

FAQs

Calls for research: visibility of long and complex supply chains

Q. *Do projects have to be arts and humanities based?*

A. No, as long as they respond to the questions posed in the call and align with the aims, objectives and guiding principles for research with the PEC, the project will be eligible.

Q. *Can an NGO apply for funding without an academic partner?*

A. Projects must be led by a UKRI eligible research organisation, so an NGO would not be eligible alone. However, we require collaboration with non-academic partners, so encourage NGOs to reach out & form partnerships. Our Google Group might be helpful <https://modernslaverypec.org/latest/google-group>

Q. *Can freelance/consultant researchers be involved in bids?*

A. Yes, they can. Although they cannot lead a bid, consultants/freelance researchers can collaborate on applications. Any costs associated with this must be put under DI Other within the funding template.

Q. *Can projects have research assistants?*

A. Yes, research assistants are eligible on these grants. It is worth considering the timeframe of the grant and factor in the time needed to recruit a research assistant in relation to this.

Q. *Are international research assistants allowed?*

A. Research Assistants can be based overseas if they are involved in the application with an international collaborating organisation, and their costs will form part of the maximum 30% budget allowed for non-academic collaborators. We may also consider independent international Research Assistants based at a UK host institution (at the host institution's discretion). These would need to be included as consultants and included in DI-Other costs. The PI or Co-I's HEI/IRO in the UK would be responsible for setting up a consultancy agreement with the individual. The relevant PI or CO-I would be responsible for ensuring that the consulting Research Assistant has the necessary independence and expertise to be able to undertake the work, and that they deliver their outputs as agreed. Please note that those employed on responsive research grants would not be eligible for a global talent visa.

Q. *Can we have a sample of an acceptable application?*

A. This is not something that we are currently about to offer, although we will consider whether this will be possible in the future.

Q. *Do projects need to account for collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC within their budget?*

A. For the most part this would not need to be included (for example, projects would not need to factor in the PEC's staff time). If there is a very specific or complex element to the project involving the Modern Slavery PEC, this might need to be accounted for. If projects have queries/examples of this, they can get in touch at office@modernslaverypec.org

Q. *What is the best way for NGOs to be involved in this research?*

A. We would recommend that interested parties join the Modern Slavery PEC's Google Group, which is a group of parties interested in modern slavery research. Please feel free to

send an email through the Google Groups, outlining your areas of expertise and project you'd wish to collaborate on. <https://modernslaverypec.org/latest/google-group>

Q. *Dates and timelines on the calls can be tight (considering contracts, ethics and approvals), is there scope for flexibility on these?*

A. These deadlines feed into wider policy requirements, so as a starting point, we would prefer projects to consider developing their activities to fit into these timelines but can accept proposals that fall outside of these timescales if justified. This includes presenting the interim findings at a different, suitable point. There is a sample contract on the call website and we'd recommend sharing that with the host institution's research office to help speed up the project set-up processes. We are also flexible when working with projects, once awarded, to ensure that we meet these policy aims alongside ensuring we can support your operational requirements and ways of working to ensure meaningful survivor inclusion.

Q. *What do we mean by encouraging an emphasis on sectors that haven't had a lot of focus in the past? Does that mean that work on the garment sector (e.g.) would be ineligible?*

A. We won't rule out projects that look at that sector but we do want to encourage work on other sectors

Q. *Does the 30% funding limit apply to international partners or co-Investigators in the same way as it does for NGO partners?*

A. The combined third sector and international organisation budget must account for no more than 30% of the total cost.

Q. *What are the eligibility requirements for international partners or co-Investigators?*

A. International partners and co-investigators are eligible, this would follow standard UKRI eligibility rules: [AHRC funding guidance doc](#)

Q. *Does the research need to be related to UK businesses only? Does this include lower levels of the supply chains?*

A. Projects don't need to be restricted to UK businesses (e.g. there might be a comparative element), though the UK-focus of a project should be its priority. This does not include the lower levels of supply chains which may be either UK or internationally focussed.

Q. *What are the Modern Slavery PEC's expectations for interdisciplinary work?*

A. The PEC's encourages cross-discipline research to diversify the perspectives involved in a project. Regarding this project, the PEC is open to a disciplinary mix, though a well-considered bid with a limited disciplinary mix is still welcomed and teams would not be penalised for this. The PEC is keen to see new disciplines to enter this field where possible. However, this isn't a condition for this project.

Q. *Does this project require a comparative approach? (e.g. working with more than one supply chains and/or company)*

A. This would depend on the proposal and the chosen approach would need to be justified in the application. This may be influenced by the balance of the project's activities, e.g. literature review, primary research.