Confidence in Global Mental Health Research

Guidance for Applicants and Assessment Criteria

Application Guidelines

Applications should be made through Je-S. Applications will open on the 4th July 2017 and close 16:00 on 14th September 2017.

The full application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attachments</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Case for Support</strong></td>
<td>A maximum of 10 sides of A4. Use sans-serif typeface (arial or equivalent) and font size of 11 pt. Use margins of 2 cm on all sides. Applicants must follow these instructions and structure the case into the sections listed. Please note that Justification of resources is part of the Case for Support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CV including publications</strong></td>
<td>A maximum of three sides of A4 per CV including list of relevant publications. Include researchers that are likely to make a clear contribution to the proposed research activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institutional letter of support</strong></td>
<td>A maximum of two sides of A4 or equivalent on headed paper or sent by email.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project partner letter of support (if applicable)</strong></td>
<td>A maximum of two sides of A4 or equivalent on headed paper or sent by email.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Covering letter (optional)</strong></td>
<td>A maximum of two sides of A4. Use sans-serif typeface (arial or equivalent) and font size of 11 pt. For more information please see MRC guidance for applicants section 2.2.6. Please mention any discussions undertaken with programme manager regarding exceptional costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MICA form (if applicable)</strong></td>
<td>For more information please see MRC Industry Collaboration agreement (MICA) details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Case for Support Instructions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1. Research Plan** | • State overarching strategy to address the global mental health challenges in low and middle income countries (LMICs), with a particular focus on the aetiology of mental illness and the impact of challenges to early brain development on mental health.  
  • Identify your research questions. These must be primarily relevant to LMICs.  
  • Set out long-term research plans, including plans for developing sustainable UK-LMIC partnerships. Place these plans in the context of past or on-going research.  
  • Explain how the “Confidence in Global Mental Health Research” proposal is aligned with such long-term plans.  
  • Explain how the award would pave the way for more substantive research opportunities in the future, including capacity building in LMICs.  
  • Highlight scope to develop multidisciplinary approaches (for example by attracting expertise in a range of research disciplines). |
| **2. Relevance to Official Development Assistance (ODA, Benefit to LMICs)** | • Clearly describe how the research plan is focused on problems primarily affecting countries in the DAC list.  
  • Highlight potential benefits to the health and wellbeing of people in LMICs.  

Further guidance on ODA and demonstrating ODA compliance in applications for funding is available via the [RCUK GCRF webpages](https://www.rcuk.ac.uk/gcrf/), in particular [ODA guidance](https://www.dfid.gov.uk/guidance/odaguidance/). |
| **3. Research Environment and People** | • Provide details of existing strengths in:  
  o Capacity in mental health research;  
  o Experience working in LMICs /with LMIC partners.  

• Outline plans to include researchers from other disciplines.  
• Outline plans for development opportunities for early/mid-career researchers  
• Provide **CVs of relevant staff as a separate attachment.**  
• Explain how infrastructure and existing equipment will contribute to the feasibility of the project. |
| **4. Partnerships** | • For UK partnerships:  
  o Outline the contribution of different partners and how strengths between UK research organizations complement each other.  

• For LMIC partnerships:  
  o Outline a plan to establish or consolidate ongoing partnerships  
  o Justify the choice of LMIC partners in the context of the proposed strategy. |
- When LMIC-based researchers are co-applicants explain how partners contributed to conceptualization of the projects and how research will be jointly managed by the UK and LMIC partners.
  - For industrial collaborations:
    - Clearly state the role of the industrial collaborators;
    - Justify how these collaborations will benefit LMICs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Approaches and Feasibility</td>
<td>Applicants should provide up to four vignettes outlining activities to be undertaken under this scheme. Present a realistic timeline for all the activities proposed (for example as a Gannt chart). Activities may include:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                                | • Workshops / networking activities with LMICs
    - Explain how these events will be organized;
    - Clearly define the aims of these events and strategies to engage with LMICs. |
|                                | • Pump priming projects:
    - Explain how the activities will produce quality preliminary data and/or help to develop/standardize outcome measures and methodologies;
    - Justify suitability of the approaches and methodologies proposed to achieve the aims;
    - Make a compelling case for the research identifying the advances achievable. |
| 6. Ethics                      | • Provide an overview of potential ethical implications of the work to be performed under this scheme and the long term plans. |
|                                | • If applicable describe plans for ethical review of the proposed activities in the UK and/or LMIC settings. |
|                                | • Provide evidence as to why the research is relevant for LMICs to ensure the plan is informed by the needs of affected populations. |
|                                | • If you are involving vulnerable groups in your research (e.g. children, victims of violence, individuals lacking capacity to consent, etc), then describe how you will manage their involvement. |
|                                | • If appropriate, describe any ethics or governance considerations in relation to personal data or biobanks and how you will manage these. |
| 7. Governance                  | • Describe arrangements for the allocation of funds across different projects/activities. Explain how decisions will be taken transparently while maintaining high standards. |
|                                | • Describe how the progress of the projects/activities will be monitored, and how advice will be provided. |
**Grant start date, duration and funding**

All full proposals must start by 1 March 2018. All proposals are expected to be up to 12 months in duration. A convincing timeline, possibly as a Gantt chart, must be presented in the case for support (section 5 of the case for support: “Approaches and Feasibility”) and will form part of the assessment.

The total funding requested can be up to £200,000. Funding is not available for PhD or masters studentships, or capital equipment.

All funding will be managed through the UK lead Research Organisation.Requested costs for UK activities should be 80% of full economic costs and for overseas costs should be 100% of eligible costs (see below). Grants will be managed according to RCUK and MRC standard terms and conditions.

**Overseas costs**

Costs for work undertaken at an overseas organisation are admissible and should be 100% of eligible costs, calculated in GBP based on prevailing exchange rates at the time of application ([MRC guidance for applicants – section 3.3](#)). When the proposal includes a request for overseas costs, the UK lead

| 8. Pathways to Impact | • Explain how the expected outcomes will pave the way for future research opportunities, and contribute to changing the global mental health research landscape.  
• Anticipate possible challenges/requirements that will need to be overcome to secure impact and how your proposed plan is informed by these.  
• Highlight the importance of the proposed activities in stimulating global mental health research.  
• Highlight the expected impact/benefit of the research to LMICs. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Content</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9. Justification of Resources | • Provide clear justification as for each of the resources requested.  
• Include a statement providing assurance that the capability of all partners to meet the necessary ethical, regulatory and financial management practices has been considered, or how this will be achieved before project start.  

For details on Justification of resources please see [MRC guidance for applicants – section 2.2.4](#). See also [grant start date, duration and funding](#) and [overseas costs](#). |
Research Organisation must consider the financial controls and risk mitigations that will be put in place for the transfer of funding to overseas organisations. The Justification of Resources (case for support, section 9) must include a statement providing assurance that the capability of all partners to meet the necessary ethical, regulatory and financial management practices has been considered, or how this will be achieved before project start.

**Assessment Process**

Proposals will be assessed by a bespoke panel that will meet in November 2017. Pre-selected panel members will be allocated a number of proposals and asked to provide initial comments. These comments will inform the following panel discussion. Comments and funding decisions will be made available to all applicants. Applicants will not have an opportunity to respond.

**Assessment Criteria**

Applicants must structure the case for support according to these guidelines above. The “Confidence in Global Mental Health Research” scheme aims to provide pump-priming awards to lay the grounds for future large scale, multi-disciplinary, cross-country global mental health research bids to address issues of primary relevance to LMICs. Therefore, it is crucial that proposals under this scheme are aligned with a long-term plan/over-arching vision to address challenges in global mental health.

Features of strong proposals:

1. **Research Plan:**
   - Outline a strategic vision and long-term plan to address challenges in global mental health, with a particular focus on aetiology of healthy mental development and mental illness, understanding how challenges to early brain development affect mental illness and cognition, and the mechanisms and dimensions that underlie vulnerability and resilience to mental illness;
   - Identifies pertinent questions and puts them in the context of existing research;
   - Activities under the current proposal are aligned with the long term plan and lead to a range of future research opportunities;
   - Outline effective approaches that may be multidisciplinary when appropriate to the research question.

2. **Relevance to ODA**
   - Demonstrate the research to be primarily relevant to near-term or long-term benefits to the health or prosperity of Low or Middle Income Countries (LMICs);
o Make a compelling case for the relevance to health and the countries that will benefit;
o Further evidence as to why the research is relevant for LMICs and of engagement with end users, policy makers, at risk/affected populations, to ensure that the proposed plan is informed by their needs.

3. Research Environment and people:
o Demonstrate strong expertise in mental health research, and/or child and adolescent development, and/or working with LMIC partners;
o Clear plans on developing expertise in global mental health research among UK researchers, for example by supporting early or mid-career researchers with expertise in child and cognitive development or mental health to expand their research to global challenges in LMIC settings; or those with an expertise in global health to include aetiological research in mental health;
o Scope for multidisciplinary collaborations and plans to attract expertise from other disciplines and collaborate with researchers with a diverse range of expertise relevant to mental health;
o Demonstrate that existing infrastructure and equipment are adequate for the proposed activities.

4. Partnerships
o UK partnerships provide a strong balance of expertise;
o Choice of LMIC partners is justified and an effective plan for engagement with LMIC partners is in place
o Collaborations with industry are justified on the basis of benefit of LMICs.

5. Approaches and Feasibility
o Proposed activities (vignettes) state clear aims and milestones that are achievable within the proposed time frame.
o Activities under this scheme represent effective ways to lead to a future substantive programme of research.

6. Ethics
o Demonstrate awareness of ethical implications of the research or arising from the proposed work.

7. Governance
o Transparent mechanisms for fund allocation are in place;
o Mechanisms for oversight, monitoring and support of activities are in place;
o Applicants are able to add value to the funding provided by means of expertise, resources or financial contribution.

8. Pathways to Impact
o Expected outcomes of the activities will inform new research opportunities;
o Long-term strategic view is likely to advance global mental health research;
Plans offer an opportunity to develop new strategies in global mental health research.

9. Justification of Resources

- Resources are clearly justified;
- Resources provide value for money.