

## **Thwaites: The Future of Thwaites Glacier and its Contribution to Sea-level Rise – UK applicant requirements**

Applications to the Thwaites programme solicitation posted on the NSF website are required to include substantive and integrated contributions from both UK and US researchers, should be submitted solely to NSF and should follow NSF guidelines as outlined in the solicitation.

As NERC will be awarding the grants to the successful UK applicants, they will ultimately be required to submit their proposal through JeS in the normal way. However, there are some specific NERC requirements that need to be adhered to by UK applicants at this stage and some information required in addition to that requested by NSF as 'Supplementary Documents' which are outlined in this document.

### **Eligibility**

Normal individual eligibility applies and is in Section C of the [NERC research grant and fellowships handbook](#). Research Organisation eligibility rules are in Section C of the handbook. Independent Research Organisations (IROs) must be [eligible for NERC Managed \(Strategic Research\) Mode](#).

Each proposal must have a UK and a US Principal Investigator. Investigators may be involved in no more than two proposals submitted to this call and only one of these may be as the lead Principal Investigator.

### **Funding**

The total budget available for the UK element of proposals is £6.5m (at 80% FEC) and NERC anticipates funding between 5 and 8 proposals including a proposal for programme coordination. In order to calculate the UK contribution to the overall proposal budget, for consistency between proposals, an exchange rate of £1 = \$1.4 should be used.

UK participants must complete and submit a [UK Budget Information form](#).

The NERC contribution for proposed projects will be at 80% of FEC with the exception of NERC Service and Facilities costs and associated studentships which will be paid at 100%.

#### *Ship time and Marine Equipment (SME):*

All costs associated with National Marine Facilities (NMF) support for fieldwork and/or equipment must be costed into proposals and will be paid at 100%. Completed SME forms must be submitted by **9<sup>th</sup> January 2017** for final costings to be calculated. However, applicants are encouraged to engage early with NMF to scope out their proposed fieldwork so that they are aware as soon as possible of the likely scale of the NMF costs that will need to be included within their proposals budget cap.

### *Other Services and Facilities:*

Proposals should include formal requests and access costs for any other NERC Service and Facilities where relevant. The costs for the service or facility must be included within the proposal budget cap.

### **Associated Studentships**

Associated studentships are eligible under this call. The cost for the studentship should be included within the total requested funds. Each studentship should constitute a distinct project providing added value to the parent grant. The main grant research should still be viable without the studentship and should have distinct objectives that are not reliant on the requested studentship.

All studentships must meet the following NERC Success Criteria:

- Research excellence: the training and training environment must include scientifically excellent and original research within NERC's remit.
- Training excellence: students are managed as a cohesive group and acquire both research and transferable skills. There is a strong and active community of students that are able –and encouraged – to integrate, work and learn together.
- Multidisciplinary training environments: the training is embedded in multidisciplinary training environments to enrich the student experience and to encourage the knowledge-sharing and interconnectivity, which benefits research within the environmental sciences.
- This does not mean that individual PhD topics are required to be multidisciplinary.
- Excellent students: attracting the right student. NERC funding goes to the right of 'best-fit' student: the individual whose previous training, experience and skills best suit the type of training being undertaken.

In order to be successful, applicants must demonstrate within their proposal how these success criteria will be met.

More details on associated studentships can be found in Section D of the [NERC research grant and fellowships handbook](#).

Proposals containing a UK lead associated studentship must complete a [UK Associated Studentship form](#) and attached to their submission as a Supplementary Document.

### **Awards**

The successful UK applicants to this programme will be funded by NERC and as such will be required to comply with standard RCUK terms and conditions in addition to any programme specific terms and conditions of award.

## **NSF required information in applications from UK applicants**

### Required:

Biosketch in NSF format

Collaborator list (based on COI criteria and guidelines in the Grant Proposal Guide)

UK Budget sheet in pounds (with bottom-line amount converted to dollars using 1.4 USD to 1 UKP when calculating combined US-UK project total).

Facilities, Equipment, and Other resources (meld with US components)

Post-doc mentoring plan (regardless of whether UK or US home institution)

Data Management Plan (meld with US components)

### Not required:

Current Projects Summary

Results of Prior NERC support

## **NSF Guidance on 'Results from Prior Support'**

It is a requirement of NSF proposals that if any PI or co-PI identified on the proposal has received NSF funding with a start date in the past five years (including any current funding and no cost extensions), information on the award is required for each PI and co-PI, regardless of whether the support was directly related to the proposal or not. In cases where the PI or co-PI has received more than one award (excluding amendments to existing awards), they need only report on the one award most closely related to the proposal. Funding includes not just salary support, but any funding awarded by NSF. NSF awards such as standard or continuing grants, Graduate Research Fellowship, Major Research Instrumentation, travel, conference, and centre awards, etc., are subject to this requirement.

The following information must be provided:

- (a) the NSF award number, amount and period of support;
- (b) the title of the project;
- (c) a summary of the results of the completed work, including accomplishments, supported by the award. The results must be separately described under two distinct headings, Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts;
- (d) a listing of the publications resulting from the NSF award (a complete bibliographic citation for each publication must be provided either in this section or in the References Cited section of the proposal); if none, state "No publications were produced under this award."
- (e) evidence of research products and their availability, including, but not limited to: data, publications, samples, physical collections, software, and models, as described in any Data Management Plan; and
- (f) if the proposal is for renewed support, a description of the relation of the completed work to the proposed work.

Reviewers will be asked to comment on the quality of the prior work described in this section of the proposal. Note that the proposal may contain up to five pages to describe the results. Results may be summarized in fewer than five pages, which would give the balance of the 15 pages for the Project Description.