



GGR-D Directorate Hub call FAQ

Project team

1. Are cross-institutional bids welcome?

Yes. Applicants are asked to note that **both outline and full stage submissions must be made on single Je-S form** with one Research Organisation identified as the lead. The lead Research Organisation will be responsible for the management of the award.

For all proposals applicants should consider the management approach, and how this will support the effective working of the team and successful delivery of the outcomes.

2. What team size might be acceptable?

No limits are set, but the size of the team should be justified in the proposal. Clear roles for all applicants must be identified within the proposal.

3. Can additional Co-Investigators be added after the registration or outline stage?

Yes, provided they meet NERC's eligibility requirements. We recommend notifying NERC of such changes before submission. Major revisions between outline and full stage are not permitted, unless in response to feedback.

Eligibility

4. Are international partners allowed?

No. Standard NERC eligibility criteria apply, as described in Section C of the NERC Research Grants and Fellowships Handbook. For information about project partners and collaborators, please refer to the NERC Handbook.

5. If investigators are partly based abroad, but have positions at UK HEIs, are they eligible?

Yes, if they meet the criteria (including the requirement for residency) as described in Section C of the NERC Handbook.

6. Can we include researcher co-investigators in a proposal?

Yes, this is permitted. Information on research co-investigators is available in NERC's Handbook.



7. Can an investigator be involved in more than one GGR-D Directorate Hub proposal?

Investigators may be involved in **no more than two** Directorate Hub proposals. However, please note that investigators can only be involved on **one** proposal as the lead Principal Investigator.

8. Are Public Sector Research Establishments (PSREs) eligible to apply?

Public Sector Research Establishments (PSREs) with 10 or more researchers with PhDs (or equivalent) are eligible to apply. If PSREs wishing to apply have not previously applied for UKRI funding and are not currently designated IRO status they will be required to complete an eligibility form to ensure they have the required research capacity, systems and controls in place to manage the research and grant funding. PSRE applicants should contact the call inbox (ggr@nerc.ukri.org) at the earliest opportunity to discuss their interests in applying.

Outline and Full Stages

9. Could you please clarify what information is required for the Expression of Interest/outline stage?

Expressions of interest should be submitted through the [Je-S system](#) by **19th November, 4:00 pm, 2019**, as described in the Announcement of Opportunity: <https://nerc.ukri.org/research/funded/programmes/ggrd/news/ao-ggrd-dhub/>. For this stage, only a Je-S form (proposal form) and a Case for Support are required.

10. Is it worth applicants contacting NERC before submission of an Expression of Interest to talk through their proposal?

Please email the call inbox (ggr@nerc.ukri.org) with your questions in the first instance. Where necessary, we would be happy to arrange to speak with applicants.

11. How will the outline stage be assessed?

Expressions of interest/outline proposals will be assessed by an expert panel comprising representatives of the national and international community. There will be no external peer review at this stage. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full stage proposal based on the expert panel's recommendations

12. Will small changes be allowable between outline and full stage?

Yes. Changes to indicative costs provided at the outline stage are permitted. We recommend contacting us if the budget increases more than 10% from the outline stage.

13. Will applicants have to submit a new application to the full stage?

Yes. Those applicants invited to submit a full application need to submit a new Je-S proposal form and this application should include additional attachments – Case for Support, Pathways to Impact statement, Data Management Plan, Work Plan, applicant CVs, Justification of Resources, Cover Letter and Letters of Support as detailed in Section F of



the NERC Handbook. The closing date for the full stage is **6th May 2020, at 4:00 pm**.

14. How will the full stage be assessed?

The assessment of the full stage is by external peer review and assessment by the expert panel. As part of the assessment process, the expert panel may also invite the PI and Co-Is to an interview with the panel. The assessment panel will meet in September 2020 (date tbc).

Scope

15. Are bids expected to contain a significant outreach element to confer impact?

A range of actions to ensure impact is realised should be considered for all proposals, appropriate to the nature of the proposed work. We recognise there are many forms of impact and that these are delivered through a range of measures.

16. Is there an anticipated duration for a project?

Projects may be up to 54 months (4.5 years) in duration.

Resources and budget

17. Do you expect institutional commitment / financial contribution for the GGR-D Directorate Hub?

Our normal fEC rules apply to the GGR-D Directorate Hub scheme. There is no requirement for a financial contribution from the institution. At the full stage, a letter of support from the Head of Department is required confirming and relevant institutional support.

18. Is there an upper limit for proposals?

Proposals must be up to a maximum of £6.1 million (80% FEC project value) and can be up to 4.5 years (54 months) in duration.

19. Are international subcontracts allowable?

NERC considers eligible institutions to be best placed to determine how their work is undertaken. In the case of a grant proposal, if this involves sub-contracting aspects of the work to non-eligible institutions, for example due to the lack of appropriate expertise in eligible institutions, this is acceptable. See Section E of the NERC Handbook for further information about sub-contracting.



20. What financial information is required at the outline stage?

The Je-S form should include a summary of anticipated resources that would be requested at the full stage. Detailed justification of the resources requested is not required at the outline stage and resources requested may be refined at the full stage.

Assessment

21. What is the expected composition of the GGR-D Directorate Hub Panel?

The GGR-D Directorate Hub panel will comprise representatives of the national and international community. The panel membership will be published on UKRI-NERC website once the assessment of the full stage is concluded.

22. Are all assessment criteria weighted equally?

Proposals will need to meet all the assessment criteria to a high level to be competitive.

23. When is the outcome of the call likely to be known?

We are unable to give a precise date by which outcomes will be announced, but it is anticipated that we will be able to notify applicants by the end of October 2020.

24. When will I be able to start my grant?

The Directorate Hub will have a start date of no later than 1st February 2021.