

ESPA Frequently Asked Questions: Call for ESPA 2014 Grants

1. Eligibility

1.1 *Am I eligible to apply as a PI for ESPA funding?*

To apply as a PI you need to ensure that you meet the eligibility criteria outlined in section 6.2.1, Part B of the AO.

- UK Principal Investigators from Research Council eligible organisations are required to meet the standard NERC eligibility criteria stated in the NERC Grants Handbook <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/eligibility/>
- Non-UK Principal Investigators and PIs from organisations not normally eligible for UK Research Council Funding, should meet the following criteria:
 - o have at least three years of relevant post-doctoral experience, or an appropriate equivalent level of research experience*;
 - o be employed—at the time of application—by the Research Organisation submitting the proposal, or if not employed
 - (i) have an existing formal arrangement with the organisation that enables him or her to carry out research there and receive all necessary management and infrastructure support from the organisation or
 - (ii) be scheduled to move to the submitting organisation before the proposed start date of the grant in such a way that would ensure that the criterion stated above is met by the time the grant starts;
 - o have an assurance from the submitting organisation—at the time of application—that should the proposal be successful, the contract of employment, or formal commitment, to provide support if not employed, will extend at least three months beyond the end date of the grant. Confirmation of this assurance from organisations should accompany any grant application

* NB: Equivalent experience may take a number of forms, such as good track record of long term in depth professional experience in a relevant field of work. Any case for equivalent experience must be fully explained and justified in the track record section part of the application and the submitted CV.

If you do not satisfy this criteria your proposal will need a different PI who does.

1.2 *Is my organisation eligible for ESPA funding?*

Eligibility criteria are outlined in Section 5, Part B of the AO. **ESPA will directly fund non-UK organisations**, if they satisfy the requirements of (1) being a legal entity, (2) being able to demonstrate an independent in-house capability to undertake and lead research and (3) the organisation meets the accountability and audit requirements of the ESPA funders.

Organisations that do not meet the requirements for direct funding may still be named on the proposal, as for example a Co-I or subcontractor to one of the consortium institutions.

If you require further clarification on institutional eligibility please contact espa@nerc.ac.uk

1.3 My organisation is not based in a country in the low-income category, am I still eligible to apply?

There is no geographical restriction on where researchers are based, providing that you and your organisation meet the administrative eligibility requirements provided in Part B of the Announcement of Opportunity.

1.4 My proposed research is not in a low-income country, am I still eligible to apply?

As stated in the summary box on page 8 in part b of the Announcement of Opportunity (<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/funded/programmes/espa/news/ao-2014/ao-espa2014-partb.pdf>), applications to the ESPA 2014 call must 'clearly demonstrate research excellence that has relevance to the needs of poor people living in low-income countries'. Therefore, the research can be based anywhere but the proposal must clearly demonstrate the wider applicability of the research to other countries, particularly low-income countries.

1.5 Is an organisation which has received ESPA funding in the past eligible to receive new ESPA funding?

Yes, organisations can receive new ESPA funding if they have received ESPA funding in the past.

1.6 Can I include an organisation as a sub-contractor if they are part of another proposal for the ESPA 2014 Grants call?

Yes, it is possible for an institution to be involved in more than one research proposal.

2. Completing the Application

2.1 Can I request overhead costs for an organisation which I am including as a sub-contractor?

You will need to specify the total cost of the sub-contract on your application and so you do not need to separate overheads from other costs. Therefore, there should be one total amount for the sub-contract under 'Directly Incurred Other'.

2.2 Does the page limit for the 'Description of the proposed research' section include references?

Yes, references are included in the page limit for the 'Description of the proposed research' section

2.3 I am unsure on how many Track Records are required for joint proposals.

2.3.1 Should I submit a 2-page Track Record for each component submission?

Yes, there should be one track record per component submission and this should include all the individuals and organisations mentioned in that component.

2.3.2 Should I upload Track Records for non-lead component applications as an 'Other Attachment'?

For non-lead component applications the track record can be uploaded in the case for support area. If there is a problem with this then it is okay to add it as an 'other attachment'.

2.4 I have previously been awarded an ESPA or NERC grant, but there is no formal relationship between the new proposal and the previous grant. What designation should I list this as in the 'related proposals' section?

The related proposals section is not mandatory and therefore you do not have to complete it if there is not a strong relationship between the grants.