UK-Canada Diabetes Partnership Initiative: UK-Canada Diabetes Research Team Grants 2019

CALL-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

This guidance supplements the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants. Please consult the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants for information such as preparing the UK budget for your proposal.

This call-specific guidance document provides additional information specific to this call. Where guidance in the present document differs from that in the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants, you should follow the guidance in this present, scheme specific, document.

It is important that applicants read this call-specific document. It includes important additional information that is not covered in the UK Call text. It is also important that Canadian researchers are aware of all relevant guidance provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Please see Research Net (English version / French version) for more information.

UK and Canadian researchers should also discuss ethics and Intellectual Property before fully developing their proposal.

Contents

1. Important application information

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the UK Medical Research Council (MRC), the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) are pleased to invite proposals to the UK-Canada Diabetes Research Team Grants 2019 call. The MRC and ESRC are both part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

For further information on the background, aim, objectives and scope please see the Call document.

1.1 Your personal information

UK Research and Innovation capture and process personal information in line with current data protection legislation; General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and any amendments by the UK Data Protection Bill and/or relevant acts of parliament.

All personal data provided to UK Research and Innovation in connection with this bilateral call will be processed in accordance with current UK data protection legislation and the EU General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 (GDPR) where appropriate. Your proposal and data will be shared with the CIHR, our partner funders in Canada.

Further details can be found in the UK Research and Innovation Privacy Notice (https://www.ukri.org/privacy-notice).

1.2 Funding, duration and start date

In total, up to ~£4m will be made available through this initiative: up to £2m of MRC and ESRC funding in support of the UK components; and up to $2.7M CAD from CIHR in support of the Canadian components of the team grants.

The funding agencies intend to use these available funds to support approximately six collaborative projects, subject to the quality of the applications received to the call.

Projects must be three years in duration and must start on 1 April 2020.

Funding for projects awarded under this call for proposals is jointly provided by the MRC, ESRC and CIHR. The MRC and ESRC will fund the UK component of the proposal at the standard 80% of the full Economic Cost (fEC), and CIHR will fund the Canadian component of the proposal.

> **CIHR:** CIHR and partner(s) financial contributions for this initiative are subject to availability of funds. Should CIHR or partner(s) funding levels not be available or are decreased due to unforeseen circumstances, CIHR and partner(s) reserve the right to reduce, defer or suspend financial contributions to grants received as a result of this funding opportunity.
>
> - The total amount available from CIHR for the Canadian component of this funding opportunity is $2,700,000, enough to fund approximately 6 grants.
> - The maximum amount per grant is $150,000 per year for up to 3 years for a total of $450,000 per grant.
>
> Funds are available for one Canadian component per grant.

Canadian applicants should review the Use of Grant Funds section of the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) Financial Administration Guide for a complete listing and description of allowable costs and activities.

UK: The MRC and ESRC will make up to £2m available. UK based applicants may therefore request up to a maximum of £333,333 to cover the UK component of each research team grant. The MRC and ESRC will provide funding for the UK-based applicants under standard arrangements and at 80% Full Economic Cost (FEC). **The UK element of funding will not cover UK PhD studentships or requests for capital items.**

The agencies also expect the costs on each side to accurately reflect the research effort to be carried out. It is expected that the research effort on both sides should be comparable.

1.3 Application and review process overview

Intention to submit (ItS)

- UK based researchers planning to submit to this call **must** submit a **compulsory** short ItS by 23:00 British Summer Time on 28 August 2019.

- Canadian based researchers planning to participate (English version / French version) in this call **must** 'register' their intention to submit via ResearchNet by 20:00 Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on 28 August 2019.

Further details are provided in section 3.1 below.

Full application

The UK and Canadian applicants should jointly prepare the full application, including:

- a jointly prepared **'Case for Support'** (including, if applicable, a one-page methodology annex) providing ***full details of the work proposed for both the UK and Canadian components***
- a jointly prepared separate optional one-page **Gantt chart** and
- a jointly prepared **Justification of Resources** using the call-specific template.
- a **jointly prepared summary of the research** (max 3500 characters) which must be submitted to CIHR and also in the 'summary' box on the UK Je-S system.

Full applications must be submitted by the UK PI (on behalf of both the UK and Canadian applicants) to the **MRC via the UKRI Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk).** The Je-S submissions must be received by 16:00 British Summer Time on the day of the deadline. Applicants must complete all sections required for a standard MRC grant proposal. However, the Case for Support format and structure is specific to this call (see the section 3.4 for further information). In addition, the Justification of Resources must be on the specific template for this call.

Further guidance can be found in the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants as well as in this present call-specific Guidance for Applicants document.

The MRC will organise joint peer review on behalf of the all the funders (CIHR, MRC and ESRC). **Peer review will be based on the jointly prepared proposal submitted on the UKRI Je-S system.**

Each UK Principal Investigator (PI) and Canadian Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) will also apply for funding to support their specific component from their respective funding agency.

Therefore Canadian applicants must also submit an abbreviated application (English version / French version) to CIHR via ResearchNet by 20.00 (EDT) on the same date, September 25, 2019. The purpose of this additional application to CIHR is to provide CIHR with an Operating Budget for the project (with the amounts quoted in Canadian dollars), a complete justification for funds requested (applicants should work together to complete the call-specific Justification of Resources template and must submit an identical version to both the MRC and CIHR as a PDF), and to provide a jointly-prepared summary of the research project (this should be maximum 3500 characters and **identical to the 'summary' submitted on the UK Je-S system**).

Failure to submit **both** a valid application to the MRC and an abbreviated application to CIHR by the deadline will invalidate both submissions.

UK and Canadian researchers should discuss ethics and Intellectual Property before fully developing their proposal.

Peer review

- Eligible applications will be externally peer reviewed, including written reviews by reviewers selected by the UK and Canadian funders.
- The UK PI will be offered the opportunity to provide a written response to these reviews on behalf of all applicants.
- Following this process, applications will be assessed by a joint MRC-ESRC-CIHR Peer Review Panel Meeting of academics selected by the UK and Canadian funders.
- Applications will be given one overall score. The proposals with the highest scores will be funded in rank order above the funding cut off.

It is envisaged that all applications deemed relevant will go through the full peer review process described above. However, the MRC/ESRC/CIHR reserve the right to adjust the process and introduce a shortlisting/streamlining step if a high number of proposals are submitted to the call.

Key dates

Activity	*Date*
Pre-announcement	17 May 2019
Call opens	18 June 2019
Deadline for compulsory Intention to Submit (in both countries)	28 August 2019 (UK deadline 23:00 British Summer Time, Canadian deadline 20:00 EDT)
Deadline to submit Full Application (in both countries)	25 September 2019 (UK deadline 16:00 British Summer Time, Canadian deadline 20:00 EDT)
Assessment of proposals	October – early December 2019
UK PI to respond to peer reviewer comments on behalf of the PI and NPA.	Mid December 2019
Funding decision	Approximately early March 2020
Projects start	1 April 2020

2. Who can apply?

For support under this call, applicants and organisations must be eligible to apply for funding from their respective country's funding agency/agencies. The expectation is that the UK PI and associated costs for UK research would be funded by the MRC/ESRC, while the Canadian NPA and associated costs for Canadian research would be funded by CIHR.

2.1 Types of research organisations (ROs)

The UK Principal Investigator (PI) MUST be based at one of the following, as per standard MRC eligibility criteria:

- Higher education institutions
- Independent research organisations
- Government funded organisations (other than MRC funded units and institutes)
- MRC units/institutes
- University units (former MRC units)

For the MRC/ESRC participants, standard UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) eligibility criteria as described on the UKRI website will apply. Applications cannot be accepted from UK principal investigators in commercial organisations. **See section 1 of the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants for further details about eligible UK institutions. This call will follow standard MRC eligibility criteria.**

The Canadian Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) MUST be appointed at an eligible Research Organisation. Please see CIHR's Institutional Eligibility Requirements for eligibility process and associated timelines.

If you have any questions about eligibility of people or organisations, please contact the funders via the contact details given in section 7 of this document.

The funders are not seeking to support applicants/partners outside of the UK and Canada through this initiative. Please contact international@mrc.ukri.org if you are considering involving applicants/partners from a third country in your proposal.

2.2 People named on the grant

This call will fund collaborations between UK and Canadian research teams, fostering and enhancing relationships between researchers working in the area of diabetes.

The UK Principal Investigator and Canadian Nominated Principal Applicant

The proposal should be jointly developed by a UK Principal Investigator (PI) and a Canadian Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA). They will develop a common research plan and vision. They will also equally share leadership and project management for each project.

PIs/NPAs may only submit one application to this scheme as PI/NPA but may be involved in more applications if listed as a UK Co-Investigator/Canadian Principal Applicant.

The UK PI and Canadian NPA are responsible for the intellectual leadership of the research project and for the overall management of the research. The PI/NPA will be the funding agencies' main contact for the proposal. For administrative purposes when completing the UK Je-S form, you will only be able to input one PI; this will need to be the UK PI. The Canadian NPA will need to be listed as a co-investigator (Co-I) on Je-S.

The award of a UK-Canada Diabetes Research Team Grants does not guarantee any further commitment to funding by the MRC, ESRC or CIHR.

UK:

- MRC/ESRC-funded individuals can hold more than one grant at a time.
- The MRC/ESRC 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. See standard MRC Guidance for Applicants for further details about UK PI eligibility.

Canada:

- The Nominated Principal Applicant must be an independent researcher.
- For additional eligibility requirements for individuals, refer to CIHR's Individual Eligibility Requirements.

UK Co-investigators (Co-Is) and Canadian Principal Applicants (PAs)

The UK PI and Canadian NPA may be supported by a number of UK Co-investigators (Co-Is) and Canadian Principal Applicants (PAs) named on the application. UK Co-Is and Canadian PAs assist the UK PI and Canadian NPA in the management and leadership of the research project.

All UK PIs and Co-Is and all Canadian NPAs and PAs MUST have verified Je-S accounts. The UK PI should be added to Je-S under 'Principal Investigator'. The UK Co-Is and Canadian NPAs and PAs must be added to the Je-S form under 'Co-Investigator'. Please see section 3.5, below, 'Creating a Je-S application' for information on how to add an organisation on Je-S.

While, it is essential that all Canadian NPAs and PAs are added to the Je-S form, Canadian costs should **not be** represented on the Je-S form.

Please note: The UK PI should liaise with the Canadian NPA and any other non-UK based Co-Is/PAs as early as possible in the application process to ensure that they set-up their verified Je-S account as a matter of priority. Co-Investigators/NPAs/PAs without Je-S accounts, should be encouraged to visit the Je-S website (https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk) to gain access to the Je-S System.

Further information when creating a Je-S account can be found in section 3.5 of this document.

Other support

For information on other parties involved in research including project partners (known as collaborators by CIHR) please see section 1 in the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants.

If a UK project partner is from industry or if Canadian investigators or project partners are from industry, then applicants must follow the guidance relating to the MRC Industrial Collaboration Agreement (MICA).

If you have any questions about the eligibility of people or organisations, please contact the funders via the contact details given in section 7 of this document.

3. Application process

3.1 Intention to Submit (ItS)

- UK based researchers planning to submit to this scheme **must** submit a **compulsory** short Intention to Submit (ItS) by 23:00 British Summer Time (BST) on the 28 August 2019.
- Canadian based researchers planning to participate (English version / French version) in a collaborative research team for this scheme **must** 'register' their intention to submit via ResearchNet by 20:00 EDT on 28 August 2019.

If possible, researchers should submit the same 'summary' text (max 3,500 characters) on both the UK Intention to Submit and Canadian Registration.

The PI and NPA cannot change between ItS/registration and full application, but additional participants can be added/removed at full application.

Failure to submit a valid ItS/registration to both funders by the deadline will invalidate both submissions.

MRC, ESRC and CIHR will undertake eligibility checks of the PIs and NPAs and their respective organisations, but not the remit or relevance at this point; any ineligible applications will be withdrawn from the competition. Applicants should not await a response from the funders following the ItS submission or registration, but simply continue with the development of the full proposal to be submitted by the deadline of 16:00 British Summer Time on 25 September 2019. The MRC, ESRC and CIHR will use the ItS to help prepare for the review process.

3.2 Full and abbreviated application: process overview

Both of the following must be submitted:

- A **Full Application jointly prepared by the UK and Canadian researchers submitted on the UK Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System by 16:00 British Summer Time on 25th September 2019.**

- An **Abbreviated Application prepared by the Canadian researchers and submitted on the Canadian ResearchNet system by 20:00 EDT on 25th September 2019.**

The UK and Canadian applicants should jointly prepare a common research plan and jointly the full application, including:

- a jointly prepared **'Case for Support'** (including, if applicable, a one-page methodology annex) providing ***full details of the work proposed for both the UK and Canadian components***
- a jointly prepared separate optional one-page **Gantt chart** and
- a jointly prepared **Justification of Resources** using the call-specific template.
- a **jointly prepared summary of the research** (max 3500 characters) which must be submitted to CIHR and also in the 'summary' box on the UK Je-S system.

Full applications must be submitted by the UK PI (on behalf of both the UK and Canadian applicants) to the **MRC via the UKRI Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk).** The Je-S submissions must be received by 16:00 British Summer Time on 25th September 2019. Applicants must complete all sections required for a standard MRC grant proposal. However, the Case for Support format and structure is specific to this call (see the section 3.4 for further information). In addition, the Justification of Resources must be on the specific template for this call.

Further guidance can be found in the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants as well as in this present call-specific Guidance for Applicants document.

The MRC will organise joint peer review on behalf of the all funders (CIHR, MRC and ESRC). **Peer review will be based on the jointly prepared proposal submitted on the UKRI Je-S system.**

Each PI and NPA will also apply for funding to support their specific component from their respective funding agency. Applications submitted to only one side/funding agency will not be accepted.

Therefore Canadian applicants must also submit an abbreviated application (English version / French version) to CIHR via ResearchNet by 20.00 EDT on the same date, September 25, 2019. The purpose of this additional application to CIHR is to provide CIHR with:

- an Operating Budget for the project (with the amounts quoted in Canadian dollars):
- a complete justification for funds requested (applicants should work together to complete the call-specific Justification of Resources template and must submit an identical version to both the MRC and CIHR as a PDF): and
- a jointly-prepared summary of the research project (this should be maximum 3500 characters and identical to the 'summary' submitted on the UK Je-S system).

Failure to submit a valid application to the MRC and an abbreviated application to CIHR by the deadline will invalidate both submissions.

The MRC, ERSC and CIHR will conduct a remit check/relevance review to identify applications that are in alignment with the scope of the call. Applications that are deemed not to be eligible or not to be relevant to the call may be withdrawn from the competition at any point during the peer review process.

UK and Canadian researchers should discuss ethics and Intellectual Property before fully developing their proposal.

3.3 Full application: summary of components

The following documents must be included in the jointly-prepared full application submission on Je-S:

- **A completed Je-S form**.
    - All UK Principal and Co-investigators and all Canadian NPAs and PAs MUST be included.
    - The costing part of the online Je-S form must reflect the UK costs, so while the Canadian NPA and PAs should be included, hours charged on the Je-S form for Canadian investigators should be 0. Canadian costs will instead be captured in the Abbreviated Application to CIHR via ResearchNet.
- **A cover letter (optional)**. If you have submitted a similar or related proposal to any of the UK Research Councils in the last year, please provide details in a cover letter including what has changed since the previous submission. The covering letter can be used to cover details such as conflicts of interest and names of conflicted experts that you request not to be used as peer reviewers by the MRC/ESRC/CIHR.
- **A jointly prepared Case for Support**, including a one-page annex (optional but recommended) detailing the methodology and experimental design aspects – please see the separate call-specific guidance on preparing the Case for Support in section 3.4 of this current call-specific Guidance for Applicants.
- **Gantt Chart**, one page (optional but recommended) using the attachment type 'Letter of Support' on Je-S.
- **CVs and publication lists** (uploaded individually) for each of the UK Principal Investigator and Canadian NPA, all UK Co-investigators and Canadian PAs and named research staff on the application.
- **Justification of Resources** (using the call-specific template) for the total costs requested for the project (both UK and Canadian costs should be fully justified because this document will be provided to peer reviewers and panel members)
- **Pathways to Impact** – please see section 2.2.5 of the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants.
- **Data Management Plan** – please see section 2.2.8 of the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants.
- **MRC Industry Collaboration Agreement (MICA) form and Heads of Terms (if required)** – This is needed if industry is involved in the UK and/or in Canada. Please see the relevant MRC webpage for further guidance.
- **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(s) (if required)** please see section 4.4.6 of the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants and the use of animals overseas section of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) website. This attachment should be uploaded as a 'Letter of Support'.
- **Letters of support (dated and signed):**
    - from the UK Research Organisation(s) demonstrating support for the proposed research project.
    - from the Canadian research organisation(s) demonstrating support for the proposed research project.
    - from any project partner where an in-kind payment is being contributed.
    - A **human participation/human tissue letter** signed by both the UK PI and Canadian NPA when human/human tissue research is proposed and/or when the Canadian 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 human tissue. See section 5.5.1 of this Guide for Applicants for further information.
    - **Use of Animals letter** (if applicable, 2 sides of A4 max) – see section 5.6.1 of this Guide for Applicants for information. This should be signed by both the UK PI and Canadian NPA.
    - **Use of Stem cells letter** (if applicable, 2 sides of A4 max) – please see section 5.7 of this Guide for Applicants 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 (Maximum)***
Covering letter	2 pages
A jointly prepared Case for Support	10 pages (including illustrations & references) + optional additional 1 page for methodology annex
Gantt Chart (using the attachment type 'Letter of Support' on Je-S).	1 page
CV	2 pages per CV
List of Publications	1 page per List of Publications
Justification of Resources	Please refer to the call-specific template for information about page limits
Pathways to Impact	2 pages
Data Management Plan	3 pages
Letter of supports (dated and signed)	2 pages each

Further guidance and details for all of the above content can be found in the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants and in this present call-specific Guidance for Applicants.

3.4 The Case for Support and Justification of Resources

The Case for Support

A jointly prepared Case for Support, must be uploaded as a PDF to the Je-S application. The case for support may be up to 10 A4 pages in length (including illustrations & references) plus an optional additional 1 page methodology annex, using Arial 11pt typeface with margins of 2cms on all sides.

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

- Title
- Importance of the research
- Scientific potential
    - People and track record
    - Research environment
    - Research plans and deliverables
- Ethics and research governance
- Exploitation and dissemination

Generic Guidance on content under each of these headings can be found in section 2.2.3.3 of MRC's standard Guidance for Applicants document.

Details of key issues included in the Collaboration Agreement, for example management of Intellectual property, should be detailed in the 'consideration of ethical, governance and Intellectual Property issues around the project' section of the Case for Support.

In addition, **the Case for Support (and/or where relevant the Data Management Plan, Pathways to Impact and Justification of Resources) should also address the assessment criteria outlined in section 4 of this scheme-specific Guidance for Applicants, including:**

- relevance and alignment to the scope and objectives of the call
- partnership: including strength and clarity of multi-disciplinary collaborations and opportunities provided, quality of the project management structure proposed; the added value of the UK-Canadian collaboration (this should be covered in the 'people and track record, and research environment sections of the Case for Support)
- relevant sex and gender considerations
    - applicants must integrate sex as a biological variable and gender as a social determinant of health, as appropriate, into their research to promote rigorous science and to allow for the discovery of sex and gender differences and their underlying mechanisms where appropriate. As such, applicants are required to indicate how they will account for sex (biological factor) and gender (socio-cultural factor) in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and dissemination of findings. For more information and resources, please see the Sex, Gender and Health Research page on the CIHR website.

- use of appropriate models of disease that are applicable to human pathophysiology of diabetes.

Justification of Resources (JoR)

Please complete the call-specific JoR 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. The call-specific template includes details of the page limits.

You must complete one Justification of Resources (JoR) document justifying both the UK costs and Canadian costs and attach it to your application under "Justification of Resources" as a PDF. 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 sections 1.2 and 3.6 of this current document which specifies the funding available.

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.
- the UK value of resources requested by the Canadian 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 Canadian side should be separate with a clear justification of each cost.

An identical version of the call-specific Justification of Resources template should be submitted to both MRC and CIHR as a PDF.

3.5 Creating a Je-S account and application

To submit full proposals, please login to your Je-S account via https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk, 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).

Please note that ONLY the UK Principal Investigator 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.

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

Important information when creating a Je-S account:

- **All PIs/NPAs and Co-Is/PAs (from the UK, Canada and any third country) 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 the process takes time to complete.**
- It is recommended that overseas Co-Investigators/PAs should ensure that their Research Organisation (RO) has been added to the Je-S database before they commence the Je-S account creation process.
- The create account process will require the applicant to accept the terms and conditions using the Je-S System, before the applicant can proceed with the account creation.
- Applicants can choose to 'Skip the ORCID identifier' as this is NOT required for the purposes of being added to the proposal as an 'Investigator', priority is to create a verified Je-S account to enable the Investigator to be included within the Je-S application.
- Investigators should select the account type 'Applicant on a Standard or Outline Proposal' (within the Research Proposals section).

Should the overseas Co-Investigators/NPAs/PAs 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@je-s.ukri.org), with the full name and address details of the Overseas Organisation and they will contact you with further instructions.

Creating your Je-S application:

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

The '**Call/type/mode**' listed below can only be selected when the call opening date has been reached (until the advertised call closing date of **25 September 2019).**

All MRC funding calls close at **16:00 local UK time**, on the advertised closing date.

- Select council: **MRC**
- Select document type: **Standard Proposal**
- Select scheme: **Research Grant**
- Select call/type/mode (optional): **UK-Canada Diabetes Research Team Grants 2019**
- Select **'create document'** option

Please telephone Je-S Helpdesk 01793 444164 should you require any assistance with the Je-S system.

Project details: Project start date ***must*** **be 1 April 2020.**

3.6 Budgets

In total, up to ~£4m will be made available through this initiative: up to £2m of MRC and ESRC funding in support of the UK components; and up to $2.7M CAD from CIHR in support of the Canadian components of the team grants.

The funding agencies intend to use these available funds to support approximately six collaborative projects, subject to the quality of the applications received to the call.

Projects must be three years in duration and must start on 1 April 2020.

Funding for projects awarded under this call for proposals is jointly provided by the MRC, ESRC and CIHR. The MRC and ESRC will fund the UK component of the proposal at the standard 80% of the full Economic Cost (fEC), and CIHR will fund the Canadian component of the proposal.

The agencies also expect the costs on each side to accurately reflect the research effort to be carried out. It is expected that the research effort on both sides should be comparable.

It is the responsibility of the Canadian NPA and UK PI to ensure the conditions of their respective funder are understood.

All the UK and Canadian PIs/Co-Is/NPAs must be inputted onto the UK Je-S form. However, any costs for Canadian NPAs/Co-Is must be inputted with the correct hours but with the hours charged as £0. The Canadian partner costs will be recorded in the Justification of Resources (call-specific JoR template) that can be downloaded from the MRC webpage for this call.

UK Full Economic Costing (FEC)

The MRC and ESRC will make up to £2m available for this call. UK based applicants may request up to a maximum of £333,333 to cover the UK component of each research team grant. The MRC and ESRC will provide funding for the UK-based applicants under standard arrangements and at 80% Full Economic Cost (FEC). **The UK element of funding will not cover UK PhD studentships or requests for capital items.**

Please see section 3. Resources – Full Economic Costing in the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants for information on FEC.

UK funding available

	UK (MRC/ESRC) funding
Research costs: Staff – directly incurred post (e.g. Researchers, Technicians) Staff – directly allocated posts (PI and Co-I time)	 Yes Yes
Equipment below £10,000: Costs should be claimed as 'Other Directly Incurred Costs'	Yes
Equipment above £10,000	No

Other Directly Incurred Costs Including (e.g. Consumables, Sub-Contracting costs)	Yes
Research studentships	No
Research assistants/postdoctoral researchers/research technicians	Yes
Studentships (degree programmes)	No
Travel and subsistence for exchange/mobility activities	Yes
Cost of workshops, meetings etc. Should be costed as 'Other Directly Incurred'.	Yes

UK equipment:

Capital costs above £10,000 cannot be funded via the MRC/ESRC as part of this call and therefore any capital costs requested will not be accepted by the UK funders.

Costs for 'small equipment' under £10,000 (such as consumables) are accepted by MRC/ESRC from UK applicants. These should be listed within the 'Other Directly Incurred Costs' section on Je-S.

CIHR Costing

CIHR: CIHR and partner(s) financial contributions for this initiative are subject to availability of funds. Should CIHR or partner(s) funding levels not be available or are decreased due to unforeseen circumstances, CIHR and partner(s) reserve the right to reduce, defer or suspend financial contributions to grants received as a result of this funding opportunity.

- The total amount available from CIHR for the Canadian component of this funding opportunity is $2,700,000, enough to fund approximately 6 grants.
- The maximum amount per grant is $150,000 per year for up to 3 years for a total of $450,000 per grant.

Funds are available for one Canadian component per grant.

Canadian applicants should review the Use of Grant Funds section of the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) Financial Administration Guide for a complete listing and description of allowable costs and activities.

UK and Canadian spending obligations

UK: Due to the tight time scales of this call, successful UK research organisations will need to adhere to strict spending requirements. For this call, the end date of the proposed research should be **no later than 31 March 2023**. The UK payment profiles are likely to be slightly irregular for this scheme. If you have any questions about the payment profiles, please contact international@mrc.ukri.org.

Canada: Although project work is anticipated to be completed by March 31, 2023, CIHR provides authorisation to use funds for an additional year after the expiry date of the grant so this provides investigators until March 31, 2024 to spend any remaining funds of the CIHR portion.

4. Assessment process and criteria

To be funded, proposals must be internationally competitive and at a standard equivalent to that normally expected to be supported by each funding organisation.

The MRC will organise joint peer review on behalf of the all the funders (CIHR, MRC and ESRC). **Peer review will be based on the jointly prepared proposal submitted on the UKRI Je-S system.**

Peer review process

- Eligible applications will be externally peer reviewed, including written reviews by reviewers selected by the UK and Canadian funders.
- The UK PI will be offered the opportunity to provide a written response to these reviews on behalf of all applicants.
- Following this process, applications will be assessed by a joint MRC-ESRC-CIHR Peer Review Panel Meeting of academics selected by the UK and Canadian funders.
- Applications will be given one overall score. The proposals with the highest scores will be funded in rank order above the funding cut off.

It is envisaged that all applications will go through the full peer review process described above. However, the MRC/ESRC/CIHR reserve the right to adjust the process and introduce a shortlisting/streamlining step if a high number of proposals are submitted to the call.

- **Peer review assessment and scoring**
  The ***External Peer Reviewers*** and will be asked to comment on all of the points listed in the table below in their written review. External reviewers will also be asked to give the proposal one overall score from 1-6 (see Annex 1 for further information). The PI will be offered the opportunity to provide a written response to these reviews on behalf of all applicants.
- The members of the ***Joint MRC-ESRC-CIHR Peer Review Panel*** will also be asked to consider the points listed in the table below. Their assessment should be based on the proposal, the written reviews of the External Peer Reviewers and the PI/NPA response to reviewer comments. Panel Members will be asked to give the proposal an overall score from 1-10 (see Annex 2 for further information).

Heading	Details
Research Quality	The importance and competitiveness of the proposed research, including: (1) strength of medical or scientific case (2) level of innovation, and whether this is likely to lead to significant new understanding (3) management strategy proposed, including equitable access to any shared resources

	(4) feasibility of experimental plans, statistics, methodology and design, including provision of sample size calculations, strategies to avoid bias, and preliminary data where appropriate (5) how well risks have been identified, and will be mitigated (6) relevant sex and gender considerations (7) use of appropriate models of disease that are applicable to human pathophysiology of diabetes (8) relevance and alignment to the scope and objectives of the call
Research environment and people	The suitability of the investigator group and the environment where the proposed research will take place, including: (1) track record(s) of the individuals in their field(s) and whether they are best-placed to deliver the proposed research (2) level of commitment of host research organisation to supporting the proposed research (3) whether appropriate facilities will be available to the researchers (4) partnership: including strength and clarity of multi-disciplinary collaborations and opportunities provided, and the added value of the UK-Canadian collaboration (5) quality of the project management structure proposed
Impact	The potential economic and societal impact of the proposed research, including: (1) identification of realistic potential improvements to human or population health (2) contribution to relieving disease/disability burden and/or improving quality of life (3) identification of potential impacts of research and plans to deliver these (in the Pathways to Impact statement)
Ethics	Any ethical and/or research governance issues, including: (1) whether proposed research is ethically acceptable (2) any ethical issues that need separate consideration (3) appropriateness of ethical review and research governance arrangements (4) any potential adverse consequences for humans, animals or the environment and whether these risks have been addressed satisfactorily in the proposal

Data Management Plan	Whether the data management plan indicates whether the applicants have (or are likely to have) a sound plan for managing the research data funded through the award, taking into account: (1) the types, scale and complexity of data being (or to be) managed (2) the likely long-term value for further research including by sharing data (3) the anticipated information security and ethics requirements
Resources Requested	(1) Whether funds requested are essential and justified by the importance and scientific potential of the research (2) Investigator time and proposed involvement related to management of the research (3) Whether the proposal demonstrates value for money in terms of the resources requested (4) Whether any animal use is fully justified in terms of need, species, number, conformance to guidelines

5. Agreements and ethics

5.1 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), as well as respective ethics review procedures to be conducted, must 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 and any agreement shall not conflict any terms and conditions, policies or other requirements of the MRC, ESRC and CIHR.** When collaborating, researchers must conform to their respective, applicable requirements on research involving humans, animals or stem cells.

The collaboration agreement should also include the allocation of resources throughout the project.

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 Intellectual property, should be detailed in the 'consideration of ethical, governance and Intellectual Property issues around the project' section of the Case for Support.

5.2 Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) means any copyright and related rights, patents, rights to inventions, registered designs, database rights, design rights, topography rights, trademarks, service marks, trade names and domain names, trade secrets, rights in unpatented know-how, rights of confidence and any other intellectual or industrial property rights of any nature including all applications (or rights to apply) for, and renewals or extensions of such rights and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection which subsist or will subsist now or in the future in any part of the world.

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, unless otherwise stated. It is up to the respective UK and Canadian research teams to determine in advance how any exploited IP will be divided amongst the partners. Details of this agreement must be included in the Collaboration Agreement (as above).

Agreements must not conflict with MRC or CIHR policies or 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. Any IP sharing agreements in place between a research organisation and their national funding body would be expected to apply only to the IP share of that research organisation.

UKRI will follow standard UKRI and MRC rules/terms and conditions regarding IP, please see relevant sections of the UKRI and MRC terms and conditions for research grants at https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-mrc-award-holders/information-for-award-holders

5.3 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.

5.4 Ethics

Any research involving humans/human tissue and/or animals (whether undertaken in the UK or Canada) must comply with legislation in **both** the UK and Canada. It must also comply with relevant policies and guidance of MRC, ESRC and CIHR.

It is the absolute responsibility of the PI/NPA 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 **in all countries** (stating clearly which country/countries the relevant research will be done in), and should state any UK and Canadian ethical committee approvals required. Section 5 of the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants 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.

MRC/ESRC 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 an MRC 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 the MRC, ESRC and CIHR.

The principal investigator/ research organisation must be prepared to furnish the MRC/ESRC/CIHR with a copy of the ethical approval, and any correspondence with the committees, if requested by the UK council. The principal investigator must notify the MRC 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/ESRC.

Please see section 3.3 of this Guidance for Applicants for a summary of ethical documents required.

CIHR ethics guidance

Researchers must adhere to the CIHR, MRC and ESRC guidance and policies on ethics and the responsible conduct of research, including requirements in this call-specific Guidance for Applicants document.

- All projects funded under this initiative must comply with the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (2018 and amended). (due for publication June 2019).

5.5 Use of humans/human tissue

5.5.1 MRC/ESRC guidance

A signed and dated letter of support must be attached to the proposals when human/human tissue research is proposed (in either country). The letter should be titled 'Human participation/human tissue letter' and MUST be signed by both the UK PI and Canadian NPA. It must be clear from the letter which human/tissue research is being proposed in which country.

The letter should state that all applicants will comply with the relevant CIHR, ESRC and MRC policies including the guidance in the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants and call-specific Guidance for Applicants. The letter should also acknowledge that the UK PI and Canadian NPA understand that MRC's current policy for research involving humans to take place overseas, is that **for research to be undertaken internationally, both local and UK ethical approval is required**. The letter should also state that the UK PI and Canadian NPA understand that for human studies (including clinical studies) involving human participants and/or patients in the UK or overseas, appropriate consent must be obtained.

In addition, where the Canadian 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 the 'Human participation/human tissue letter' MUST include confirmation of the following:

• which international partner is involved and that the 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.

5.5.2 CIHR guidance

- Researchers must adhere to the CIHR, MRC and ESRC guidance and policies on use of human/human tissue, including requirements in this call-specific Guidance for Applicants document and requirements in the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans 2nd edition (2018 and amended) (due for publication June 2019) and submit the proposal to their organisation's Research Ethics Board. Applicants must submit appropriate documentation as requested within the MRC/ESRC guidance.

5.6 Use of animals

5.6.1 MRC/ESRC guidance

Applicants must ensure that all of the proposed research, both that in the UK and in Canada will comply with the principles of the MRC common guidance on responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research and NC3Rs Guidelines: Primate Accommodation, Care and Use.

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 (in either country) should read the guidance and:

- provide a signed and dated letter with the heading 'Use of Animals letter' (uploaded as a Letter of Support to the Je-S application) which MUST be signed by both the UK PI and Canadian NPA stating that:
    - all animal research (undertaken in either country) will adhere to all relevant national and local regulatory systems in the UK and Canada
    - they will follow the guidelines laid out in the responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research document and ensure that work is carried out to UK and Canadian standards. If primates are used they should also confirm that they will follow the NC3Rs Guidelines: Primate Accommodation, Care and Use
    - 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 which animal research will take place in which country (UK, Canada 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.
- If applicable, applicants should also submit the MRC 'Use of Animals Overseas' form(s) - please see section 4.4.6 of the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants and

the use of animals overseas section of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) website. This attachment should be uploaded as a 'Letter of Support'.

All applicants are required to comply with Section 4: 'Proposals involving animal use' of the standard 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.

5.6.2 CIHR guidance

Researchers must adhere to the CIHR, MRC and ESRC guidance and policies on use of animals, including requirements in this call-specific Guidance for Applicants document and on the Canadian Council of Animal Care standards and procedures. Applicants must submit appropriate documentation as requested within the MRC 'Use of animals' section, and once the project is funded must submit relevant permits for research conducted in Canada. Canadian researchers must submit the proposed animal research to their institutional animal care committee for review and approval prior to commencing animal-based work.

5.7 Use of Stem Cells

5.7.1 MRC/ESRC guidance

Please see section 5 of the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants for further information. .

If applicable, a signed and dated letter with the heading 'Use of Stem Cells letter' (uploaded as a Letter of Support to the Je-S application) should be submitted and MUST be signed by both the UK PI and Canadian NPA.

5.7.2 CIHR guidance

Researchers must adhere to the CIHR and MRC/ESRC guidance and policies on use of stem cells, including requirements in this call-specific Guidance for Applicants document. All applications involving stem cells must ensure compliance with the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans 2nd edition (2018 and amended) (See Chapter 12, section F) (due for publication June 2019). The SCOC review is in addition to the normal review by local Research Ethics Boards (REBs). Funding will not be released until approval has been obtained from the SCOC.

6. Terms and conditions

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

General CIHR Policies
Successful applicants funded through this funding opportunity and any other persons working on the project must fully comply with the applicable CIHR Funding Policies.

CIHR Allowable Costs
Applicants should review the Use of Grant Funds section of the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) Financial Administration Guide for a complete listing and description of allowable costs and activities.

UK grant starting procedures
The UK side of the grant must start on **1 April 2020**. The start of the grant may NOT be delayed beyond this date.

UK applicants should refer to the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants for information on what the starting procedure entails. Please inform the relevant support staff in your organisation of this requirement to ensure the project starts on time.

Please note that due to the requirement to start by 1 April 2020, 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 principal investigator and the research organisation 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.

MRC's 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.

The grants must comply with the ethical sections within this call-specific Guide for Applicants and within the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants.

UK 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 MRC and ESRC reserve the right to terminate the award.

CIHR support

CIHR and partner(s) financial contributions for this initiative are subject to availability of funds. Should CIHR or partner(s) funding levels not be available or are decreased due to unforeseen circumstances, CIHR and partner(s) reserve the right to reduce, defer or suspend financial contributions to grants received as a result of this funding opportunity.

UK requests for extensions to awards

Due to financial restraints of the Fund for International Collaboration, grant extensions will only be considered under exceptional circumstances (in line with the Equality Act 2010) and will require MRC (and if applicable ESRC) agreement on a case-by-case basis. The Research Organisation remains responsible for compliance with the terms of the Equality Act 2010 including any subsequent amendments introduced while work is in progress; and for ensuring that the expectations set out in the Medical Research Councils' statement of expectations for equality and diversity are met.

7. Reporting requirements

Researchers should be aware that there will be reporting requirements for both Canada and the UK relating to successful grants. All UK and Canadian researchers participating in successful projects must be willing to feed into both the Canadian and UK reporting processes.

- CIHR: The Nominated Principal Applicant will be required to submit an electronic Final Report to CIHR. This online report will be made available to the Nominated Principal Applicant on ResearchNet at the beginning of the grant funding period and can be filled in as the research progresses.
- MRC/ESRC: The UK Principal Investigators will be required to complete an annual return on the Research Fish system during the period of the award and for at least five years after the award has terminated. The information provided should be on behalf of both the UK and Canadian component of the project.

8. Contacts and guidance

Please read the:

- UK call text
- CIHR call text (English / French)
- the call-specific Guidance for Applicants (this document)
- the standard MRC Guidance for Applicants
- any relevant CIHR Guidance including the CIHR Grants and Awards Guide.

An identical version of the call-specific Justification of Resources template should be submitted to both the MRC and CIHR.

For further information, UK (MRC and ESRC) applicants should contact:
international@mrc.ukri.org

For further information, relating to the call or the CIHR application Canadian applicants should contact:
CIHR Contact Centre
Telephone: 613-954-1968
Toll Free: 1-888-603-4178
Email: support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
For service hours, please consult CIHR's Contact us page.

For further information, relating to the TCPS and the RCR Framework Canadian applicants should contact:
Secretariat on Responsible Conduct of Research
Email: secretariat@srcr-scrr.gc.ca
Telephone: 613-996-0072

Annex 1: External peer review scoring system

Proposals will be evaluated and rated overall on a scale ranging between 1 and 6 by scientific reviewers who will utilise the following score indicators.

Categories 1-2 are not worthy of funding.

Categories 3-6 are worthy of funding, subject to the availability of resources.

Score Indicators	Score
Exceptional - Top international programme, or of exceptional national strategic importance Scientific quality and impact - Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance - Original and innovative; novel methodology and design - Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact Scientific leadership - Excellent leadership *(track record, team, environment, and collaborators)* Justification of resources - Potential for high return on investment *(resources requested, likelihood of project delivery, anticipated knowledge generation)* - Appropriate staff time allocated to deliver project (*Principal investigators and co-investigators*) Other - Ethical and/ or governance issues are fully considered	**6**
Excellent - Internationally competitive and leading edge nationally, or of national strategic importance Scientific quality and impact - Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance - Original and innovative; novel methodology and design - Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact Scientific leadership - Excellent leadership *(track record, team, environment, and collaborators)* Justification of resources - Potential for high return on investment *(resources requested, likelihood of project delivery, anticipated knowledge generation)* - Appropriate staff time allocated to deliver project (*Principal investigators and co-investigators*) Other: - Ethical and/ or governance issues are fully considered	**5**
Very High Quality - Internationally competitive in parts Scientific quality and impact - Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance - Robust methodology and design *(innovative in parts*) - Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact Scientific leadership - Excellent leadership *(track record, team, environment, and collaborators)*	**4**

Justification of resources - Potential for significant return on investment - Appropriate staff time allocated to deliver project (*Principal investigators and co-investigators*) Other: - Ethical and/ or governance issues are fully considered	
High Quality Scientific quality and impact - Worthwhile scientific question or knowledge gap or a valuable scientific resource - Methodologically sound study - Potential for significant health and/or socioeconomic impact Scientific leadership - Strong leadership *(track record, team, environment, and collaborators)* Justification of resources - Potential for significant return on investment *(resources requested, likelihood of projected delivery, anticipated knowledge generation)* - Appropriate staff time allocated to deliver project (*may be scope strengthen management of the project)* Other: - Ethical and/ or governance issues are well considered	**3**
Good Quality Scientific quality and impact - Worthwhile scientific question with potentially useful outcomes - Methodologically sound study but areas require revision - Likelihood of successful delivery Scientific leadership - Appropriate leadership *(scope to strengthen team; environment; collaborators)* Justification of resources - Potentially more limited return on investment *(resources requested, likelihood of project delivery, and anticipated knowledge generation)* - Resources broadly appropriate to deliver the proposal Other: - Ethical and/or governance issues are adequately considered	**2**
Poor Quality Scientific quality and impact - Poorly defined question - Methodologically weak study - Limited likelihood of new knowledge generation Scientific potential - Poor leadership Justification of resources - Potentially poor return on investment Other: - Ethical and/ or governance issues are not adequately considered	**1**

Annex 2: Peer review panel scoring system

Proposals will be evaluated and rated overall on a scale ranging between 1 and 10 by panel members who will utilise the criteria and category descriptors in the table below, as well as their opinion of the call-specific extra criteria:

- relevant sex and gender considerations
- use of appropriate models of disease that are applicable to human pathophysiology of diabetes
- relevance and alignment to the scope and objectives of the call
- partnership: including strength and clarity of multi-disciplinary collaborations and opportunities provided, and the added value of the UK-Canadian collaboration
- quality of the project management structure proposed

Proposals scoring 1-5 are not worthy of funding.

Proposals scoring 6-10 are worthy of funding, subject to the availability of resources.

Score	Indicators
	Fundable

10	**Exceptional** – Top international programme or of exceptional national strategic importance
	
	• **Quality**
	  ○ Highly original and innovative
	  ○ Novel methodology and design
	  ○ Excellent leadership *(team, environment, and collaborators are amongst the best in a broad field)*
	• **Impact**
	  ○ Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap
	  ○ Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact
	  ○ Internationally unique resource of value to many disciplines
	• **Productivity**
	  ○ Potential for high return on investment
	  ○ Very high likelihood of successful delivery (risks well managed)

9	**Excellent** - Internationally competitive and leading edge in most areas
	
	• **Quality**
	  ○ Original and innovative
	  ○ Novel methodology and design
	  ○ Excellent leadership (*team, environment, and collaborators e.g. among the best in a specialist area)*
	• **Impact**
	  ○ Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap
	  ○ Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact
	  ○ Internationally significant resource of value to many disciplines
	• **Productivity**
	  ○ Potential for high return on investment
	  ○ Very high likelihood of successful delivery (risks well managed))

8	**Very High Quality** - Internationally competitive and leading edge nationally

	• **Quality**
	  ○ Original and innovative
	  ○ Robust methodology and design *(innovative in parts)*
	  ○ Excellent leadership *(team, environment, and collaborators)*
	• **Impact**
	  ○ Crucial scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance to the UK
	  ○ Potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact
	  ○ Resource of value to many disciplines
	• **Productivity**
	  ○ Potential for significant return on investment
	  ○ Very high likelihood of successful delivery (risks well managed)

7	**High Quality** - Leading edge nationally and internationally competitive in parts
	
	• **Quality**
	  ○ Innovative
	  ○ Robust methodology and design *(innovative in parts)*
	  ○ Strong leadership *(team, environment, and collaborators)*
	• **Impact**
	  ○ Key scientific question or knowledge gap or area of strategic importance to the UK
	  ○ Potential for significant health and/or socioeconomic impact
	  ○ Valuable scientific resource
	• **Productivity**
	  ○ Potential for significant return on investment
	  ○ High likelihood of successful delivery

6	**High Quality** –Leading edge nationally, but not yet internationally competitive
	
	• **Quality**
	  ○ Methodologically robust study
	  ○ Appropriate leadership *(team; environment; collaborators)*
	• **Impact**
	  ○ Worthwhile scientific question or knowledge gap
	  ○ Justifiable scientific resource
	  ○ Potential for reasonable health and/or socioeconomic impact
	• **Productivity**
	  ○ Resources appropriate to deliver the proposal
	  ○ High likelihood of successful delivery

Non-Fundable	

5	**Good Quality** - Nationally competitive
	
	• **Quality**
	  ○ Methodologically sound study but areas require significant revision
	  ○ Leadership not optimal (scope to strengthen team; environment; collaborators)
	• **Impact**
	  ○ Worthwhile scientific question with potentially useful outcomes
	  ○ Moderate likelihood of contributing to new knowledge generation
	• **Productivity**
	  ○ Resources broadly appropriate to deliver the proposal

	○ Good likelihood of successful delivery
4	**Potentially Useful** - With significant weaknesses • **Quality** ○ Methodologically weak study (approach or study design requires significant revision) ○ Leadership/environment not optimal • **Impact** ○ Contains potentially useful ideas but requires major revision ○ Moderate likelihood of successful delivery • **Productivity** ○ Resources inappropriate to deliver the proposal ○ Unlikely to significantly contribute to new knowledge generation
3	**Potentially Useful** - With major weaknesses • **Quality** ○ Question poorly defined ○ Methodologically weak study ○ Poor leadership/environment • **Productivity** ○ Unlikely to contribute to new knowledge generation
2	**Poor quality science, bordering on unacceptable.**
1	**Unacceptable quality or has serious ethical concerns.**