

Confidence in Global Nutrition and Health Research

Guidance for Applicants and Assessment Criteria

Applications should be submitted through [Je-S](#). Applications will open on the 4th July 2017 and close 4 pm on the 14th September 2017.

The full application

Attachments	
Case for Support	<p>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.</p> <p>Applicants must adhere to these instructions and structure the Case for Support into the sections listed.</p> <p>Please note that, under this scheme, "Justification of Resources" is part of the Case for Support and not a separate document.</p>
CV including publications	<p>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.</p>
Institutional letter of support	<p>A maximum of two sides of A4 on headed paper or sent by email.</p>
Project partner letter of support (if applicable)	<p>A maximum of two sides of A4 on headed paper or sent by email. For more information please see MRC guidance for applicants (section 2.2.7).</p>
Covering letter (optional)	<p>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).</p> <p>Please mention any discussions undertaken with the programme manager regarding exceptional costs.</p>
MICA form (if applicable)	<p>If industrial collaborations are included in the proposal, please include MRC Industry Collaboration agreement (MICA) relevant documents.</p>

Case for Support Instructions

Applicants must adhere to these instructions and structure the case into the sections below.

Section	Content
1. Research Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State overarching strategy to address global nutrition health challenges in low and middle income countries (LMICs). • Identify your research questions. These must be primarily relevant to LMICs. • Lay out long-term research plans. Place these plans in the context of past or ongoing research. • Explain how the “Confidence in Nutrition and Global Health Research” proposal is aligned with such long-term plans. • Set out plans for developing sustainable UK-LMIC partnerships • Explain how the award would pave the way for more substantive research opportunities in the future, including capacity building in LMICs. • If appropriate, highlight scope to develop multidisciplinary approaches (for example by attracting expertise in areas not traditionally associated with nutrition research).
2. Relevance to Official Development Assistance (ODA, Benefit to LMICs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Further guidance on ODA and demonstrating ODA compliance in applications for funding is available via the RCUK GCRF webpages, in particular ODA guidance.</p>
3. Research Environment and People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide details of existing strengths in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacity in nutrition research; ○ Experience working in LMICs or with LMIC partners. • Outline plans to include researchers from other disciplines. • Outline plans for development of opportunities for early/mid-career researchers. • Provide CVs and publications of relevant staff as a separate attachment. • Explain how infrastructure and existing equipment will contribute to the feasibility of the project.

Section	Content
4.Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For UK partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outline the contribution of different partners and how strengths between UK research organizations complement each other. • For LMIC partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outline a plan to establish or consolidate ongoing partnerships; ○ 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 proposal and how research will be jointly managed by the UK and LMIC partners. • For industrial collaborations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clearly state the role of the industrial collaborators; ○ Justify how these collaborations will benefit LMICs.
5.Approaches and Feasibility	<p>Applicants should provide up to four example vignettes outlining activities to be undertaken under this scheme. Present a realistic timeline for all the activities proposed (for example as a Gantt chart).</p> <p>Activities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops / networking activities with LMICs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explain how these events will be organized; ○ Clearly define the aims of these events and strategies to engage with LMICs. • Research projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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.

Section	Content
6.Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Describe how applicant institution(s) will contribute to add value to the funding provided. Include any provision of expertise/specialist advice or financial contribution. • 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.
8. Pathways to Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how the expected outcomes will pave the way for future research opportunities, and contribute to changing the global nutrition and 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 nutrition research. • Highlight the expected impact/benefit of the research to LMICs.

Section	Content
9. Justification of Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clear justification for each of the resources requested. <p>For guidance on how to write a Justification of Resources please see MRC guidance for applicants section 2.2.4. Please note that, under this scheme, the Justification of Resources must be included within the case for support and not as a separate document. See also grant start date, duration and funding and overseas costs.</p>

Grant start date, duration and funding

All full proposals must start as soon as possible after the awards are made and no later than 1st 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: "Approaches and Feasibility") and will form part of the assessment.

The total funding requested can be up to £200,000 MRC contribution. 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 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 Case for Support (Governance, section 7) 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 the [guidelines](#) provided. Please bear in mind that the “Confidence in Global Nutrition and Health Research” call aims to provide pump-priming awards to help develop strategies in global nutrition and health research. Therefore, it is crucial that proposals under this scheme are aligned with a long-term plan/over-arching vision to address challenges in global nutrition and health.

Features of strong proposals:

1. Research Plan:

- Outlines a strategic vision and long-term plan to address challenges in global nutrition and health;
- 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;
- Outlines effective approaches that may be multidisciplinary when appropriate to the research question.

2. Relevance to ODA

- Demonstrates 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);
- Makes a compelling case for the relevance to health and the countries that will benefit;
- Provides 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:

- Demonstrates strong expertise in nutrition research and/or experience in working with LMIC partners;
- Outlines clear plans for developing expertise in nutrition research, for example by supporting early or mid-career researchers and/or attracting expertise from other disciplines;
- Discusses scope for multidisciplinary collaborations and plans to collaborate with experts working in areas not traditionally associated with nutrition.
- Demonstrates that existing infrastructure and equipment are adequate for the proposed activities.

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

4. Approaches and Feasibility

- Proposed activities (vignettes) state clear aims and milestones that are achievable within the proposed time frame.
- Activities under this scheme represent effective ways to lead to future research.

5. Ethics

- Demonstrate awareness of ethical implications of the research or arising from the proposed work.

6. Governance

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

8. Pathways to Impact

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

9. Justification of Resources

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