

MRC-KHIDI UK-Korea Dementia Research Call 2019

Korean Call Text

Objectives and scope

Korea-UK Dementia Collaborative Research:

The Korea-UK Dementia Research Call aims to provide support for joint Korean and UK projects focused on dementia.

The objective is to deliver research funding for internationally competitive and innovative collaborative partnerships between researchers from South Korea and the UK that will enable the pursuit of shared research interests.

Research proposals must address one or more types of dementia, including but not limited to: Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; frontotemporal dementia; vascular dementia; and Huntington's disease.

Proposals must fall within the remits of both funders and seek to generate scientific outcomes of relevance to the prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment of dementia. The research project should include translational research (from human clinical research to clinical practice). On the Korean side, the research should be at a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 3 (experimental proof of concept) or higher. On the UK side project can also be at lower TRLs and the MRC research funding can also be used to integrate basic science into the overall project.

Examples of potential projects include, but are not limited to:

1. Development of new diagnostic technologies to improve the specificity, sensitivity and cost-efficiency compared to existing diagnostic technologies.
2. Development of technologies for dementia prevention and early dementia diagnosis (pre-clinical stage of dementia) e.g. approaches to identify new biomarkers.

3. Diversification of therapeutic targets for new drug development for dementia.
4. Development of systems for enhancing the delivery and targeting of drugs/biological agents to sites in the brain.

Goals (on the Korean side)

- At least two SCI-papers should be published on highly ranked journals within top 10% of impact factor in each sector (preferably with Korean and UK PIs should as the main authors of the papers) in order to be accepted as research outcomes. (Equal contribution is preferred)
- The research contents should include the scope of experimental proof of concept or higher technology readiness.

Duration and Funding available

Up to ₩550,000,000 in total per each project for no more than 2 years in duration (₩1,100,000,000 in total for 2 projects, overhead costs included) from KHIDI in support of the Korean-based researchers; and up to £600,000 (up to £300,000 per project) is available from the MRC in support of the UK-based researchers (3 years in duration).

<Financial terms of the KHIDI, Korea>

- 1st year: April 2019 ~ December 2019, ₩235,000,000(overhead costs :₩47,000,000)

- 2nd year: January 2020~December 2020, ₩315,000,000(overhead costs : ₩63,000,000)

On the UK side, the projects must start by 1 April 2019 and finish no later than 31 March 2022.

Application methods and requirements

- Korean and UK applicants must apply separately to their respective funding agencies by **13th February 2019** for the funding component requested within each country, but this must be based around a common research plan and vision.
- Korean applicants must submit the documents to the KHIDI R&D Portal (<https://www.htdream.kr>)
- Korean applicants may submit the 'MRC-KHIDI Networking Template' to the MRC (international@mrc.ukri.org with the email subject line 'MRC-KHIDI networking template') by 16 January 2019 if they wish to be added to the MRC-KHIDI Online Networking Database which will list UK and Korean researchers interested in finding possible collaborators who are interested in this call.
- A copy of the Online Networking Database will be made available online on the MRC call page from 11th January and will be updated on 18th January.
- Korean Principal Investigators must submit an identical case for support written in Korean and English to the KHIDI R&D Portal :<https://www.htdream.kr/>. The proposal should be developed by a Korean PI and UK PI. An identical case for support written in English should be submitted to the MRC as described in the UK Guide for Applicants.
- An identical version (in English) of the call-specific Justification of Resources template should be submitted to both MRC and KHIDI.
- Principal Investigators may submit only one application to this scheme as Principal Investigator, but may be involved in more applications if listed as a Co-Investigator.
- The Korean PI must be based at an eligible Research Organisation.
- Applications cannot be accepted from UK or Korean principal investigators in commercial organisations.

Key dates

Contents	Schedule
call opens	24 December 2018
Closing date for proposals	13 February 2019
Assessment of proposals	February-March 2019
Grant awarded	End of March
Projects start	1 April 2019

Assessment Process

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

Each application will be assessed by MRC and KHIDI panels, both of which will comprise academic experts. Applications will not be subject to a separate written peer review process under this scheme, nor will applicants be required to provide a response to reviewers' comments. The process will consist of the following steps.

	UK	Korea
Initial checks	Eligibility checks	Eligibility checks
Step 1 of peer review	Review by UK panel	Review by Korean panel
Shortlisting	Top 4-6 applications jointly selected by MRC and KHIDI for step 2	
Step 2 of peer review	-	Oral presentation
Final selection	Consensus meeting of MRC and KHIDI (via teleconference and email)	

- Applications will undergo two steps of review process (on the Korean side)
- Selection of the final projects will be made through mutual discussion between MRC and KHIDI

Key assessment criteria

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Score (Korean panel)	Score (UK panel)
Fit with call	Project fit with call objectives	10	100
The necessity for international collaborative research	Significance and impact of international collaborative research	5	
Relevance of research objectives	Specification of research objectives	5	
	Feasibility of goal attainment	5	
Feasibility of research plan	Specific implementation plan and setting of achievable milestones	5	
	Partnership (feasibility of the collaborative research plan)	5	
Excellence of research	Excellence of research content	20	
	Excellence of research collaboration	5	
Excellence of Researchers and network	Excellence of UK and Korean principal and co-investigators	15	
	Excellence of UK and Korean research Teams and network	10	
Socio-economic impact	Expected research outcomes	10	
Ethics and governance	Ethics considerations and governance arrangements	5	
Total		100	

Contacts and guidance

For further information, South Korean applicants should contact:
 Korea Health Industry Development Institute (KHIDI)
 kdwon0527@khidi.or.kr

For further information, UK applicants should contact:
 Medical Research Council (MRC)
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