UK-MALAYSIA CALL FOR PROPOSALS

MRC – ASM FULL STAGE APPLICATION GUIDANCE

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1. **Important application information**

This initiative will provide funding for collaborative research projects. Researchers will be responsible for developing their own collaborations and, once a research proposal is developed, UK and Malaysian applicants must apply jointly for funding. For administrative purposes, all projects will have a Principal Investigator (PI) based at a UK Research Organisation (RO) and a Principal Investigator based at a Malaysian RO. Malaysian and UK partners must work together to complete one joint application to be written in English and submitted to the MRC via the MRC Joint electronic System (Je-S) System https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/JeS2WebLoginSite/Login.aspx

MRC - ASM Research Grants can be up to 2 years in duration and must start by 17 January 2017 and the end date of the proposed research should be no later than 31st December 2018. Funding for projects awarded under this call for proposals is jointly provided by the Medical Research Council (MRC) from MRC’s Newton-Ungku Omar Fund allocation and the Academy of Science Malaysia (ASM).

We have up to £2m of MRC funding available for this scheme, and up to £2m from ASM. MRC will provide funding for the UK-based applicants under standard arrangements and at 80% FEC. ASM will provide funding for the Malaysian applicants according to the usual ASM funding guidelines. The size of the grants will vary according to the needs of the research project. However, we would expect each project to cost up to a maximum £400k (max. £200k from the MRC and £200k from ASM) and therefore expect to fund around ten (10) projects.

As the UK contribution will be provided by the MRC’s Newton-Ungku Omar Fund allocation, the research proposed must meet ODA requirements and be specifically relevant to the Malaysian population. Funding will be awarded in a manner that fits with Official Development Assistance (ODA) guidelines. All applications under this call must therefore be compliant with these guidelines in order to be deemed eligible.

For further information on ODA please visit: http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/RCUKprod/assets/documents/international/ODAguidanceRCUKspecific.pdf

**Application and review process:**

1. Joint Expression of Interest emailed to international@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk by **Wednesday, 20th April** (see Expression of Interest Template on call webpage)
2. Joint application from the UK and Malaysian researchers by **4pm BST on Wednesday, 1st June**. All jointly prepared applications will be submitted to MRC via the Joint Electronic System (Je-S) by the UK PI on behalf of the collaborators.
3. Joint peer review process including UK and Malaysian academic reviews
4. Joint panel meetings of UK and Malaysian academic experts, October 2016.
2. Who can apply?

2.1 Types of Research Organisations (ROs)

The UK Principal Investigator (PI) MUST be based at one of the following:

- Higher Education Institutions
- Independent Research Organisations
- Government Funded Organisations (other than MRC funded Units and Institutes)
- MRC Units/Institutes
- University Units (former MRC Units)

Applications with industry engagement are welcomed, however, funding will not be provided to industrial partners.

See Guidance for Applicants and Award Holders for further details about eligible institutions. This call will follow standard MRC eligibility criteria.

Key Malaysian eligibility criteria include:

- The Malaysian PI must have been awarded a doctorate or have equivalent research experience at the time of application. Applicants working towards a PhD, or awaiting the outcome of their viva/submission of corrections are not eligible to apply.

- Applicants must be Malaysian citizens and hold a permanent or fixed-term contract in an eligible university or research institute in Malaysia. Applicants with fixed terms contracts finishing before their grant end-date must secure confirmation from their Head of Department, stating that their contract will be extended to cover the duration of the award if their application is successful.

- Contact between the Malaysian PI and UK PI prior to the application is essential. This contact should lead to a clearly defined and mutually beneficial research project proposal. Please note that ASM & MRCUK will not be able to assist in locating a Malaysian or UK collaborator.

- Applications cannot be accepted from Principal Investigators in commercial organisations.

- Applicants must be competent in oral and written English.

- The Malaysian Applicant’s employing organisation must be willing to agree to administer the grant.

Malaysian applicant: By submitting your application you are agreeing that the information provided in your application can be shared with ASM and MIGHT.

Queries regarding participation of UK campuses based in Malaysia should be directed to international@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk & liew@akademisains.gov.my
2.2 People named on the grant

The Principal Investigators (PI’s)

For awards under the MRC – ASM scheme there will be a UK PI and a Malaysian PI. The expectation is that the UK PI and associated costs for UK research would be funded by the MRC and the Malaysian PI and associated costs for research in Malaysia would be funded by ASM.

The PI’s are responsible for the intellectual leadership of the research project and for the overall management of the research. The PI’s will be the funding agencies’ main contact for the proposal. For administrative purposes when completing the Je-S form, you will only be able to input one PI; this will need to be the UK PI. The Malaysian PI will need to be listed as a co-Investigator (Co-I).

Individuals can hold more than one grant at a time. The award of a grant does not guarantee any further commitment to funding by the MRC or ASM.

MRC will consider proposals from any UK-based researcher who is based at an eligible Research Organisation and can demonstrate that they will direct the proposed research and be actively engaged in carrying it through.

Each PI in the UK and Malaysia may submit only one research grant proposal for this research initiative. However, you may be a Co-Investigator on more than one application.

See Guidance for Applicants and Award Holders for further details about UK PI eligibility.

Co-Investigators (Co-Is)

The PI’s may be supported by a number of UK and Malaysian Co-I’s named on the application. A Co-I assists the PI in the management and leadership of the research project.

All UK and Malaysian PI’s and Co-I’s must have verified Je-S Accounts and must be added to the Je-S form under co-investigator. Please see section 3.4, below, ‘Creating a Je-S application’ for information on how to add an organisation on Je-S.

While, it is essential that all Malaysian PI’s and Co-I’s are added to the Je-S form, Malaysian costs should not be represented on this form. A separate form will be completed for Malaysian costs in the ASM Cost pro-forma (template on web page).

Other support

For information on other parties involved in research e.g. Project Partners, please see section 1.3.3 in the Guidance for Applicants and Award Holders.
3. Application Process

3.1 Expression of Interest

Researchers planning to submit to this scheme are asked to submit an **Expression of Interest** including the names of the leading UK and Malaysian investigators and a preliminary project title and abstract to international@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk by **Wednesday, 20th April**.

The Expression of Interests received will assist the funders in preparing for peer review. This step will not involve an assessment of the proposal; therefore, applicants should not expect to receive feedback from the funders. Once you have submitted the Expression of Interest, please proceed with producing your application and do not wait for a confirmation from the funders’.

The following information should be provided:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Email address and mobile phone number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator (UK)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator (Malaysia)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of all Co-Investigators (stating whether UK or Malaysia based)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of proposed project (maximum 200 words).</td>
<td></td>
<td>Please note this will be used when approaching potential reviewers)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Ethical considerations

#### Human/Animal Research

Will the proposed research involve the use of humans or vertebrate animals/other organisms covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act?

If yes, please provide details.

If your research involves animals, please specify the species involved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.2 Full Application Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The deadline for full applications is **4pm BST on Wednesday 1st June** ([https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/](https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/))

Applications must be submitted by the UK PI on behalf of the UK-Malaysian research partnership. The application must be JOINTLY prepared. Once received, MRC will share the applications with ASM, therefore no further documents need to be submitted to ASM. **As this will be the single application document, it is vital that the joint application form provides full details of the work proposed for both the UK and Malaysian components.**

The following documents must be included in the joint application:

- **A completed Je-S form.**
  All UK and Malaysian investigators MUST be included. This form reflects the UK costs, so while the Malaysian investigators should be included, hours charged for Malaysian Investigators should be 0. Malaysian costs should be captured in the ASM costs pro-forma (template on webpage)
- **A cover letter (optional)**
- **A jointly prepared Case for Support** (see additional guidance below)
- **CV’s and publication lists** (uploaded individually) for each of the UK and Malaysian partners named as investigators on the grant
- **Justification of resources** for the total costs requested for the project (both UK and Malaysian costs should be fully justified)
- **Pathways to impact** – please see section 2.6 **guidance for applicants**
- **Data Management Plan**
- **ASM costs pro-forma** – a detailed budget form for ASM uploaded as attachment titled 'ASM costs pro-forma' (template on webpage)
- **Joint funding summary** (template on webpage)
- **Signed letter of support**
  - From Malaysian Research Organisation demonstrating support for the proposed research project.
  - Where the Malaysian partner or another third party (ANY organisation other than the UK RO) is responsible for recruitment of people as research participants and/or providing human tissue
  - From any project partner where an in kind payment is being contributed.
  - From both PI’s when animal research is proposed. Please see section 5.6 “use of animals” for further information

All attachments should be completed in **11 point Arial typeface, with a minimum of 2cm margins**. Applications will not be accepted where smaller or narrow typefaces have been used.

**Page lengths (A4 size):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Maximum length (Maximum)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Covering Letter</td>
<td>2 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A jointly prepared Case for Support</td>
<td>8 pages (including illustrations &amp; references)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV</td>
<td>2 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>1 page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justification of Resource</td>
<td>3 pages (normally 2 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathways to Impact</td>
<td>2 Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Management Plan</td>
<td>3 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter of supports</td>
<td>2 pages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other documents for which page lengths are not relevant include:
- **ASM Costs pro-forma** (template on webpage)
- **Joint Funding Summary** (template on webpage)

Further guidance and details for all of the above content can be found in the **Guidance for Applicants and Award Holders**.

**3.3 The Case for Support and Justification of Resources**

A jointly prepared Case for Support, written in English, must be uploaded as a PDF to the Je-S application. As is standard MRC guidelines, the case for support may be up to eight A4 pages in length, including 1 page of references, using Arial 11pt typeface with margins of 2cms on all sides.
In your case for support you should address each of the following headings:

- Title
- Importance of the research
- Approximately 150 words to highlight why this research is Official Development Assistance compliant
- Scientific potential and expected outcomes
- People and track record
- Research Environment
- Research plans and deliverables
- Consideration of ethical, governance and IP issues around the project
- Data preservation, exploitation and dissemination

For further information regarding what should be included in the Case for Support, please see section 2.4.1 in the Guidance for Applicants and Award Holders.

In addition to the standard content for the Justification of Resources, applicants should include:

- The UK value of resources requested by the UK researchers
- A statement detailing the UK value of resources requested by the Malaysian partner

This is so that the value of the total funds requested for the research project, can be assessed.

The costs on both the UK and Malaysian side should be separate with a clear justification of each cost.

3.4 Creating a Je-S account

Please login to your Je-S account via https://jes.rcuk.ac.uk/JeS2WebLoginSite/Logout.aspx, using the username and password you have chosen (if you do not have a Je-S account, or have forgotten your password, please see the guidance provided further below).

- Select ‘Documents’ from left hand menu list from your Je-S account home page
- Select ‘New Document’ from within the Functions/create section of your documents page

Creating your Je-S application:

Please note, the below ‘Call/Type/Mode’ can only be selected when the call opening date Friday, 26th February 2016 has been reached (until the advertised closing date 1st June 2016).

All MRC funding calls close at 4pm (16:00 GMT/BST), on the advertised closing date 1st June 2016.
New Je-S Users: In order to gain access to the Je-S System, Create an Account.

Je-S users having problems successfully completing login to their Je-S account: Retrieve User Name / Password.

Please telephone Je-S Helpdesk 01793 444164 should you require any assistance with the Je-S System

3.5 Budgets

UK-based research costs will be funded at 80% of the Full Economic Cost. Malaysian-based research costs will be funded according to ASM funding guidelines. It is the responsibility of the Malaysian and UK PIs to ensure the conditions of their respective funder is understood.

**Full Economic Costing (FEC)**

Please see section 5. Resources – Full Economic Costing in the Guidance for Applicants and Award Holders for information on FEC.

All the UK and Malaysian PI(s)/Co-I(s) must be inputted onto the Je-S form. However, any costs for Malaysian PI(s)/Co-I(s) (unless agreed) must be inputted with hours and charged as £0. The Malaysian partner costs will be recorded in the ASM budget pro-forma (template on webpage) that can be downloaded from the MRC webpage for this call

(Please refer to section 3, ‘application process’, for more information)
Funding available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research costs:</th>
<th>MRC funding*</th>
<th>ASM funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff – directly incurred post</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Please refer to ASM funding guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff – directly allocated posts (PI and Co-I time)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Please refer to ASM funding guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other research costs (excluding equipment over £10k)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studentships (PhD)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital (items of equipment over £10k)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and subsistence for exchange/mobility activities</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Please refer to ASM funding guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of workshops, meetings etc.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*MRC funding will be provided to the UK HEI but can be spent on activities in Malaysia which are outside of the funding available from the Malaysian funders and when identified and justified in the proposal. This must be agreed in advance of submission with the funders.

Equipment

Capital costs above £10,000 cannot be funded via the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund and therefore any capital costs requested will not be accepted.

Spending obligations under the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund

As previously stated, funding must be awarded in a manner that fits with Official Development Assistance (ODA) guidelines. All applications under this call must therefore be compliant with these guidelines. ODA compliance will be assessed as an eligibility requirement and it is the responsibility of the PIs to communicate how the proposed research is ODA compliant.

For further information on ODA please visit http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/RCUKprod/assets/documents/international/ODAguidanceRCUKspecific.pdf

Due to the tight time scales of the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund, if you are successful you will need to adhere to strict spending requirements. For this call, the end date of the proposed research should be no later than 31st December 2018.
4. Assessment Process and Criteria

Following submission, peer-review will be undertaken by the funding agencies. To be funded, proposals must be internationally competitive and at a standard equivalent to that normally expected to be supported by each funding organisation.

Key assessment criteria for the submissions will be:

- Significance and Impact of the research
- Scientific Rationale: novelty, importance and timeliness of the research;
- Design and Feasibility of the Project Plan
- Partnership: including strength and clarity of collaborations and opportunities provided, quality of the project management structure proposed;
- Quality and suitability of the research environment and of the facilities;
- Value for money for International and UK science;
- Ethical considerations and governance arrangements.
- In addition, applicants must describe how the proposed UK funded work is ODA compliant [approximately 150 words]. This section will be made publicly available. For further information on ODA, please visit: http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/RCUK-prod/assets/documents/international/ODAguidanceRCUKspecific.pdf

Applications received and comments from all peer-reviewers will be assessed by the joint MRC - ASM Review Panel in October 2016. This panel will consist of academic experts from both UK and Malaysia, where final decisions will be made.

For further information on the peer review process, please see section 2.12 in the Guidance for Applicants and Award Holders.
5. Agreements

5.1 Collaboration Agreement

As the research projects will be carried out by multiple research organisations and project partners, the basis of collaboration between the organisations and project partners, including ownership of intellectual property (IP) generated during the project and rights to exploitation, and costs of IP management [this is not an eligible cost to MRC], is expected to be set out in a formal collaboration agreement between the research organisations involved. It is the responsibility of the research organisations to put such an agreement in place before the research begins. The terms of collaboration shall not conflict with MRC and ASM terms and conditions.

Arrangements for collaboration and/or exploitation must not prevent the future progression of academic research and the dissemination of research results in accordance with academic custom and practise and the requirements of the funding bodies. A temporary delay in publication is acceptable in order to allow commercial and collaborative arrangements to be established.

Details of key issues included in the Collaboration Agreement, for example management of IP, should be detailed in the ‘consideration of ethical, governance and IP issues around the project’ section of the Case for Support.

5.2 Intellectual property

Ownership of intellectual property (IP) generated during the project and rights to exploitation, as well as any costs regarding management of IP, are expected to be agreed between the collaborating research organisations before the research begins. Details of this agreement should be included in the Collaboration Agreement (as above).

Agreements must not conflict with MRC or ASM terms and conditions. Any agreements in place between a research organisation and their respective funding organisation must be adhered to, including the sharing of IP costs or benefits. Any IP sharing agreements in place between a research organisation and their national funding body would be expected to apply only to the IP share of that research organisation.

5.3 Material Transfer Agreements

Collection and exchange of material may occur between collaborating institutions, as necessary, in strict compliance with the legislation in effect in both countries.
5.4 Ethics

Any research involving humans/human tissue and/or animals must comply with legislation in both the UK and Malaysia, and must also comply with relevant policies and guidance of the MRC and ASM.

**It is the absolute responsibility of the PIs and the ROs to ensure that appropriate ethical approval is granted and adhered to, and that no research requiring ethical approval is initiated until it has been granted.**

The Ethical Information sub-sections in the Je-S proposal form should be completed to give details of any human participation, research using animals, genetic and biological risk, and ethical committee approvals required. Section 5 of the MRC Guidance for Applicants and Award Holders has recently been updated to reflect amendments to this section of the Je-S form.

**Applicants must be clear in their applications in which country the proposed research involving humans and/or animals will take place and must fully complete the Ethical Information section for research taking place in either country.**

**MRC Ethics guidance**

Applicants must comply with all of the MRC’s relevant policies and guidance regarding the use of humans/human tissue and/or animals in research.

Approval(s) for the research detailed in an MRC grant proposal must be granted by the appropriate bodies before any work can commence. Institutions, applicants and grant holders have absolute responsibility for ensuring that the necessary approvals are granted for the research considered by MRC and ASM.

The Principal Investigator/ Research Organisation must be prepared to furnish the MRC with a copy of the ethical approval, and any correspondence with the committees, if requested by the Council. The principal investigator must notify the MRC if a regulator or a research ethics committee requires amendments that substantially affect the research question, methodology or costs to the extent that the project is no longer the same as that approved for funding by the MRC.

**ASM Ethics guidance**

The research which applicants wish to undertake should not start until there is approval from the Malaysian Medical Research Ethics Committee/ Institutional Review Boards and Animal Care Committees (whichever is relevant) that govern Malaysian Researcher’s Institutions. Human research should comply with the Declaration of Helsinki.
5.5 Humans/Human Tissue

MRC guidance

Applicants must comply with relevant MRC policies and guidance (section 5 of the Guidance for Applicants and Award Holders). In particular, applicants should be aware of the following guidance/requirements:

MRC current policy for research involving humans to take place overseas, http://www.mrc.ac.uk/news-events/publications/research-involving-human-participants-in-developing-societies/ is that for research to be undertaken internationally, both local and UK ethical approval is required.

For clinical studies involving human participants and/or patients in the UK or overseas, appropriate consent must be obtained.

Where the Malaysian partner or another third party (ANY organisation other than the UK RO) is responsible for recruitment of people as research participants and/or providing human tissue, details should be included in the case for support and a letter of support MUST be attached to the application. The letter of support should be titled Human participation and include confirmation of the following:

• That the international partner has agreed to recruit the participants/provide tissue
• That what is being supplied is suitable for the research being undertaken
• That the quantity of tissue (where relevant) being supplied is suitable, but not excessive for achieving meaningful results

The letter of support must be an integral part of the application (as an attachment) and must focus on the proposal it accompanies.

ASM guidance

ASM would like to inform that all applications must comply with the current Malaysian Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice and ASM Guidelines on Human Biological Tissues.

5.6 Use of Animals

Applicants must ensure that all of the proposed research, both that in the UK and in Malaysia, will comply with the principles of the MRC common guidance on “Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research” http://www.mrc.ac.uk/publications/browse/responsibility-in-the-use-of-animals-in-research/

In particular, UK Institutions should be aware of the following aspect of the guidance relating to research or collaboration outside the UK:

"When collaborating with other laboratories, or where animal facilities are provided by third parties, researchers and the local ethics committee in the UK should satisfy themselves that welfare standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation (e.g. the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986), and set out in this guidance, are applied and maintained."
Where there are significant deviations, prior approval from the funding body should be sought and agreed. International research should also be compliant with all relevant national and local regulatory systems in the host country where the research is to be conducted.

**Malaysian applicants must ensure their proposed research complies with animal use guidance as advised by Malaysian Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice**

Investigators proposing the use of animals should provide an additional letter including the following information:

- A signed statement from both UK and Malaysian PIs that:
  - they will adhere to all relevant national and local regulatory systems in the UK and Malaysia
  - they will follow the guidelines laid out in the [https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility-use-animals-bioscience-research](https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility-use-animals-bioscience-research) document and ensure that work is carried out to UK standards
  - before initiation of the proposed research work, appropriate approvals from Institutional and/or central animal ethics committees will be obtained for experimental protocols to be adopted in their projects. Successful proposals may be expected to provide copies of these permissions before funding is released.

- Details on where the animal research will take place (UK or overseas) and through which funder the resources are being sought. Applicants should include confirmation that animal welfare standards at these institutions meet the requirements outlined above.

All applicants are required to comply with Section 4: ‘Proposals involving animal use’ of the [MRC Guidance for Applicants](https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility-use-animals-bioscience-research). Applicants should detail in the letter any additional information which was not included in the proposal document but which is pertinent to the animal research proposed and which the funders should be aware of.

In addition, researchers should be reminded that sufficient information and justification regarding any animal research proposed, regardless of country, must be provided in the proposal order to allow full peer review to take place.
6. Terms and Conditions

MRC http://www.mrc.ac.uk/documents/pdf/mrc-additional-terms-and-conditions/

RCUK http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/grantstcs/

Newton-Ungku Omar Fund terms and conditions

This MRC grant is funded by the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund.

- This award is supported by the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund and is dependent on continuing Government commitment for this initiative.
- The Newton Fund is part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA). Its aim is to develop science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. The investigators must ensure the research that is undertaken as part of this grant is compliant with ODA rules and regulations as set out under the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund programme.
- The grant start date is before (this will be specified for each scheme, please refer to the call text). The start date of the grant may NOT be delayed beyond this date. Please note that due to the fixed start date, the normal three month start period rules outlined in RCUK Terms and Conditions GC4 do not apply to this project.
- The investigators must acknowledge the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund and the MRC in any publications or events associated with this grant.
- Investigators must assist the MRC with any additional reporting requirements requested by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.
- Due to financial restraints of the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund Programme, grant extensions will only be considered under exceptional circumstances (in line with the Equality Act 2010) and will require MRC agreement on a case-by-case basis.
- This award is dependent on continuing Government commitment for this initiative. In the event that this support is withdrawn, MRC reserve the right to terminate the award.

Ethical requirements for international grants:

- It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator and the Research Organisation to ensure that appropriate ethical approval is granted for this study and adhered to, and that no research requiring ethical approval is initiated until it has been granted.
- MRC current policy for research involving humans, http://www.mrc.ac.uk/news-events/publications/research-involving-human-participants-in-developing-societies/ is that for research to be undertaken overseas, both local and UK ethical approval is required.
- For clinical studies involving human participants and/or patients appropriate consent must be obtained.
- For grants that include the use of animals, the guidance http://www.mrc.ac.uk/news-events/publications/responsibility-in-the-use-of-animals-in-research/ must be adhered to, and in particular: 'When collaborating
with other laboratories, or where animal facilities are provided by third parties, researchers and the local ethics committee in the UK should satisfy themselves that welfare standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation (e.g. the ASPA) and set out in this guidance are applied and maintained.'

- The Principal Investigator/ Research Organisation must be prepared to furnish the MRC with a copy of the ethical approval, and any correspondence with the committees, if requested by the Council. The principal investigator must notify the MRC if a regulator or a research ethics committee requires amendments that substantially affect the research question, methodology or costs to the extent that the project is no longer the same as that approved for funding by the MRC.