ESRC-IRC UK/Ireland Networking Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 9 June 2020

Contents

ESRC-IRC UK/Ireland Networking Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 9 June 2020

ESRC-IRC UK/Ireland Networking Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 9 June 2020

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.

ESRC-IRC UK/Ireland Networking Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 9 June 2020

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

ESRC-IRC UK/Ireland Networking Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 9 June 2020

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.

Should I include the costs claimed by both the UK and Irish teams in the Resource Summary Section of Je-S?

No, the resource summary section of the Je-S form should only include costs associated with the UK component of the project and should not exceed £10,000. All costs attributed to the Irish component of the project should be detailed separately in the Irish budget form and should not exceed €11,800 EUR.

ESRC-IRC UK/Ireland Networking Grants
Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 9 June 2020

Can we itemise the non-academic partner's participation at our networking events, in terms of travel, accommodation etc.?

Yes, reimbursement of expenses of non-academic partners is an eligible cost.

Can the costs of bringing the UK researchers/partners to Ireland for this event be included in the Irish budget (e.g. travel, accommodation), or ONLY costs incurred by the Irish researchers/partners?

This call allows for budget flexibility. Therefore, that's an eligible cost.

Can the costs of running events in the UK be shared between the Irish and UK, or should they be borne by the UK partners only?

This call allows for budget flexibility. Therefore, that's an eligible cost.

Are Publication Costs an eligible expense in applications to the ESRC-IRC UK-Ireland Social Sciences Networking Grants Scheme?

As specified in the Call specification document, research expenses are not eligible. While publication costs relevant to networking activities are eligible (e.g. workshop report, summary of best practices), costs related to academic publication (e.g. golden access costs) are beyond the scope of this grant, and therefore not eligible.

A CV must be included for each named research staff member. For this proposal, should CVs be included for academics who are members of the core group (similar to advisory board) for our network?

We don't expect CV's for any staff members, other than those PI's and Co-I's.

Is e-conferencing software purchase or subscription (such as Zoom or MS Teams) an eligible cost?

These items are eligible costs

ESRC-IRC UK/Ireland Networking Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 9 June 2020

Are Emeritus professors eligible as PIs?

Emeritus professors are eligible as PI/Co-I. In the application, the reasons behind this choice should be explained (e.g. notable experience, existing network….)

Have eligible activities been changed due to COVID-19?

The was no amend to the eligible activities (e.g. travels, site visits..), on the assumption that networking activities will be possible again in October. Therefore, applicants are invited to write a regular networking application.

Are travel and subsistence costs for stakeholders' representative, including agencies' representatives, eligible?

The cost for representatives from the agencies are eligible. Please explain while their inclusion is valuable to the network activities.

Is this an annual call?

At the moment, it is a once-off grant.

Should every researcher/participant that would participate in advisory/training capacities be listed as co-investigator?

You are not required to include every stakeholder that will participate in advisory/training capacities (especially if their role is relative minor). In this case, you are not required to attach their CV.

Can the Irish co-PI be a researcher in another discipline?

Since this joint call is strongly related to the idea of 'bridging communities', an extensive rather than a restrictive interpretation of 'social science' is favored. In this case, the Irish Co-PI can indeed be a researcher in another discipline. Inter/multidisciplinary working both within and beyond the social sciences is strongly encouraged, if at least 50 per cent of the proposed programme of activities is within the social science remit.

ESRC-IRC UK/Ireland Networking Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 9 June 2020

Is website development or hosting an eligible cost?

As per the call specification document, sustainability of activities (e.g. websites, social network accounts etc.) beyond the lifetime of the project is considered a 'Benefit and Impact' point of criteria, therefore a website is an eligible expense.

Is Irish budget for this call subject to overheads?

No.

Are the budget costs of PIs and networking members travelling to attend a conference eligible?

Yes, it is. Please be advised that this grant is not intended to provide funding for travel grants and/or one-off visits.

If an Irish PI will shortly transition to another HEI, and the new employment is starting before the grant start date, which institutional affiliation should be indicated on J-es?

As per the call specification document, the applicant must be based in an eligible research institution in the ROI, with a contract of sufficient duration to cover the term of the proposed project. In light of that, the applicant should indicate the new HEI as institutional affiliation. You are advised to reach them out in advance of the deadline to discuss the application. Please note that, from the JeS Guidance: 'At this stage, no formal institutional endorsement is required from Irish applicants.'

An Irish PI has a contract until end of August 2021 (e.g., a contract of sufficient duration as per the original call time). However, as the timeline changed, and now projects are expected to end no earlier than October 2021. Is the Irish PI still eligible?

Yes, Irish PIs eligible under the previous timeline will still be eligible.