

General	How would you define behavioural research?	BR-UK is part of the ESRC's programme to build national capability in behavioural research. ESRC states: "We take a broad definition of what 'behavioural research' encompasses which goes beyond individualistic approaches to behaviour change. Our definition includes research to answer fundamental questions about how and why people, organisations and groups behave in the way they do within wider societal and economic contexts."
Finances	Can postgrad funding be included?	No stipend or fees are allowed.
Eligibility	What is the criteria of selecting funded proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all applicants and named staff must be eligible under the scheme requirements</li> <li>• the proposal must meet the aims and criteria of the funding scheme</li> <li>• all application documents must be eligible under the scheme requirements.</li> </ul> <p>Scientific Merit: Originality, significance, outputs and rigor of the research  Feasibility: Practicality of the research plan and methodology.  Impact: Dissemination and potential to influence policy or practice (dissemination plans) and engagement with relevant publics/stakeholders.  Value for Money: Efficient use of funds and resources.  Team: Qualifications, experience and diversity of the research team.  Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Intersectionality: taking into account principles and considerations.</p>
Team	Does the Accelerator Grant for an ECR already requires a larger team? Or is mention of a mentor sufficient?	There is no minimum or maximum team size. We would expect proposals to provide adequate support to the ECR as lead applicant. This would normally include involving others as part of a team, even if they are primarily in a mentoring role.
Eligibility	Who is eligible for the Accelerator award?	<p>Led by researcher at RO able to hold UKRI funding  Named lead based at submitting RO in the UK  Must have co-funding</p> <p>Can have co-applicant from outside UK</p> <p>Business, third or government sector applicants are welcome. However, the following should be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses must comply with the UK Subsidy Control Act 2022</li> <li>• Costs must not be more than 30% of the overall grant</li> <li>• Overheads and any other indirect costs are not eligible for inclusion.</li> </ul>
Study Design	Are creative methods eligible?	All methods are eligible as long as they address the one of the three themes in the call and specifically set out the proposed research is relevant to addressing societal and economic challenges.
Study Design	Is it specific to human or does it include animal's research?	Animal research is not expected to be included, and we do not have relevant sections in the application form to cover this.

Co-Funding	We are unsure how to interpret this bit of the call: Applications should be co-funded the applicant's organisation	Successful applicants will be expected to provide co-funding (cash or in kind) for the project from their or other partner organisations and so should explain their intention to do so in their applications. This means including information in the application about resources that will be added to those requested from BR-UK to complete the project. This could include a direct contribution of a specified amount of funding from (for example) a departmental budget or an industry partner. It could also involve 'in kind' contributions such as staff time (for example a senior colleague providing advice or support to the project without any salary costs), access to equipment, travel costs or consumables.
Study Design	Must a BR-UK Research Project use existing data? Is it possible to collect new behavioural data in a proposed research project?	No, it doesn't have to be based on existing data if the rationale and methodology are sound and the project addresses the topics of the call.
Application Process	What is the exact procedure and requirements for submission(s)?	All applications should be completed online via the Qualtrics Platform. If you are unable to submit via the online portal, please contact the Hub Manager by email to <a href="mailto:enquiries@br-uk.ac.uk">enquiries@br-uk.ac.uk</a> to discuss alternative plans in advance of the deadline.
Peer Review	For the BR-UK Accelerator Award funding stream, would assessors favor one with prior publication in an area over another?	We are not prioritising those with prior publications over another.
Application Type	Is it possible to apply both awards--a pilot study funded by the Accelerator Award and the major study by the Research Award	We would not expect the same project to be submitted to both calls due to the distinctions noted in the webinar. However, it is possible for applicants to be included in more than one proposal – for example be a lead on one application and a team member on another if the projects are different.
Eligibility	Applying with a university spin out in the Accelerator Fund? Can a researcher who did not have the PhD viva apply?	If the spin out is a research organisation (RO) that can receive UKRI funding (if the spin out is the lead organisation) or the spin out can be a partner as long as the lead organisation is an RO eligible for UKRI funding  Researcher with a university/research contract can apply with/without a PhD
General	Is there help with accessing and filling application forms?	<a href="mailto:enquiries@br-uk.ac.uk">Assistance can be requested from enquiries@br-uk.ac.uk if help is required.</a>
Peer Review	Will we receive written feedback on our EOI submissions, irrespective of whether we're invited to submit a full proposal?	If we receive a very large number of proposals, we will not have the capacity to provide detailed feedback, but will endeavour to make clear why the application did not meet one or more criteria for the project grants.
Eligibility	Is this fellowship available for researchers outside UK?	This funding call is not a fellowship. The lead applicant must be based in the UK however international co-applicants are welcome when working with a UK PI and team.

General	Please advise on required career level of PI and co-PIs, and what responsibilities are permitted for ECRs e.g., postdocs	<p>PIs on accelerator proposals should be early career researchers. PIs on research applications, and Co-Is on either funding type, can be any career level.</p> <p>Responsibilities for ECR team members need to be appropriate to the proposed research and there needs to be adequate support and mentorship for the ECR</p>
Finance - Commercial	Can you clarify what the 30% of costs eligibility criteria means for private organisations to apply?	<p>See: Inclusion of business, third sector or government body co-applicants</p> <p>This refers to the costs associated with project co-leads (PcL). Costs associated with a PcL from a UK business, third sector or government organisations contribution to a project (regardless of how many PcLs are included) must never exceed 30%, of the overall cost of the grant at 100% of FEC and would normally be lower than this.</p> <p>PcLs from UK businesses or government organisations cannot claim overheads and other indirect costs on any element of the grant</p>
Eligibility	Can a private start-up research organisation apply for a research grant?	If they are an eligible research organisation able to receive UKRI Funding.
Co-Funding	Details on expected funding contribution from partners	We have not specified an amount as this will vary depending on the size of the application. Please outline the co-funding available that you are able to secure to support delivery of your application.
Co-Lead	<p>I was wondering if, for the accelerator award, I could also have a co-investigator or collaborator, similarly to in the project proposal.</p> <p>I am myself an ECR, having completed my PhD only three years ago, but I work with a more experienced colleague who brings important methodological expertise, so I would like to acknowledge them, if possible, as part of the application.</p>	Yes.
Finance - Commercial	My colleagues and I are intending to put in a proposal for the research grant and one of our co-applicants is a business providing specialist capabilities. I understand that if a business is a co-applicant then they are only eligible for 30% of the FEC. I was wondering if this 30% refers to the project as a whole or if this is only 30% of their intended costs? If the 30% is only this partner's costs, does this mean that we (as the second applicant) are eligible for 80% of our costs?	<p>The combined costs any project co-leads from UK business, third sector or government organisations on an application cannot be more than 30% of the total FEC. Project co-leads from UK business, third sector and government organisations can only claim certain costs depending on their organisation type. You should carefully check each organisation type's eligible costs to make sure that only allowable costs are requested. You should note that project co-leads from business organisations cannot claim estates or indirect costs when applying to ESRC opportunities. Further details on eligible costs can be found here: <a href="#">Inclusion of business, third sector or government body Co-Is on ESRC proposals.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Inclusion of business, third sector or government body Co-Is on ESRC proposals.</a></p>

Application Process	In the webinar you encouraged adding figures, but in the Qualtrics form it does not allow for figures to be copied into the text box. How should we attach figures? Can we upload them as separate files at the CV file upload stage and references them in the previous section's project plan? Or is there another way?	The application forms have been updated and you may now add a one page document with figures and tables as needed. It must not exceed one page.
Co-Funding	<p>Thank you for this information. I just attended the webinar and have a follow-up question regarding co-funding. The slides stated that co-funding is an element of 'value for money'. Does that mean that level/amount/size of co-funding an assessment criteria? The understanding of Exeter's research office and myself is that UKRI stated that assessors shouldn't consider any match in their funding decisions, as it may disadvantage smaller institutions.</p> <p>One suggestion made for in-kind contributions was that senior colleagues could contribute x% FTE for free for advice. However, this raises issues with TRAC that HEI are obliged to comply with; hence, this does not sound like a feasible suggestion to us.</p>	<p>Co-funding is necessary but is not part of the value for money assessment (apologies if that was confusing from the heading on that slide). The VFM assessment relates to the amount requested and the promised outputs for that funding.</p> <p>You may provide in-kind solutions in the way that suits you best so, if as an HEI, in kind researcher time is not possible then another option would be required. That may be access to data sets, resources or equipment for example. It could be that your institute would cover some travel costs or meeting costs (waive meeting room hire fees, provide catering).</p>
Finance	Thanks for the informative webinar. I have a specific question: Are the costings on the EOI binding or indicative? If latter, can we change in second stage? I am asking because this is summer season so getting costings quickly approved by universities might be a challenge and so on.	Indicative costs for the EOI are fine – we appreciate that it may be challenging to turn around final costs in a short timeframe. A best estimate is fine and obviously not above the funding ceiling of £300,000 at 100% FEC.

Finance	<p>I was at the webinar about the commissioning fund this afternoon but didn't manage to ask all my questions.</p> <p>I mainly wanted to ask whether you require an official costing breakdown (on Worktribe) for the EOI, or if this will come in the later stages for a full application? I also haven't managed to find much about institutional internal processes (Uni of Bristol) for the EOI stage, but I assume that I will need to speak to someone internal to ensure they are happy to cover the 20% of the FEC. (Sorry if you can't help with that one!).</p>	<p>You can provide indicative figures at the EOI stage but you must make sure they are as realistic as possible – we wouldn't want a significant variance between the initial figures and the those accepted as final. Please contact your research support office/ finance team as soon as possible to let them know you are interested in this opportunity so that they are aware and they will be able to guide you.</p>
Matching	<p>, we would greatly appreciate your support in connecting us with partners who are currently preparing applications, as we are highly motivated to participate in initiatives</p>	<p>Unfortunately, we are not able to provide a matching service to find partners for those interested in the funding.</p>
Study Design	<p>I was wondering if there is an expectation for ECR work regarding its time scale. A lot of calls prefer a 12-month turnaround for these types of projects, but if I am not mistaken, I could not see a specific clarification in the overview. Apologies if I have missed this, and thank you in advance for your help.</p>	<p>For the accelerator awards, we suggest between 12 and 18 months. However, if you feel an alternative time frame would be needed, you can request this with a clear justification of that timeframe within the proposal.</p>
Co-Lead	<p>I have a new PhD student starting in October, funded by a university studentship. They will be working in an area with direct overlap with our project proposal. Would it be acceptable to name him as a co-applicant on the application and have him contribute to the research (e.g. half a day a week) and include this as 'co-funding' (as opposed to costing for his time). If yes, would there be an upper limit to the amount of time that he could contribute to the project?</p>	<p>PhD student costs are not eligible for inclusion on applications while they are completing their studies on a full-time basis, we suggest that they be included on a casual basis only to avoid students becoming over committed.</p> <p>However, if no costs are being charged to the grant, you are content that they have space to take on this work then, you can include them as an in-kind co-applicant or named researcher on the project. You should calculate the financial contribution this equates to (i.e. what the cost is for them to work one day a week on it) and make this clear in the application. We are not specifying limits because we expect teams to manage their teams appropriately and not risk their PhD work. Note that the project must not be an extension of that PhD of course.</p>

Finance - Commercial	Could you please clarify whether the conditions of the grant (including the specific wording on costs and overheads in the eligibility requirements) would be relevant to subcontractors to the grantee? Or whether subcontractors would simply be receiving some of the costs the grantee is allowed to spend (max 30% of the grant), but not be subject to the other provisions?	The rules related to subcontractors will be as for any UKRI funding as outlined below. Subcontractors cannot be co-I's on the project and therefore there is not restriction on Co-I salary costs being limited to 30% of the total request.
		<a href="#">Please refer to section 3 on this page: ESRC research funding guide for the UKRI Funding Service – UKRI</a>
Study Design	I assume that the expected start date is around January/February 2026, after the tentative time scale Prof Bauld presented yesterday?	The timescale will be around that time for the research proposals yes, but sooner for Accelerators if possible. It will be determined by the length of time it takes to put a contract in place following notification of outcomes.
Eligibility	<p>I am inquiring with regards to Behavioural Research funding. I was wondering whether an ECR is eligible apply if they have an open-ended contract? I am encouraging my postdoc to apply and their contract is opened ended with current fixed end day of funding which will not cover the whole length of the award. It will be extended but it is not on paper yet and we won't be able to sort it out before the deadline for this application. However, it is an open-ended contract.</p> <p>You specify that the contract should cover the length of the award - does open ended contract fit this requirement?</p>	This would require something in writing to confirm that the ECR has a contract for the duration of the research if they intend to apply for an Accelerator award as a lead otherwise, they would be deemed ineligible according to our funding rules.
Peer Review	How does the blinding process of the proposals look like? In case of my team, we would like to propose a project that builds on our current work in the domain, thus making it important to cite this work - are there some extra considerations we should take into account given that it could be much harder to blind the proposal with such citations? In what way should we refer to our own work?	You should reference as normal – it will not be completely possible to blind applications 100% in this context. We would advise you to write your proposal describing previous work without attributing specific author details. The references should be numbered through the text and then added to the end of the section. The links to the specific references will be held back during the initial review so that your name/institution is not obvious. The references will then be shared.

Eligibility	Thank you very much for today's webinar. I have a more specific question that I wanted to ask separately. I am planning to apply for the Accelerator fund, but my current contract runs until February. I will be transitioning directly to a new institution afterwards. Would I still be eligible to apply for the fund under these circumstances, or would this affect my eligibility?	If you have a contract/confirmed position at the new institution and can provide evidence of that, then you may apply as a lead for the accelerator fund.
Eligibility	If I had an NGO partner (non profit) based in another country, but I am an academic PI based in the UK, is that a collaboration that could work? Would they have to apply to be an eligible partner, or could they just be involved in the grant?	This would be fine – If you intend to request funding for them, then the finances would have to go via your institution and you would be liable to take care of the payment of funds overseas as necessary. If there are no funds involved, they can be named as in-kind collaborators.
General	I am currently working on my EoI for your 'Research Project' commissioned funding and noted on the application that it is asking for confirmation of being an early career researcher. I attended the webinar this week (which was extremely useful by the way), but thought that the ECR criteria was only for the accelerator awards, not the research project awards. Please could you confirm if this is correct?	<p>The ECR criteria is primarily for the accelerator awards, as they are aimed at supporting colleagues at this career stage.</p> <p>For the research projects, we are simply noting ECR involvement as we welcome teams that have members at different career stages. ECRs can also lead research projects but they should have a senior/mid-career co-lead.</p>