

2020 UK DRI Cross-Centre Postdoctoral Programme Round two

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Cross Centre Postdoctoral Programme is designed to simultaneously fund exciting emerging science and to foster intra-UK DRI collaboration. We hope that it will encourage PIs to consider what their colleagues work on and how their research may complement and strengthen that of another group.

The programme will provide awards of £220,000 over three years. (Any established UK DRI/University overhead will be added). Funds should be used to support a newly hired post-doctoral investigator who will be genuinely co-supervised by two PIs from different UK DRI centres/universities.

Clinical, translational and basic research projects will be considered. Applications will be assessed, by an internal UK DRI panel, on scientific merit, novelty and the extent to which the skills and resources of the co-applicants complement and strengthen each other's capacity and ambition.

The programme is restricted to pairs of UK DRI Group Leaders from different centres or a UK DRI Group Leader and a recognized UK DRI Associated Member based at a different university.

Important Dates

Applications due:	Midday 31 March 2020
Recipients announced:	Week beginning 11 May 2020
Awards start:	Week beginning 18 May 2020

Guidelines

- 1) Applicants must be recognized UK DRI Group Leaders or Associated Members.
- 2) Only pairs of applicants from different UK DRI centres and universities may apply.
- 3) The budget is specifically intended to support a newly hired post-doctoral researcher who will be jointly supervised by the applicants. Beyond the post doc salary costs, funds may be used for:
 - a) Reagents and other direct research costs (equipment is not allowed) and
 - b) To enable the appointed post-doc to travel to and spend time at the second site, including food and lodging.
- 4) The post-doc will be appointed at one of the six UK DRI host universities. (A single award will be made to that university which will be responsible for reimbursing any costs incurred at the other site.) The post-doc is however expected to be fully engaged with the research environment of both supervisors. To enable this close interaction, the post-doc must spend

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time at the second site. Whereas multiple short visits or a single long visit are allowed, the total time spent at the second site should be at least 60 days over the course of the 3-year project.

- 5) It is the responsibility of the applicants to obtain all relevant clearances and/or approvals for the proposed work, such as those required for human tissues or animal research.

Selection Criteria

1. **Co-Applicants.** Does the proposed project demonstrate genuine collaboration between the co-applicants, will it benefit from co-supervision, and are the respective contributions complementary?
2. **Significance.** Does this study address an important problem relevant to our understanding, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of dementia or neurodegenerative diseases?
3. **Approach.** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project?
4. **Novelty.** Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods?
5. **Environment.** Are the applicants appropriately experienced to supervise the work? Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are reagents, tools or other methods in place to begin the project or will they be in place rapidly enough to allow the project to start promptly and progress rapidly?

Applications must include the following

1. **Cover page** (1.0 page)
2. **Collaboration.** Describe how the collaboration and co-supervision will be organized and managed including arrangements to ensure that the new post-doc will spend time at the second centre (1.0 page).
3. **Research Plan** (maximum of 4.0 pages). All figures, tables etc must be incorporated into the text.
 - Background and Significance (~ 0.5 page).
 - Specific Aims (~ 0.5 page).
 - Preliminary Studies (~ 0.5 page).
 - Research Design and Methods (study design; timeline; data to be collected; analysis plan; proposed follow-up studies for future grant application (~2.0 pages).
 - References (~ 0.5 page).

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4. Ancillary Documents

Applications must also include:

- Budget (direct costs only) and budget justification (maximum of 1.0 page)
- Biographical sketch for each applicant (2.0 pages each)
- Letters (1.0 page each) from anyone who will provide essential tools or whose engagement in the work is critical to its success. (Please—no general support letters.)

Rules and Requirements

1. The deadline for the receipt of the application is **midday 31 March 2020**.
2. The entire package (11 pages maximum, plus any essential support letters) must be assembled into a **single PDF** and emailed to enquiries@ukdri.ac.uk
3. Format: All text must be Arial or Calibri 11-point font. Figures, charts, tables, etc must be readily legible. Single-spacing is allowed. Margins, in all directions, must be at least 0.5 inches.

For any questions relevant to your application, please contact **Aoife** at a.kiely@ucl.ac.uk

Applications must be submitted to enquiries@ukdri.ac.uk by midday 31 March 2020.



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