

MRC–KHIDI UK-KOREA DEMENTIA RESEARCH CALL 2019

MRC UK GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

This guidance document is for applicants wishing to apply to the MRC-KHIDI UK-Korea Dementia Research Call. This guidance supplements the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#). Please consult the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) for information such as preparing the 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 the call-specific documents these include important additional information that is not covered in the [UK call text](#). It is also important that your Korean colleagues are aware of all relevant guidance provided by the Korea Health Industry Development Institute (KHIDI) including the Korean call text (available on the MRC call webpage).

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1. Important application information

The Medical Research Council (MRC) and Korea Health Industry Development Institute (KHIDI) are pleased to invite research proposals to the MRC-KHIDI UK-Korea Dementia Research Call.

The Korea-UK Dementia initiative 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 research projects include, but are not limited to:

- development of new diagnostic technologies to improve the specificity, sensitivity and cost-efficiency compared to existing diagnostic technologies.
- development of technologies for dementia prevention and early dementia diagnosis (pre-clinical stage of dementia) e.g. approaches to identify new biomarkers.
- diversification of therapeutic targets for new drug development for dementia.
- development of systems for enhancing the delivery and targeting of drugs/biological agents to sites in the brain.

On the Korean side, the goals should include that:

- at least two papers (preferably with the Korean and UK PIs as main authors) are published in highly-ranked journals within the top 10% of impact factor in each sector.
- the research content should include the scope of experimental proof of concept or higher technology readiness levels.

Researchers will be responsible for developing their own collaborations and, once a research proposal is developed, UK and South Korean applicants must apply jointly for funding.

All projects must include a principal investigator (PI) based at an eligible UK research organisation (RO) and a PI based at an eligible South Korean RO. Partners must work together to prepare a joint application including a joint Case for Support. Once a research

proposal is developed, UK and Korean applicants must apply separately to their respective funding agencies.

UK and Korean 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. **Both partners must therefore submit an identical joint Case for Support written in English to the MRC and KHIDI. The submission to KHIDI (via the KHIDI R&D Portal: <https://www.htdream.kr>) must also include an identical Case for Support in Korean.** Failure to submit a valid application to both sponsors will invalidate both submissions.

UK applicants must submit 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 GMT on the day of the deadline. UK applicants must complete all sections required for a standard research council grant proposal. However, 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 specific MRC UK Guidance for Applicants for this call.

An identical version (in English) of the [call-specific Justification of Resources template](#) should also be submitted to both MRC and KHIDI.

Projects must start in the UK and Korea on or before 1st April 2019.

On the UK side, projects must be three years in duration, and have completed by the end of March 2022.

On the Korean side, projects must be 1.75 years in duration, and have completed by the end of December 2020.

Please 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.

Funding available

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

In total, up to £1.35m will be made available for this initiative. The funding agencies intend to use these available funds to support **two** projects, subject to quality.

MRC will make up to £600k available. UK based applicants may therefore request up to a maximum of £300k to cover the UK component of the research project. The MRC will provide funding under standard arrangements and at 80% of the full Economic Cost (fEC). **The UK element of funding will not cover UK PhD studentships or requests for capital items.**

The KHIDI contribution of 1.10 billion South Korean Won (~£750k) will be made available to fund the South Korean collaborators. KHIDI will contribute ₩550,000,000 in total per project (including overhead costs) for no more than 2 years in duration. The Korean spending profile should be

- 1st year (April 2019 - December 2019): ₩235,000,000 (including overhead costs of ₩47,000,000)
- 2nd year (January 2020 - December 2020): ₩315,000,000 (including overhead costs of ₩63,000,000)

Online networking database

MRC and KHIDI will create an Online Networking Database to compile a list of UK and Korean Researchers who are interested in finding possible collaborators for this call. Please see section 3.1 of this guidance for further information.

Key dates

Activity	Date
Full application submitted to MRC via the Joint Electronic System (Je-S) by the UK PI on behalf of the collaborators. Korean Principal Investigators must submit their application (including an identical case for support written in English) to the KHIDI R&D Portal https://www.htdream.kr/ .	13 th February 2019
Assessment of proposals	February-March 2019
Inform outcome and grant awarded	End of March 2019
Projects start	UK and Korea: on or before 1 April 2019

2. Who can apply?

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 UK participants, standard UKRI eligibility criteria as described on the [UKRI website](#) will apply.

The Korean PI MUST be based at an eligible Research Organisation. For the Korean participants, standard KHIDI eligibility criteria as described on the KHIDI R&D website will apply. Research Organisations that are eligible to apply to the KHIDI, for example university units, Independent research organisations, university medical centres may apply to this call.

Applications cannot be accepted from UK or Korean principal investigators in commercial organisations.

See [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) for further details about eligible institutions. This call will follow standard MRC eligibility criteria.

The funders are not seeking to support partners outside of the UK and Korea through this initiative. Please contact international@mrc.ukri.org if you are planning to involve co-investigators from a third country in your proposal.

2.2 People named on the grant

The principal investigators (PIs)

For awards under the MRC – KHIDI scheme there will be a UK PI and a Korean PI. The expectation is that the UK PI and associated costs for UK research would be funded by the MRC, while the Korean PI and associated costs for research in South Korea would be funded by KHIDI.

The PIs are responsible for the intellectual leadership of the research project and for the overall management of the research. The PIs 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 Korean PI will need to be listed as a co-investigator (Co-I).

MRC-funded individuals can hold more than one grant at a time. The award of a grant does not guarantee any further commitment to funding by the MRC or KHIDI.

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 Korea may submit only one research grant proposal for this research initiative as PI, but may be involved in more applications if listed as a Co-Investigator.

See standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) for further details about UK PI eligibility.

Korean applicants

For the Korean participants, standard KHIDI eligibility criteria as described on the KHIDI R&D website will apply.

Applicants must be competent in oral and written English.

Co-investigators (Co-Is)

The PIs may be supported by a number of UK and Korean Co-Is named on the application. A Co-I assists the PI in the management and leadership of the research project.

All UK and Korean PIs and Co-Is must have verified Je-S accounts and must be added to the Je-S form under co-investigator. Please see section 3.4, below, 'Creating a Je-S application' for information on how to add an organisation on Je-S.

While, it is essential that all Korean PIs and Co-Is are added to the Je-S form, Korean costs should not be represented on the Je-S form.

Please note: The lead UK applicant should liaise with any non-UK based Co-investigators 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 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 3.4 of this document.

Other support

For information on other parties involved in research including project partners, please see section 1 in the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#).

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

3. Application process

3.1 Optional use of online networking database

MRC and KHIDI will create an Online Networking Database to compile a list of UK and Korean Researchers who are interested in finding possible collaborators for 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. Researchers completing the form should be aware these details will be made public.

If you would like to share your details with the research community in the UK and Korea, please complete the [networking template](#) by 9th January for inclusion from 11th January or by 16th January for inclusion by 18th January.

The networking template should be completed in English and submitted to international@mrc.ukri.org with an email subject line 'MRC-KHIDI networking template'.

Completing the networking template is optional.

3.2 Full application summary

The deadline for full applications is **16:00 BST Wednesday 13th February 2019**.

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

UK and Korean 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. The application must be JOINTLY prepared. **Both partners must therefore submit an identical joint Case for Support written in English to the MRC and KHIDI. The submission to KHIDI (via the KHIDI R&D Portal: <https://www.htdream.kr>) must also include an identical Case for Support in Korean.** Failure to submit a valid application to both sponsors will invalidate both submissions.

As there will be a single Case for Support, it is vital that the joint application form provides full details of the work proposed for both the UK and Korean components.

An identical version (in English) of the [call-specific Justification of Resources template](#) should also be submitted to both MRC and KHIDI.

UK applicants must submit to the MRC via the UKRI [Joint electronic Submission \(Je-S\) System](#). The Je-S submissions must be received by 4pm BST on the day of the deadline. UK applicants must complete all sections required for a standard Research Council Grant proposal. Further guidance can be found in the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#).

The following documents must be included in the UK application:

- **A completed Je-S form.** All UK and Korean investigators **MUST** be included. This form reflects the UK costs, so while the Korean investigators should be included, hours charged for Korean investigators should be 0. Korean costs should be captured in the KHIDI online application.
- **A cover letter (optional).** If you have submitted a similar or related proposal to any of the 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 reviewers.
- **A jointly prepared Case for Support,** including a one-page annex (if required) detailing the methodology and experimental design aspects (see additional guidance below) (see additional guidance below).
- **CVs and publication lists** (uploaded individually) for each of the UK and Korean partners named as investigators on the grant.
- **Justification of Resources** (using the [call-specific JoR template](#)) for the total costs requested for the project (both UK and Korean costs should be fully justified)
- **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](#).
- **[MICA form and Heads of Terms](#) (if required)**
- **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’.
- **Signed letters of support (dated and signed):**
 - from the UK Research Organisation(s) demonstrating support for the proposed research project.
 - from the Korean 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 PIs when human/human tissue research is proposed and/or when the Korean 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 further information. This should be signed by both PIs.
 - **Use of Stem cells letter** (if applicable, 2 sides of A4 max) – please see section 5 of the standard [MRC Guidance 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 (English version)	8 pages (including illustrations & references) + 1 page for methodology annex
CV	2 pages per CV
Publications	1 page per investigator
Justification of Resources	4 pages (using call-specific template)
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](#).

3.3 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. As is standard in the MRC guidelines, the case for support may be up to eight A4 pages in length, including one page of references, using Arial 11pt typeface with margins of 2cms on all sides. An identical copy in English of this PDF must be submitted by the Korean PI to KHIDI along with a Korean translation as part of the submission.

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 Korean applicants
- research environment
- research plans and deliverables
- consideration of ethical, governance and IP issues around the project
- data preservation, exploitation and dissemination.

The case for support should also address any assessment criteria outlined in the call document.

For further information regarding what should be included in the Case for Support, please see section 2.2.3 of the standard [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 (in either country), or where the methodology/experimental design proposed is practically novel. Please see section 4.3 of the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#).

KHIDI applicants should get ethical clearance from relevant authorities.

Justification of Resources

Please complete the [call-specific 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 Korean 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 Korean 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 Korean side should be separate with a clear justification of each cost.

An identical version (in English) of the [call-specific Justification of Resources template](#) should be submitted to both MRC and KHIDI.

3.4 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 and Co-Is (this is both UK, Korean 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 should ensure that their Research Organisation 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 should 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 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](mailto:jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk) jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk, 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 closing date **Wednesday 13th February 2019**).

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

- Select council: **MRC**
- Select document type: **Standard Proposal**
- Select scheme: **Research Grant**
- Select call/type/mode (optional): **MRC-KHIDI UK-Korea Dementia Research Call 2019**
- Select ‘**create document**’ option

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

Project details: UK PIs should allow a latest start date of **1 April 2019**

3.5 Budgets

It is the responsibility of the Korean and UK PIs to ensure the conditions of their respective funder are understood.

All the UK and Korean PIs/Co-Is must be inputted onto the Je-S form. However, any costs for Korean PIs/Co-Is must be inputted with the correct hours but with the hours charged as £0. The Korean 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.

Full Economic Costing (FEC)

UK-based research costs will be funded at 80% of the Full Economic Cost (FEC).

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

(Please refer to section 3 of this call-specific Guidance for Applicants, ‘application process’, for more information)

Funding available

	<i>MRC funding</i>
Research costs:	
Staff – directly incurred post (e.g. Researchers, Technicians)	Yes
Staff – directly allocated posts (PI and Co-I time)	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

Equipment:

Capital costs above £10,000 cannot be funded via this call and therefore any capital costs requested will not be accepted.

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

Spending obligations

Due to the tight time scales of this call, if you are successful UK ROs 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 2022**. 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.

4. 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.

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)	

Selection of the final projects will be made through mutual discussion between MRC and KHIDI.

Key assessment criteria for the submissions will be:

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 Korea 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	100

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], 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 and KHIDI 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, should be detailed in the 'consideration of ethical, governance and IP 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 Korean 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 the Research Councils or KHIDI 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.

The MRC will follow its standard 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 Korea) must comply with legislation in both the UK and Korea. It must also comply with relevant policies and guidance of MRC and KHIDI.

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 **in all countries** (stating clearly which country/countries the relevant research will be done in), and should state any UK and Korean 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 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 MRC and KHIDI.

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

Please see section 3.2 of this Guidance for Applicants for a summary of ethical documents required.

Korean ethics guidance

Korean researchers must adhere to the MRC guidance and policies on ethics. Korean applicants should see the relevant KHIDI ethics guidance.

5.5 Use of humans/human tissue

5.5.1 MRC 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 PIs.

The letter should state that all applicants will comply with the relevant MRC policies and guidance in the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) and call-specific Guidance for Applicants. The letter should also acknowledge that the PIs 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 PIs understand that for clinical studies involving human participants and/or patients in the UK or overseas, appropriate consent must be obtained.

In addition, where the Korean 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:

- 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.

5.5.2 Korean guidance

Korean researchers must adhere to the MRC guidance and policies on use of human/human tissue. Applicants must submit appropriate documentation as requested within the MRC guidance in addition to relevant permits for research conducted in Korea. Korean applicants should also see the relevant KHIDI guidance.

5.6 Use of animals

5.6.1 MRC guidance

Applicants must ensure that all of the proposed research, both that in the UK and in Korea, 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 and Korean PIs stating that:
 - all animal research (undertaken in either country) will adhere to all relevant national and local regulatory systems in the UK and Korea
 - 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 Korean 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 where the animal research will take place (UK, Korea 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 ‘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 Korean guidance

Korean researchers must adhere to the MRC guidance and policies on use of animals. Applicants must submit appropriate documentation as requested within the MRC 'Use of animals' section in addition to relevant permits for research conducted in Korea. Korean applicants should also see the relevant KHIDI guidance.

5.7 Use of Stem Cells

5.7.1 MRC 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 and Korean PIs.

Korean researchers must adhere to the MRC guidance and policies. Korean applicants should also see the relevant KHIDI guidance.

6. 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/>

Starting procedures

This grant must start by **1 April 2019**. The start of the grant may NOT be delayed beyond this date.

Please note that due to the requirement to start by 1 April 2019, 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 [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](#).

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.

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 the Medical Research Councils' 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.

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 within six months of the start of the project. The terms of collaboration agreements must not conflict with the Medical Research Council's terms and conditions.

Given the importance of expanding collaboration among researchers, principal investigators from the UK and Korea must intermittently report and share the progress with each other and the Korean co-funders.

7. Contacts and guidance

Please read the [UK call text](#), the scheme specific [UK Guidance for Applicants](#) (this document), the standard [MRC Guidance for Applicants](#) and any relevant KHIDI guidance including the Korean call text (available on the [MRC call webpage](#)).

An identical version (in English) of the call-specific [Justification of Resources template](#) should be submitted to both MRC and KHIDI.

Applicants may wish to use the online networking database. Please see the online networking database section of this document for details.

For further information, UK applicants should contact: international@mrc.ukri.org

For further information, South Korean applicants should contact:

Korea Health Industry Development Institute (KHIDI)

Tel: +82 43 713 8163

E-mail kdwon0527@khidi.or.kr