

Frequently asked questions

Q: The AoO suggests that the large projects are expected to be "interdisciplinary", which suggests multiple researchers to me. That seems difficult to achieve with £70,000 at 80% FEC unless we are intended to bring in additional funding from elsewhere?

A: For the Large Project, the call stipulates that the research must be interdisciplinary. The funding for any single award in this category is £70,000 (at 80% FEC) and proposal will be evaluated on the basis of their scientific quality but also recognising the overall budget available. A justification of Resources is required as part of the application.

Q: The large projects can last for 18 months. Can this be on a part time basis?

A: The only stipulation is that the Large Projects must be delivered with 18 months to align with other parts of the NERC-ESRC UH Programme. Within this the work programme is flexible but must take into account the requirements set out in the Announcement of Opportunity.

Q: Is there a review stage after the intent to submit? I was just wondering how much room for manoeuvre there is for change after the intent to submit. E.g. if there was some similar projects, would you put people in touch or are things locked in after the intent to submit?

A: The purpose of the Intent to Submit (ItS) stage is to help the Programme coordinate the Open Call and the evaluation of the full proposals once submitted. The ItS request specific information but is not evaluated. We would request that the information provided in the ItS is as accurate as possible, i.e. identifies the Theme(s) that the full proposal will address, but recognise that the scope of the proposal might develop between the submission of the ItS (31st August) and the full proposal (12th October).

Q: Is the funding available on this call a result of a redirection of funds from the original call (as a response to the imposed moratorium) or is this an entirely new pot of money made available?

A: The funding available for this call is a combination of funding awarded (allocated) to the NERC UH Challenge 1 project to commission specific research projects during the lifetime of the programme supplemented by additional new funding from NERC/ESRC. A key objective of the UH programme and the Challenge 1 project is to maximise the legacy and impact of the UKUH programme and in doing so recognise that there was a changing shale gas landscape and therefore a need to innovate quickly within this and the wider UK energy system transition .

Q: Noticed this is limited to 2 proposals I assume this is leading on 1?

A: A researcher is permitted to submit a maximum of two proposals; however, they may only submit one proposal as a Project Lead.

Q: Please can you confirm the eligibility criteria for an early career applicant? Do they have to have a PhD or can they have a BSc or MSc with more experience?

A: The call encourages applications from ECRs and the eligibility criteria are set out in the AO. The Small Project and EDI Ambassador roles are specifically focused on providing leadership opportunities to ECRs and Post-doctoral Research Assistants (PDRA) as well as other research staff employed at eligible research organisations. The eligibility criteria are that applicants must: 1) meet the eligibility criteria for NERC Independent Research Fellow, OR 2) be research staff employed by a research organisation or, if not employed, have an existing formal arrangement with the organisation that enables you to carry out research there and receive all necessary management and infrastructure support from the organisation; OR 3) be scheduled to move to the submitting organisation before the proposed start date of the project.