

## NEWTON FUND BRAZIL: RCUK-CONFAP RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS CALL

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Applicant Eligibility**

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**1. What are the eligibility criteria for the UK partner?**

- The lead UK applicant must be a RCUK award holder i.e. currently in receipt of research funding from one of the UK Research Councils or Research Council Centres. Evidence of an active award (i.e. a grant reference number) is required in the application form. Grants from other UK funders (e.g.: The Wellcome Trust, Royal Society), **do not** confer eligibility for this call.
- The AHRC and ESRC are exceptionally allowing applicants who are not current award holders. Please see paragraphs 7 and 8 for further details.

**2. What are the eligibility criteria for the Brazilian Partner?**

The Brazilian lead applicant must be from a State whose FAP has signed up to the agreement to take part in this call. The list of FAPs which have signed up to participate in this call is available on the [CONFAP website](#).

**3. Does the lead UK applicant have to be a Principal Investigator?**

In order to be eligible to apply for this call, the lead UK applicant must be::

- A Principal Investigator (PI), on an on-going or 'active' RCUK-funded award, except where indicated otherwise (see paragraphs 7 and 8 for additional information relating to previous AHRC and ESRC grant holders)
- Co-Investigator (Co-I) on an on-going or 'active' RCUK-funded award.
- Where BBSRC is identified as the lead Council only Co-Is on large research grants (typically  $\geq £1$  M) will be eligible to apply.
- A fellow (equivalent to lecturer level or above), on an on-going or 'active' RCUK-funded award.
- Researchers at Research Council funded Institutes, Centres or Units should refer to paragraphs 5 and 6 for further guidance on eligibility.

**4. Where an 'active' RCUK-funded award is required, does it have to be live/active at the time of the application to this call?**

The applicant's associated grant **must** have started before the application deadline. UK applicants are required to state the grant reference which gives evidence of the lead PI's eligibility to apply or, where applicants are based in a Research Council Centre, the name of the project.

**5. What counts as a 'Research Council-funded Institute, Unit or Centre'?**

A list of ROs where grant holders are eligible is available on the RCUK website:  
<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/noparentrcs/>

**6. I work in a Research Council-funded Institute, Unit or Centre and cannot give a specific grant reference as my project is funded through core funding or ISPG, what should I do?**

Please provide details of the Institute, Unit or Centre that you work in and, if appropriate, name the project you are working on.

**7. I am a previous AHRC grant holder, am I eligible to apply?**

The AHRC exceptionally allows Principal Investigators who do not have a current award but have been in receipt of an AHRC award in the last 5 years (from application deadline). Applicants previously funded as a Co-Investigator on an AHRC award are also eligible to apply as a Principal Investigator. If your AHRC grant was live between 4 August 2009 and 3 August 2014 then you are eligible to apply to AHRC as the lead Council. Grants which expired prior to 4 August 2009 do not confer eligibility. Applicants must be able to demonstrate how the Research Partnership proposed will build upon and add value to a track-record and existing portfolio of research within the broad theme of the application. Applicants should still be able to meet other standard eligibility requirements for AHRC funding and the case for waiving the requirement of being in current receipt of funding from AHRC should be clearly made within a one page letter of support from their institution, annexed to the application.

**8. My application falls within ESRC's remit, am I eligible to apply?**

The ESRC recognises that in some of the highlight areas, such as Urban Transformations, it does not presently have a large portfolio of current awards. Therefore, exceptionally the ESRC will consider proposals from UK based applicants, currently not in receipt of research funding from one of the UK Research Councils. In such cases the proposals must be from applicants located in a research group or cluster, located in an institution eligible for ESRC funding, with a significant portfolio of externally funded research within the broad theme of the application. It will be expected the proposed Research Partnership will add value and build upon this portfolio of externally funded research.

Under the Economic and Development and Welfare Reform highlight the ESRC wishes to build upon previous investments and collaborations supported by previous relevant initiatives. Therefore, we also accept applications from UK based previous award holders and named co-investigators under our Pathfinders, Rising Powers and ESRC/ DFID Poverty Alleviation initiatives, but where the present award has come to an end and the applicant is not also presently a recipient of funding from a UK Research Council.

In both cases the applicants should still be able to meet other standard eligibility requirements for ESRC funding and the case for waiving the requirement of being in current receipt of funding from one of the UK Research Councils should be clearly made within a one page letter of support from their institution, annexed to the application.

**9. How many partners can be named on the proposal?**

Applications may include Co-Investigators from across several institutions both within the UK and Brazil. UK Co-Investigators on the proposal do not need to be in receipt of RCUK funding but must meet Co-I eligibility for the UK Research Council most relevant to their research.

**10. I hold a RCUK funded studentship, am I eligible to apply?**

No, holding a RCUK funded studentship does not confer eligibility for this call.

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## Funding and Costs

**11. What can the funding cover?**

It is envisaged that applications will be for a balanced partnership, with equivalent resource commitment from both funders, but applicants should justify clearly all financial requests. Funds can be used for travel, subsistence and other networking or collaborative activities, such as workshops, summer schools and exchanges (in either direction: from and to the UK). Funds can also be used to support direct research costs e.g: consumables, access to facilities, data exploration. Researcher time, estates and indirect costs are not eligible. In exceptional circumstances funding for a small amount of administrative staff time can be included where the request can be fully justified.

**12. What is the maximum level of funding I can apply for?**

The UK side of the collaboration can apply for funding up to a maximum of £50k (funded by RCUK). An equivalent amount, in Reais, will be funded by the Brazilian side (funded by the FAP in the State of the Brazilian principal investigator).

**13. What is the maximum duration of the award?**

Awards will be up to 12 months in duration.

**14. How are the grants paid?**

UK Research Councils will pay the UK component of the award directly to the lead UK Research Organisation, which where necessary will be responsible for disbursing funds to other UK Co-investigators. FAPs will pay the approved projects according to their regular procedure

**15. Is the UK component of the grant paid as Full Economic Costs?**

No, these awards are primarily for building partnerships, they are not research grants. Therefore 100% of direct costs will be paid (see what can funding cover above). Researcher time, estates and indirect costs are not eligible.

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## Scope

**16. How do I know if my project is ODA compliant?**

All projects funded from the UK side of the Newton Fund have to be Official Development Assistance (ODA) compliant. The most important aspect to remember when developing your project is that the primary purpose of ODA is the economic development and/or welfare of the developing country. For further information please see the ODA guidance available on the call page

**17. Are trilateral/multilateral partnerships in scope?**

The initiative is aimed at developing UK-Brazil research partnerships. Funds cannot be used to cover the costs of participation of other countries. However the involvement of other countries will be considered if a strong strategic need is articulated in the proposal and it is made clear the 'other' partners have funding to support their involvement in the partnership.

**18. Is there more information on the highlight areas?**

Further information on the five highlight areas is available in the annex to the call notice.

**19. My project doesn't fit into the highlight areas. Can I still submit an application?**

The highlight areas have been agreed as being of mutual strategic interest to both the UK and Brazil. It is also possible to apply for areas outside of those highlighted, but the researcher will need to make a strong case regarding the strategic relevance of developing a partnership in this area between Brazil and the UK.

**20. My project is multi-disciplinary. Which Council should I identify as the lead Research Council?**

We welcome and encourage multi-disciplinary proposals. Applicants should identify the Council whose remit covers the greatest proportion of work to be undertaken as the lead Council. Proposals relevant to more than one Council will be funded under the cross-Council funding agreement.

**21. My project involves researchers from more than one State in Brazil, what happens then?**

Proposals may also involve researchers from more than one State in Brazil, in which case the FAP where the majority of the research lies (determined by the PI's location) will decide the funding. The FAPs of the other researchers may contribute to the funding lump sum. A list of FAPs which have signed up to participate in this call is available on the [CONFAP website](#).

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## Proposal Preparation and Submission

**22. When is the deadline for submission of proposals?**

The deadline for receipt of applications is 17th October 2014 at 16:00 hrs UK time/12:00 hrs Brazil time.

**23. How do I apply?**

A single, joint application should be developed by the Brazilian and UK applicants using the application form available to download from the call page at <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/international/newton/confap/>. The form must be completed by both applicants and sent to both [international@rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:international@rcuk.ac.uk) and to [fundonewton@confap.org.br](mailto:fundonewton@confap.org.br) by the call deadline.

**24. When will the outcome be announced?**

Funding decisions will be announced in December 2014.

**25. What is the expected start date of successful projects?**

Start dates will be as soon as possible after the announcement of successful projects and no later than 1 January 2015.

**My question is not answered above, or in the information available on the RCUK and CONFAP websites, what should I do?**

We will update these FAQs if necessary throughout the period that the call is open.

For UK applicants

- For specific queries not answered in the FAQs, please contact the RCUK International Team: [international@rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:international@rcuk.ac.uk)
- If your question relates to ESRC eligibility please contact: [manija.kamal@esrc.ac.uk](mailto:manija.kamal@esrc.ac.uk)

For Brazil-based applicants

For specific queries not answered in the FAQs, please contact: [aci@fapemig.br](mailto:aci@fapemig.br) or [duvidasfundonewton-faperj2014@faperj.br](mailto:duvidasfundonewton-faperj2014@faperj.br) for applicants from the State of Rio de Janeiro.