will assist the funders in preparing for peer review. This step will not involve an assessment of the proposal; therefore, applicants should not expect to receive feedback from the funders. Once you have submitted the 'Intention to Submit', please proceed with producing your application and do not wait for a confirmation from the funders'.

Please note, the information you provide will be shared with peer reviewers.

4.2 Full application summary

The deadline for full applications is **16:00 BST Thursday, 5 September 2019.**
https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/JeS2WebLoginSite/Login.aspx
No late applications will be considered following the deadline.

Applications must be submitted by the UK PI on behalf of the UK-South African research partnership. The application must be JOINTLY prepared. Once received, MRC will share the applications with the relevant South African partner; therefore, no further documents need to be submitted to SAMRC. As this will be the single application document, it is vital that the joint application form provides full details of the work proposed for both the UK and South African components.

The following documents must be included in the joint application:

- **A completed Je-S form**.
  All UK and South African investigators MUST be included. This form reflects the UK costs, so while the South African investigators should be included, hours charged for South African Investigators should be 0. A break down and justification of South African costs should be included in the Justification of Resources template.

- **A cover letter (optional).**
- **A jointly prepared Case for Support** including a one-page annex (if required) detailing the methodology and experimental design aspects (see additional guidance below).
- **CVs and publication lists** (uploaded individually) for each of the UK and South African partners named as investigators on the grant.
- **Justification of Resources** justifying the total costs requested for the project (both UK and South African costs should be fully justified).
- **Pathways to impact** – please see section 2.2.5 **MRC Guidance for Applicants.**
- **Data Management Plan** – please see section 2.2.8 **MRC Guidance for Applicants.**
- **SA Budget Pro-Forma** a detailed budget form for the South African costs uploaded as an attachment titled 'SAMRC budget pro-forma' (template on webpage). This document can be uploaded as attachment type "Non-UK component". This should be a converted PDF document and not a scanned document. SA Investigators refer to SAMRC-Newton grant funding guidelines.
- **MRC Industry Collaboration Agreement (MICA) form and Heads of Terms** This is needed if industry is involved in the UK and/or in South Africa.
- **UK National Health Service (NHS) costs (if required)** – please see section 3.5 of the standard **MRC Guidance for Applicants.**
- **Use of animals overseas** (form required for use of animals overseas).
- **Gender Equality Statement** (please see section 4.4)
- **Signed letters of support:**
    - **ODA Compliance Document** (see template).
    - From the South African and UK PIs research organisations demonstrating support for the proposed research project.
    - Where the South African partner or another third party (ANY organisation other than the host UK RO) is responsible for recruitment of people as research participants and/or providing any biological material including human tissue.
    - From any project partner where an in-kind payment is being contributed.
    - From both PIs when animal research is proposed. Please see section 5.6 "use of animals" for further information.

All attachments should be completed in 11-point Arial typeface, with a minimum of 2cm margins. Applications will not be accepted where smaller or narrow typefaces have been used.

Page lengths (A4 size):

Document	***Maximum length***
Covering letter	2 pages
A jointly prepared Case for Support	9 pages (including project Gantt Chart, illustrations & references) + 1 page for methodology annex
CV	2 pages per CV
Publications	1 page per investigator
Justification of Resource	4 pages
Pathways to Impact	2 pages
Data Management Plan	3 pages
Gender Equality Statement	1 page

ODA compliance	1 page
Letter of supports (dated and signed)	2 pages

Other documents for which page lengths are not relevant include: **SA Budget Pro-Forma**

Further guidance and details for all of the above content can be found in the **MRC Guidance for Applicants.**

4.3 The Case for Support and Justification of Resources

The Case for Support

A jointly prepared Case for Support, written in English, must be uploaded as a PDF to the Je-S application. The case for support may be up to nine A4 pages in length and **must** include a project Gantt Chart and one page of references, using Arial 11pt typeface with margins of 2cms on all sides.

Please refer to the assessment process and criteria (Section 5) to complete this case for support.

In your case for support you should address each of the following headings:

- title
- importance of the research
- scientific potential and expected outcomes
- people and track record including project roles and responsibilities of UK and South African applicants
- research environment
- research plans and deliverables
- consideration of ethical, governance and IP issues around the project
- data preservation, exploitation and dissemination.

For further information regarding what should be included in the Case for Support, please see section 2.2.3 in the **MRC Guidance for Applicants.**

A one-page annex may be included in addition to the case for support page limit providing additional detail of the methodology and experimental design aspects of the proposal. This information must be provided as a clearly marked annex at the end of the main Case for Support entitled '**Methodology and experimental design annex'**. Please note that you are not required to duplicate information presented elsewhere in the application.

The use of this annex is strongly advised where the proposal includes the use of animals and/or human participants, or where the methodology/experimental design proposed is practically novel. Please see section 4.3 in the **MRC Guidance for Applicants.**

Justification of Resources

Please complete the **template** available on the call webpage, it must be written in a minimum font size of Arial, 11 point, with margins of at least 2 cm, justifying that the resources requested are appropriate to undertake the research project.

You must complete one Justification of Resources (JoR) document justifying both the UK costs and South African costs and attach it to your application under "Justification of Resources". The JoR must contain a breakdown and explanation of the costs requested for this funding scheme by each partner taking into account the requirements outlined under the 'Funding available' section of this document.

The JoR should explain why the resources requested are appropriate for the research proposed, taking into account the nature and complexity of the research proposal. It should not be simply a list of the resources required.

In addition to the standard content for the Justification of Resources, applicants should include:

- the UK value of resources requested by the UK researchers
- a statement detailing the UK value of resources requested by the South African partner.

This is so that the value of the total funds requested for the research project, can be assessed.

The costs on both the UK and South African side should be separate with a clear justification of each cost.

4.4 Gender Equality Statement

(Up to one side of A4, attachment type Non-UK components)

To comply with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, applications **must** provide a Gender Equality Statement, outlining how applicants have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities. This must be no longer than a one page and is a mandatory attachment.

Applicants are required to address the below criteria, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of their research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable.

Criteria to address while considering gender impact:

- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research and innovation, and the beneficiaries of the research and innovation.
- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.

- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.
- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

Further guidance for applicants on Gender Equality Statements is available **here.**

4.5 ODA Compliance

Where a project is ODA compliant, the Impact Summary should also address how it meets ODA requirements. For example:

- Explain the specific problem or outcome which will have an impact on a developing country or countries on the DAC list
- Explain why this is a problem for the developing country or countries

Applicants must complete and attach the **ODA Compliance document** as an 'Letter of Support' to their Je-S application.

All applications under this call must be compliant with the ODA guidelines to be deemed eligible and therefore if the ODA Compliance document and Impact Summary has not been completed, your proposal will either be returned or deemed ineligible.

ODA transparency and reporting

As part of the government's commitment to ODA transparency and in line with DfID ODA reporting requirements, UKRI is responsible for publishing information about UKRI ODA grants including project titles and summaries via the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry and via DfID's national statistics.

The purpose of publishing information via the IATI registry is to make information about ODA easily accessible to governments, stakeholders and other relevant groups in beneficiary countries. All UKRI funded projects from this programme will be published in this way. Please therefore write your project title and summary in such a way that they are meaningful and accessible to non-specialist audiences, following publication.

We would be grateful if you would ensure that the project title and summary are written in plain English and avoid the use of jargon, acronyms, puns and plays on words.

Please also make clear in your project title and summary how your project is ODA compliant, for example by identifying the development challenge(s) being addressed, the aims of the project and the beneficiary countries.

4.6 Creating a Je-S account

Please login to your Je-S account via https://jes.rcuk.ac.uk/JeS2WebLoginSite/Logout.aspx, using the username and

password you have chosen (if you do not have a Je-S account, or have forgotten your password, please see the guidance provided further below).

- select '**Documents**' from the left-hand menu list from your Je-S account home page
- select '**New Document**' from within the Functions/create section of your documents page

Please note that **ONLY the UK PI creates the Je-S application**, any collaborating Investigators from other research organisation (UK or Overseas), are added to the application depending on their involvement and responsibilities whilst working on the project.

Important information when creating a Je-S account:

All collaborating investigators involved in a grant project will need to be registered on Je-S. It is important to register on Je-S at least two weeks before the deadline as this is not a quick process. Please read on for information about setting up a Je-S account.

The below '**Call/type/mode**' can only be selected when the call opening date has been reached (until the advertised closing date **Thursday, 5 September 2019).**

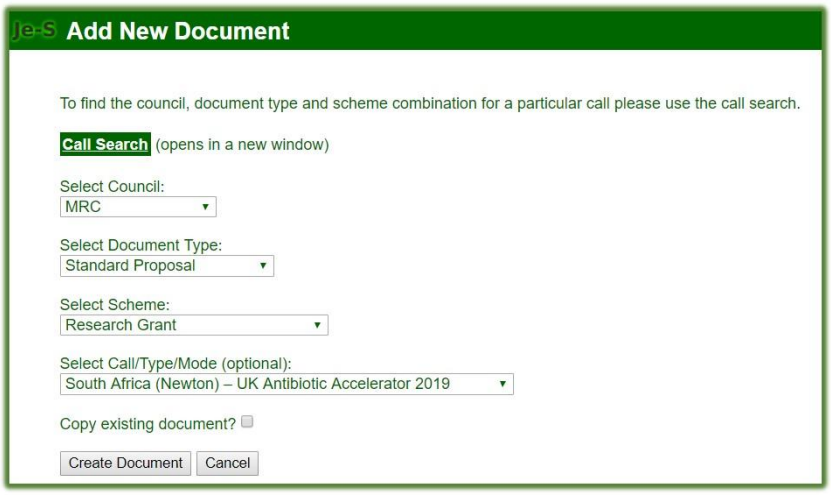
All MRC funding calls close at **16:00 BST**, on the advertised closing date. For this call, the closing date is **Thursday, 5 September 2019.**

- Select council: **MRC**
- Select document type: **Standard Proposal**
- Select scheme: **Research Grant**
- Select call/type/mode: South Africa – UK Antibiotic Accelerator Initiative Select **'create document'** option

New Je-S users: In order to gain access to the Je-S System, **create an account.**

Should the overseas Co-Investigators not be able to select their RO when attempting to create their Je-S account, MRC recommend that the Investigator emails the Je-S Helpdesk jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk, with the full name and address details of the Overseas Organisation and they will contact you with further instructions.

Project details: UK PIs should allow a start date of no later than **01 April 2020.**



4.7 Budgets

UK-based research costs will be funded at 80% of the Full Economic Cost. It is the responsibility of the South African and UK PIs to ensure the conditions of their respective funder is understood.

SA-Based researchers to ensure that they comply with the SAMRC-Newton grant funding guidelines that outlines the terms and conditions of funding. Ensure that the SA institutions grant officers are aware of the conditions and accepts the terms. Funding should be excluding 15 % VAT.
SA institutions are not allowed to charge additional Indirect Costs/Institutional Levy on UK funding.

Full Economic Costing (FEC)

Please see Section 3. Resources – Full Economic Costing in the MRC Guidance for applicants for information on FEC.

All the UK and South African PI(s)/Co-I(s) must be inputted onto the Je-S form. However, any costs for South African PI(s)/Co-I(s) (unless agreed) must be inputted with hours and charged as £0. A break down and justification of South African costs should be included in the Justification of Resources template.

Funding available

	UKRI funding	***South African Funding***
Research costs: Staff – directly incurred post and directly allocated posts (PI and Co-I time)	Yes	Refer to SAMRC-Newton grant funding guidelines
Equipment below £10,000	Yes	Yes
Equipment above £10,000	No	Yes (capped at 10% of total budget)
Consumables	Yes	Yes
Research studentships	No	Yes
Research assistants**/postdoctoral researchers/research technicians	Yes	Yes
Studentships (degree programmes)	No	Yes (PhD and Masters only)
Travel and subsistence for exchange/mobility activities	Yes	Yes
Cost of workshops, meetings etc.	Yes	Yes
Overheads	Yes	Yes

Equipment:

As highlighted above, UKRI are unable to fund Capital costs above £10,000.

5. Assessment process and criteria

Following submission, peer-review will be undertaken by the funding agencies. To be funded, proposals must be internationally competitive and at a standard equivalent to that normally expected to be supported by each funding organisation. Applicants will be given the opportunity to provide a written response to peer review comments prior to the panel meeting in November 2019.

Key assessment criteria for the submissions will be:

- partnership: including strength and clarity of collaborations and opportunities provided, quality of the project management structure proposed, and the added value of the UK-South Africa collaboration
- capacity building potential
- significance and impact of the research
- rationale: novelty, importance, interdisciplinarity and timeliness of the joint research proposal
- design and feasibility of the project plan
- collaborations with HDI researchers
- quality and suitability of the research environment and of the facilities
- value for money for South Africa and UK science
- ethical considerations and governance arrangements

In addition, applicants must describe how the proposed UK funded work is ODA compliant [approximately one page of A4]. This section will be made publicly available. For further information on ODA, please visit: http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/about/what-is-oda/

Applications received, comments from all peer-reviewers and PI response will be assessed by the joint MRC UKRI - SAMRC Review Panel in November 2019. This panel will consist of academic experts from both UK and South Africa, where final decisions will be made.

For further information on the peer review process, please see the **MRC peer review** page.

6. Agreements

6.1 Collaboration Agreement

As the research projects will be carried out by multiple research organisations and project partners, the basis of collaboration between the organisations and project partners, including ownership of intellectual property (IP) generated during the project and rights to exploitation, and costs of IP management [this is not an eligible cost to MRC UKRI], is expected to be set out in a formal Collaboration Agreement between the research organisations involved. It is the responsibility of the research organisations to put such an agreement in place before the

research begins. **The terms of collaboration shall not conflict with MRC UKRI and SAMRC terms and conditions**.

Arrangements for collaboration and/or exploitation must not prevent the future progression of academic research and the dissemination of research results in accordance with academic custom and practise and the requirements of the funding bodies. A temporary delay in publication is acceptable in order to allow commercial and collaborative arrangements to be established.

Details of key issues included in the Collaboration Agreement, for example management of IP and use of biological materials, should be detailed in the 'consideration of ethical, governance and IP issues around the project' section of the Case for Support.

6.2 Intellectual Property

Ownership of intellectual property (IP) generated during the project and rights to exploitation, as well as any costs regarding management of IP, are expected to be agreed between the collaborating research organisations before the research begins. Details of this agreement should be included in the Collaboration Agreement (as above).

Agreements must not conflict with UKRI and SAMRC terms and conditions. Any agreements in place between a research organisation and their respective funding organisation must be adhered to, including the sharing of IP costs or benefits.

The MRC will follow its standard rules/terms and conditions regarding IP, please see relevant sections within the **Applicant Guidance.**

6.3 Material Transfer Agreements

Collection and exchange of material may occur between collaborating institutions, as necessary, in strict compliance with the legislation in effect in both countries.

6.4 Ethics

Any research involving humans/human tissue and/or animals must comply with legislation in both the UK and South Africa and must also comply with relevant policies and guidance of the MRC UKRI and SAMRC.

It is the absolute responsibility of the PIs and the ROs to ensure that appropriate ethical approval is granted and adhered to, and that no research requiring ethical approval is initiated until it has been granted.

The Ethical Information sub-sections in the Je-S proposal form should be completed to give details of any human participation, research using animals, genetic and biological risk, and ethical committee approvals required. Section 5 of the MRC Guidance for Applicants 2019 has recently been updated to reflect amendments to this section of the Je-S form.

Applicants must be clear in their applications in which country the proposed research involving humans and/or animals will take place and must fully complete the Ethical Information section for research taking place in either country.

A copy of the ethics approval from PI/Institutions needs to be submitted to the SAMRC ahead of any research activities taking place.

MRC UKRI Ethics Guidance

Applicants must comply with all of the MRC's relevant policies and guidance regarding the use of humans/human tissue and/or animals in research.

Approval(s) for the research detailed in a grant proposal must be granted by the appropriate bodies before any work can commence. Institutions, applicants and grant holders have absolute responsibility for ensuring that the necessary approvals are granted for the research considered by MRC and SAMRC.

The principal investigator/ research organisation must be prepared to furnish the MRC UKRI with a copy of the ethical approval, and any correspondence with the committees, if requested by the council. The principal investigator must notify the MRC UKRI if a regulator or a research ethics committee requires amendments that substantially affect the research question, methodology or costs to the extent that the project is no longer the same as that approved for funding by the MRC UKRI.

For South African Ethics guidance please refer to the relevant institution's guidelines.

6.5 Human/Human Tissue

Applicants must comply with relevant MRC UKRI policies and guidance (section 5 of the MRC Guidance for applicants).

In particular, applicants should be aware that for research to be undertaken internationally, both local and UK ethical approval is required.

For clinical studies involving human participants and/or patients in the UK or overseas, appropriate consent must be obtained.

Where the South African partner or another third party (ANY organisation other than the UK RO) is responsible for recruitment of people as research participants and/or providing human tissue, details should be included in the case for support and a letter of support MUST be attached to the application. The letter of support should be titled Human participation and include confirmation of the following:

- That the international partner has agreed to recruit the participants/provide tissue
- That what is being supplied is suitable for the research being undertaken
- That the quantity of tissue (where relevant) being supplied is suitable, but not excessive for achieving meaningful results

The letter of support must be an integral part of the application (as an attachment) and must focus on the proposal it accompanies.

Please see section 5.2.2 MRC Guidance for Applicants for additional information.

All South African applicants must adhere to national and their institutional guidelines on human ethics.

https://www.reasa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/DoH-Ethics-Health-Research-2015.pdf

6.6 Use of Animals Guidance

Applicants must ensure that all of the proposed research, both that in the UK and in South Africa, will comply with the principles of the MRC 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 (e.g. 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. International research should also be compliant with all relevant national and local regulatory systems in the host country where the research is to be conducted."

Investigators proposing the use of animals should provide an additional letter including the following information:

- A signed statement from both UK and South Africa leads that:
    - they will adhere to all relevant national and local regulatory systems in the UK and South Africa,
    - they will follow the guidelines laid out in the **using animals for bioscience research** document and ensure that work is carried out to UK and South African standards ,
    - before initiation of the proposed research work, appropriate approvals from institutional and/or central animal ethics committees will be obtained for experimental protocols to be adopted in their projects. Successful proposals may be expected to provide copies of these permissions before funding is released.
- Details on where the animal research will take place (UK, South Africa or elsewhere) and through which funder the resources are being sought. Applicants should include confirmation that animal welfare standards at these institutions meet the requirements outlined above.

All applicants are required to comply with Section 4: 'Proposals involving animal use' of the **MRC Guidance for Applicants.** Applicants should detail in the letter any additional information which was not included in the proposal document but which is pertinent to the animal research proposed and which the funders should be aware of.

In addition, researchers should be reminded that sufficient information and justification regarding any animal research proposed, regardless of country, must be provided in the proposal order to allow full peer review to take place.

All South African applicants must adhere to national and their institutional guidelines on animal ethics.

https://www.reasa.africa/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/DoH-Ethics-Health-Research-2015.pdf

6.6.1 Protection of the Biodiversity

If the proposal includes the use of these resources, the applicants shall commit to initiate the application procedure of the research authorization with and without sampling and/or access contract to genetic resources, according to the procedures and regulations of the Administration and Management Sectoral Authorities.

7. UK Terms and conditions

For the grant's terms and conditions please follow the link:
https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/

Newton Fund terms and conditions are provided below:

ODA compliance
The Newton Fund is part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA). Its aim is to develop science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. The investigators must ensure the research part of this grant remains compliant with ODA rules and regulations as set out under the Newton Fund programme. In the event that the research does not remain compliant with ODA rules and regulations Medical Research Council reserve the right to terminate the award and recoup any funds as appropriate.

Acknowledgements and reporting
Investigators must acknowledge the Newton Fund, the Medical Research Council, and the SAMRC in any publications, web pages or events associated with this grant.

Investigators must assist the Medical Research Council with any additional reporting requirements requested by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, any other government department, or SAMRC.

Starting procedures
The successful projects must start, as a condition of funding, no later than **01 April 2020**.

Please note that due to the fixed start date, the normal three months start period rules outlined in the UKRI Terms and Conditions RGC4, does not apply to this project.

Ethical requirements
It is the responsibility of the UK PI, the South African PI and the research organisations to ensure that appropriate ethical approval is granted for this study and adhered to, and that no research requiring ethical approval is initiated until it has been granted. Once ethics is granted a copy of the ethics approval and subsequent renewals to by supplied to SAMRC.

MRC **current policy for research involving humans** is that for research to be undertaken overseas, both local and UK ethical approval is required.

For clinical studies involving human participants and/or patients, appropriate consent must be obtained.

For grants that include the use of animals, the **responsibility in the use of animals** guidance should be adhered to, and in particular: '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 principals of UK legislation (such as the ASPA) and set out in this guidance are applied and maintained.'

The principal investigator/research organisation must be prepared to furnish the Medical Research Council with a copy of the ethical approval, and any correspondence with the committees, if requested. The principal investigator must notify the Medical Research Council if a regulator or a research ethics committee requires amendments that substantially affect the research question, methodology or costs to the extent that the project is no longer the same as that approved for funding.

Government support
This award is dependent on continuing government commitment for this initiative and continuing match from the partner funder. In the event that this support is withdrawn, the Medical Research Council reserve the right to terminate the award.

Collaboration Agreement
A Collaboration Agreement is required for this project.

As the grant is associated with more than one research organisation the basis of collaboration between the organisations, including the allocation of resources throughout the project and ownership of intellectual property and rights to exploitation is required to be set out in the formal collaboration agreement. It is the responsibility of the lead research organisation to put such an agreement in place. The terms of collaboration agreements must not conflict with the Medical Research Council's terms and conditions.

Annex 1 – Intention to Submit

Please click link to complete 'intention to submit' form.

Questions asked:

1. **Principal Investigator (PI) UK**
2. **UK PI Research Organisation (RO)**
3. **UK PI Email**
4. **UK CO-Investigators and RO's**
   List of all Co-Investigators (stating whether UK or South African based)
5. **Principal Investigator South Africa (Title, Name, Surname, gender, ethnicity, ID number)**
6. **South African PI RO**
7. **South African PI Email**
8. **South African Co-Investigators and RO's**
9. **Project Title**
10. **Project Summary**
    Summary of proposed project (maximum 200 words). Please note this will be used when approaching potential reviewers.
11. **Ethical considerations**
    Human/Animal Research - Will the proposed research involve the use of humans or vertebrae animals/ other organisms covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act? If yes, please provide details.
    If your research involves animals, please specify the species involved
12. **Approximate UK total cost (100% FEC) GBP**
13. **Approximate South African total cost ZAR excluding 15% VAT**
14. **ODA. Describe how the proposed UK funded work is ODA compliant (approximately one page of A4)**