

Food & nutrition research for health in the developing world: Bioavailability and nutrient content Q & As

Q1: How big are the grants available through this call and how much of the project funding can go to the overseas PI's?

Up to £6.9 million is available for this call, subject to the quality of applications received. We do not wish to be too prescriptive about the size of proposals as it is important to build projects based on delivering interdisciplinary research across the agriculture-food- nutrition- health pathway addressing a developing country challenge. The total overall costs of the application must not exceed a maximum of £2 million (at 100% full economic costs). It is up to the applicant to fully justify the costs associated with their proposal.

For this particular call, there is no upper limit on the amount of funding that can go to eligible partners in DAC listed countries. We are seeking equitable partnerships between researchers in the UK and the participating country, and we would expect that all costs associated with your proposal are fully justified. In addition to UK researchers normally eligible for BBSRC funding, applications may include eligible Co-Investigators based in developing countries. Proposals must be led by a Principal Investigator in the UK, but partnerships with Co-Investigators in DAC listed countries are strongly recommended. Please refer to the Eligible Costs section within the Guidance for Applicants document for further information regarding the costs.

Q2: Can you please clarify the if the £2 million maximum amount for the proposal is the 100% fEC value or the 80% grant value, as the DAC country partners will be paid at 100%.

Just to confirm, the total overall costs of the application must not exceed a maximum of £2 million (at 100% full economic costs). If a grant is awarded, BBSRC would provide funding on the basis of 80% of fEC for the UK component of the proposal, and 100% fEC of the DAC partner component. Please refer to the Guidance for Applicants document for further information regarding these costs.

Q3: Is co-funding expected in developing countries?

No, co-funding is not expected in developing countries.

Q4: How can I find Principal Investigators from the UK to work with for this call? Is it possible to apply directly without one?

To connect with relevant UK partners you could use the following:

- searching the '[Gateway to Research](#)' website using key words where details of all of the UKRI-funded grants are published (along with details of the project and people involved)

- contacting relevant PIs who have recently been funded through the UK's Global Challenges Research Fund – e.g. the BBSRC Foundation Awards for Global Agriculture and Food Systems Research (details of the awarded grants can be seen [here](#))

You will not be able to apply to this call unless your application is led by an eligible Principal Investigator (PI) in the UK. Standard BBSRC eligibility conditions apply to UK applicants for this call. See section 3 of the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#) and the [UKRI list of eligible organisations](#) for further details.

Applications may additionally include (for this call only) eligible Co-Investigators (Co-Is) based in DAC listed countries. Overseas Co-Is should hold a position of lecturer level or equivalent status in a university or other recognised higher education institution or other research institution, or other 'not-for-profit' organisation with a credible and relevant research capacity, based in an eligible DAC country (see list of eligible countries in Downloads section). This includes researchers at both national institutions of eligible DAC countries and establishments of international organisations located in those countries. It does not include establishments of international organisations which are located elsewhere.

Q5a: Is there a limit on the number of applications from each institution for this call?

There is not a limit on the number of applications from each institution for this call.

Q5b: Can more than one UK organisation be involved in the proposal?

Yes, but they will need to meet the BBSRC eligibility criteria which is detailed section 3 of the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#).

Q5c: Is there a limit on how many proposals an applicant can be involved in?

There are no stipulations about the number of proposals an applicant can be involved in, but we usually advise that applicants are not involved in more than one proposal as a PI. Applicants can also be Co-I(s) on other proposals, but time commitment should be considered if you are going to be involved in a number of them.

Q6: Is there a requirement for multiple developing countries to be included?

There is no requirement for multiple developing countries to be involved. It is important for the proposed research to identify and address an appropriate development challenge in the chosen country(ies).

Q7a: Who can be a Co-Investigator?

Standard BBSRC eligibility conditions apply to UK applicants for this call. See section 3 of the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#) and the UKRI [list of eligible organisations](#) for further details.

In addition, applications may include (for this call only) eligible Co-Investigators (Co-Is) based in any of the DAC listed countries (see list of eligible countries in Downloads section). Overseas Co-Is should hold a position of lecturer level or equivalent status in a university or other recognised higher education institution or other research institution, or other 'not-for-profit' organisation with a credible and relevant research capacity, based in an eligible DAC country. This includes researchers at both national institutions of eligible DAC countries and establishments of international organisations located in those countries. It does not include establishments of international organisations which are located elsewhere.

This call aims to support interdisciplinary collaborative research spanning the agriculture-nutrition-health interfaces that combines the expertise of scientists in the UK with the knowledge of research partners in the participating country. The inclusion of resident researchers as Co-Is is strongly recommended to enable better project co-design and form truly integrated partnerships with clear and complementary roles, and equitable divisions of responsibilities and resources, as well as fostering applicability of results where relevant. The engagement of potential stakeholders and users, such as farmers, policymakers and health agencies in project design and delivery is also encouraged to enable the proposed research to have sustainable impact by delivering nutritional strategies appropriate for potential users of its outcomes, and strengthening capacity for the longer term.

Q7b: Who can be a Collaborator?

Researchers not eligible to be included as a Co-Investigator (including those based in non-DAC listed countries) may be included as 'Collaborators' or 'Project partners', as described in section two of the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#). Project Partners or other collaborators may be based in universities or other institutions, or independent researchers. They may also be potential users of research outcomes, including commercial organisations. Collaboration with industry is encouraged where relevant, but must not compromise the ODA compliance of the proposed research by inappropriately restricting use of its outcomes by potential beneficiaries (refer to the 'Data sharing, open access and intellectual property' section in the Guidance for Applicants). Neither Project Partners nor other collaborators would receive funding from BBSRC.

BBSRC Industrial Partnership Awards and Industrial LINK schemes will not operate in this call.

Q7c: How do you include a sub-contractor?

Where necessary - for example, because of the lack of the required expertise in eligible institutions - aspects of the proposed research may be sub-contracted to an otherwise ineligible organisation, in accordance with paragraphs 2.51 to 2.53 of the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#). Any sub-contracting must be fully justified within your application.

Q8: When submitting an application for funding to this call can I include salary costs for an MSc or PhD student?

Funding for any type of studentship and/or student resource, whether in the UK or overseas, may not be requested or included on BBSRC research grant applications. Please refer to paragraph 4.52 of the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#).

Q9a: Can more than one PDRA be included in a proposal?

Yes, more than one PDRA can be requested, as long as the total overall costs of the application does not exceed the maximum of £2 million (at 100% full economic costs).

Q9b: Can we recruit an international PDRA, i.e. could we hire them through our overseas Co-Is and charge to the grant accordingly, or would they need to be hired through the UK PI and seconded?

Regarding research staff associated with the proposal, they should only be employed by an eligible institution named in the application and be based at that institution. Assuming that the Co-Is are eligible ('holding a position of lecturer level or equivalent status in a university or other recognised higher education institution or other research institution, or other 'not-for profit' organisation with a

credible and relevant research capacity, based in an eligible DAC listed country), then the PDRA should be employed by them.

Q9c: Can we include research staff (graduate research or fieldwork assistants) that are based in the partner country, as salaried staff members in the project team?

Regarding research staff associated with the proposal, they should only be employed by an eligible institution (in the UK or DAC listed country) named in the application and be based at that institution. Overseas Co-Is should hold a position of lecturer level or equivalent status in a university or other recognised higher education institution or other research institution, or other 'not-for-profit' organisation with a credible and relevant research capacity, based in an eligible DAC listed country. This includes researchers at both national institutions of eligible DAC listed countries and establishments of international organisations located in those countries. It does not include establishments of international organisations which are located elsewhere.

The following costs may be requested for overseas Co-Investigators (Please refer to the Guidance for Applicants for further information):

- Costs for overseas Co-Investigators and any locally employed staff, i.e. percentage contribution of actual salary representing the proportion of each person's time to be spent working on the grant. These costs must be entered as Exceptions under the Other Directly Incurred costs on Je-S at 100% fEC
- Travel and subsistence for overseas Co-Investigators. These costs must be entered as Exceptions under the Travel and Subsistence costs on Je-S at 100% fEC
- Costs charged by the overseas organisation and associated with the research, for example consumables and small items of equipment costing less than £10,000, field work, etc. These costs must be entered as Exceptions under the Other Directly Incurred costs on Je-S at 100% fEC
- A contribution towards Indirect and Estates costs at the overseas organisation. This should be calculated as 20% of the overseas research organisation's Directly Incurred costs. This total should be entered as an Exception under the Other Directly Incurred costs on Je-S

The following will **not** be funded under this call in either the UK or DAC partner countries:

- any types of studentships;
- items of equipment costing more than £10,000 or other capital expenditure.

Q10: Do you have any further guidance on the completion of the Assurance Questionnaire?

In line with the [terms and conditions](#) of Research Council grants (RGC 1), the Research Organisation is accountable for the conduct of the research, the use of public funds and for ensuring the proper financial management of grants. These obligations apply wherever the research is carried out; either at the Research Organisation or a collaborating organisation or other third party.

The assurance questionnaire will be used by the UKRI Assurance team to ensure that adequate due diligence processes are in place within the lead Research Organisation in the UK (who will have responsibility for disbursing the funds). The information you provide must be detailed enough for us to understand how your organisation is operating, and to reassure us that appropriate processes are in place.

We do not have specific guidance for completing this document. However, we would expect your research office to be familiar with such forms as many funders have similar requirements.

If after speaking with your research office, you still have specific queries regarding particular questions, then please let us know and we can pass them on to our Assurance team.

Q11: Are CGIAR centres eligible for funding, and at what rate?

Researchers from CGIAR centres in DAC listed countries are eligible as Co-Investigators. Overseas Co-Is should hold a position of lecturer level or equivalent status in a university or other recognised higher education institution or other research institution, or other 'not-for-profit' organisation with a credible and relevant research capacity, based in an eligible DAC country (see list of eligible countries in Downloads section). This includes researchers at both national institutions of eligible DAC countries and establishments of international organisations located in those countries. It does not include establishments of international organisations which are located elsewhere.

Please refer to the Guidance for Applicants for information regarding eligible overseas costs.

Q12: Are there mechanisms through which industry partners can join?

Commercial partners can be Project Partners or collaborators (as described in section two of the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#)), but are not eligible to receive funding from BBSRC. Collaboration with industry is encouraged where relevant, provided that arrangements for ownership and exploitation of intellectual property would not conflict with the expectation of alignment with the principles of Global Access (refer to the 'Data sharing, open access and intellectual property' section in the Guidance for Applicants).

Project Partner - have an integral role in the proposed research. An organisation should only be named as a Project Partner if it is providing specific contributions (either direct or indirect) to the proposed project.

Collaborator - in instances where a collaboration is restricted to intellectual input into a project or the provision of materials (e.g. cell lines) by a researcher or their organisation at no cost, a letter from the researcher or organisation confirming the extent of the collaboration is required.

BBSRC Industrial Partnership Awards and Industrial LINK schemes will not operate in this call.

Q13: The timeframe from decision to start is very tight, is there any possibility of an extension?

No, due to the nature of this call projects are expected to start 1st April 2019 and end by 31st March 2021.

Q14: Can a project be led by a PI from a non-bioscience background?

Yes, but the proposed research must be predominantly within BBSRC's remit, include a substantial element of investigative bioscience, and fit within the scope of the call proposal.

Q15: Can the development of new methods and metrics be included as a project?

Yes, as long as it is addressing an evidenced ODA challenge in the partner country and is appropriate for use in a developing country(ies) settings and ODA context.

Q16: Is the investigative bioscience research expected to be carried out predominantly in the UK or in ODA partner countries?

We expect applications to be predominantly within bioscience and while it is acceptable for research to take place in the UK, proposals should be addressing an evidenced ODA challenge in the partner country.

This call aims to support interdisciplinary collaborative research spanning the agriculture-nutrition-health interfaces that combines the expertise of scientists in the UK with the knowledge of research partners in the participating country. The inclusion of resident researchers as Co-Is is strongly recommended to enable better project co-design and form truly integrated partnerships with clear and complementary roles, and equitable divisions of responsibilities and resources, as well as fostering applicability of results where relevant. The engagement of potential stakeholders and users, such as farmers, policymakers and health agencies in project design and delivery is also encouraged to enable the proposed research to have sustainable impact by delivering nutritional strategies appropriate for potential users of its outcomes, and strengthening capacity for the longer term.

The primary benefit of the proposed research must be to the developing country(ies). To ensure ODA compliance, you should consider the following aspects when preparing your application:

- Your proposed research should investigate a specific problem or seek a specific outcome which will impact on the economic development and welfare of your partner country[ies] in the immediate or longer-term
- The benefit and relevance of the proposed research to your partner country[ies] should be clear
- You will need to consider the pathway to achieving impact (during and after the lifetime of the research grant).

Q17: Can proposals build on previous or existing investments?

Yes, proposals for this call can build on previous or existing investments.

Q18: Where can I see a copy of the presentation?

The webinar presentation is available on the [call webpage on the BBSRC website](#).

Q19: Will FAQs be updated on a regular basis, where can I direct further enquiries?

Unfortunately this is not possible, but we welcome all potential applicants to contact us through the FNH email (fnh@bbsrc.ac.uk) should they have any questions.