

ESRC-IRC UK/Ireland Networking Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 17 April 2020

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Where can I find the full call specification?

The full call specification is available [here](#). Before putting together an application to the UK Ireland Networking Grants call please carefully read the call specification and other call documents. If your question remains unanswered please consult the following information or [contact us](#)

Can the grant start date be deferred?

Grant holders are required to make every effort to start on the agreed date. Where a delay is unavoidable, we permit a grant to commence within three months of the date indicated in the offer letter. If a grant start date is deferred, the duration of the grant will remain unchanged. The grant may lapse if the project is not started within this three-month period.

Can the project duration be extended?

In exceptional circumstances grants may be deferred or suspended for eligible career breaks such as maternal/paternal leave. Requests will be assessed and approved on a case by case basis. All activities would then cease until the agreed date.

For more information please see the [ESRC research funding guide](#)

Are these grants aimed at early career researchers?

No, not specifically. Both Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) must be of postdoctoral level or higher on the grant start date, however there is no requirement that they should be at a particular career stage.

Can I be included on a grant if I do not have a PhD?

Applicants who do not hold a PhD, or have equivalent experience, may be included as Co-Investigators on a grant proposal. We encourage a strong commitment to supporting the development of pre- and post-doctoral investigators within proposals, through their inclusion in activities such as workshops and study visits.

Can non-academic staff be included as investigators?

No, all investigators from the UK and ROI **must** be of postdoctoral level (or have equivalent experience) and based at a registered research organisation. However, any researcher from an established UK business, third sector or government body will be eligible to be involved as project partners.

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Can overseas (non- UK/ Ireland) participants be involved?

Overseas (international/non-UK/Irish) participants cannot be Principal or Co-Investigators on a grant proposal. However, they may participate in networking activities. Applicants should articulate how their involvement meets the aims and objectives of the call and provide sufficient justification for any associated costs.

How many Co-Investigators are allowed per project?

There is no limit to the number of Co-Investigators that can be included on a grant proposal. All Co-Investigators must make a significant contribution to the network.

Will receiving a networking grant exclude me from the ESRC New Investigator call?

No. As this call is for networking only, and is not research focused, award holders are able to apply for New Investigator funding if they meet the necessary criteria.

For more information on the ESRC New investigator scheme please consult the [New Investigator call specification available here](#).

Is funding restricted to new network development?

No. Applicants may use existing relationships and networking contacts in the formulation of a proposal. In such instances, applicants should explain how the grant will build upon existing synergies and collaborative activities and what the added value will be.

Can staff salary costs be claimed?

No, all salary costs are excluded, this extends to staff costs for administrators and other non-scientific staff. However, travel and subsistence costs for the purposes of networking activities are allowable.

Can I be involved in more than one grant?

Yes, the UK/Irish-based investigators may be involved in more than one proposal submitted to this networking grants call. In the event of an applicant being successful in more than one application, the Irish Co-PI must clearly indicate a time management strategy which must receive approval from the Irish Research Council in order to be permitted to accept both awards. The award will be contingent on submission of this plan. UK investigators time commitments to active ESRC awards

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must not exceed 37.5 hours per week.

(UK Co-PI see also p27 of the [ESRC research funding guide](#))

Are there any thematic restrictions for this call?

The focus and proposed activities of the networking proposal must fall within the remit of social sciences. Since this joint call is strongly related to the idea of ‘bridging communities’, we favour an extensive rather than a restrictive interpretation of ‘social science’.

We strongly encourage inter/multidisciplinary working both within and beyond the social sciences, as long as at least 50 per cent of the proposed programme of activities is within the social science remit.

The decision not to include thematic restrictions or a list of sub-disciplines also stems from this inclusive approach.

For further clarity, we would advise you to consult the assessment criteria on page 6 of the [Call specification document](#).

Has the call timeline been impacted by COVID-19?

ESRC and IRC have agreed to extend the submission deadline to Wednesday 17th June 2020 in order to accommodate any challenges faced by applicants as the result of the current pandemic. Subsequently successful grants will now commence from October 2020. The call specification has been updated to reflect changes to the call timeline.