



Clinical Academic Research Partnerships (CARP) Application Questions from Webinar 2

If you have questions related to the application process not covered within this document we encourage you to read the [CARP Round 3 Guidance](#) thoroughly.

The slide deck and Q&As from the Webinar 1: 'Is the CARP scheme for you' is available on the [CARP call page](#) for all potential applicants.

Who to contact if you still have questions:

Scheme specific questions: CARP@mrc.ukri.org

Je-S questions: JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org, +44 (0) 1793 44 4164

General MRC funding policy and eligibility enquiries: RFPD@mrc.ukri.org

General Questions

- Is it possible for one applicant to put forward more than one proposal? Can you submit an application with 2 projects? If we are collaborating in different projects from different collaborators, could we sum the time needed to support the individual projects?

Applicants (PI) may only have one CARP proposal under consideration at any time.

- Can I apply to FLF and CARP in parallel?

Applicants cannot submit concurrent applications to Research Council competitions, running in parallel to FLF calls. Please also note the [UKRI Future Leader Fellowship](#) scheme is a 4+3 year Fellowship awarded to early career researcher transitioning to independence. Successful FLF applicants have track record of producing challenging, original and productive research outputs and have developed their own original and ambitious project plans. CARP funding covers a maximum of 50% of the applicant's time and reasonable research costs (with no additional staff) to complete a project within the remit of the Research Partner's (Co-I's) area of expertise. It is highly unlikely that an applicant eligible for CARP would be suitable for the FLF scheme and vice versa.

For further information on UKRI FLF please contact fellows@ukri.org.

- My Head of Department wanted to know who will hold the contract: NHS organisation or RO?

The application must be submitted by Research Partner's (Co-I's) Research Organisation. By submitting an application, the Research Organisation accepts responsibility for administering the award, including making local arrangements where necessary to, for example, make payments to the NHS Trust to support backfill appointments.



Applicants should hold a [contract of employment or an honorary contract](#) with the host research organisation (RO) of the research partner for the duration of the award.

For further details on the responsibilities of the Host Research Organisation please see the [CARP Guidance](#).

- Will CARP fund a brand-new research study proposal or a study in which the CARP applicant is going to join which is already fully funded e.g. NIHR HTA or RfPB funded? Or a study which has already applied for a grant but awaiting the decision.

The CARP scheme is flexible; however, you would need to demonstrate the [added-value of your proposed research partnership](#). Under the pilot, applications which appeared to be asking for funding for 'more of the same' weren't deemed competitive. We encourage applicants to think about how this scheme would provide a step-change in their research for example supporting work within a new environment, with new research partners. Furthermore, the applicant should demonstrate that the proposed project provides a mutually beneficial collaboration, enhancing the applicant's research experience and their contribution to the research partner's existing team.

- Is it possible to get a list of the successful CARP studies or an example of a successful CARP application as a guide? **&** The rankings were published after Round 1. When will Round 2 rankings be published?

CARP case studies should make an appearance on the [CARP call page](#) shortly.

All funded research is accessible on the UKRI Gateway to Research website: <https://gtr.ukri.org/>. MRC CARP grants awarded can be viewed using the Excel file on this page: <https://mrc.ukri.org/research/funded-research/>. Rankings can be viewed on this page: <https://mrc.ukri.org/research/funded-research/board-panel-meeting-outcomes/>

Je-S

- You mentioned that the academic partner must also input the application as co-investigator, does that mean that they must also have a je-s account, and do each collaborator needs to do the same?

The applicant and Research Partner(s) (Co-I) must have Je-S accounts to apply. For details on how to create a Je-S account please see the [CARP Round 3 Guidance](#).

- If the applicant and the Co-I have a Je-S account, can you both work on the same application? And can we get a template of the application to prepare without the JeS system?

It is expected that you will prepare an application in Je-S with your Research Partner and Research Office. We suggest you contact both your Research Partner and the Research Office as **early as possible in the application process**. No templates are available of the Je-S application however information on each section is available with the [CARP guidance document](#). Please see the [Je-S Handbook](#) for details on using Je-S.

- What should the start date be?

Projects awarded in Round 3 are expected to start between July 2021 and November 2021. This is flexible, but applicants wishing to start their project significantly after November 2021 may wish to discuss their plans with the CARP team (CARP@mrc.ukri.org) prior to applying.

- Research Partner and Project Partner - are they the same or different?

Research Partner and Project Partner are not the same.

All project partner details should be listed, along with their contribution which may be financial, in kind etc. An organisation should only be named as a project partner if it is providing specific contributions (either direct or indirect) to the project.

Applications including industry collaborators should follow the MRC Industrial collaboration award (MICA) guidance.

Funding/Costings

- If there are NHS Costs, are they funded 100%?

All MRC grants should be costed on the basis of the full economic costs (FEC) necessary to deliver the research. If a grant is awarded, the MRC will typically fund **80 per cent of the FEC** and the RO(s) must agree to find the balance of FEC from other resources. Further information on MRC rules on resources are available on our webpages including details on **NHS Costs**: <https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/resources/#3.5>

- What is the maximum budget for consumables? & Assuming the costs are justifiable, how much money is available for consumables? & What sort of funds are there to support the consumables? Some molecular chips costs thousands each... & Re consumables, how much is the max amount, if any? & Likely total award (average) as unclear how much of direct research costs can be included? & How much will CARP fund including all costs?

There is no limit to the total support an application can request, but applicants should be mindful of the budget available and anticipated number of awards.

- Can statistical analysis costs be included in costing?

Costs associated with obtaining statistical support can be requested where they are essential to the delivery of the research proposed. These costs must be commensurate to proposal and fully justified. We would also advise you to speak with your RO grants/research office to confirm whether these costs are already included in [estate/indirect cost rates or charge out costs](#).

- Can I cost for specific training needs, e.g. bioinformatics course? Can reasonable costs be included to enable researcher to acquire additional skills to conduct research?

Reasonable training costs can be requested.



- If national salary levels increase due to NHS pay deals would this be honoured? It wouldn't be something we could cost in advance & What if we don't know what our appointment will be (e.g. may be in a post-CCT fellowship job or may have a consultant job coming up) - what salary do we go on in the application?

All MRC (and Research Council) grants are cash limited. Expenditure against the grant must not exceed the value awarded apart for reasons stated in the [standard terms and conditions](#). This means any adjustments in salary etc. must be agreed before award. Any changes after this would need to be covered by the RO (or managed within the limit of the award under virement rules).

- Is equipment allowed, and if so, are the rules the same as for all MRC schemes, i.e. over £10k equipment must have 50% contribution from the institution? & If I need more than £10,000 for equipment, is there any other funding opportunities available?

Equipment can be costed according to standard MRC Guidance. We would not expect larger pieces of equipment (>£10k) to be routinely requested within applications as the proposed project should be supported by the Research Partner's and host RO's facilities.

- Is there any possibility of funding other support staff (e.g. research nurses/midwives) via CARP? If not, how can these costs be met if they are necessary for the project?

Additional salaries cannot be costed under the CARP scheme.

- If you currently work part time and would like the CARP scheme to enable you to increase work for the allotted time and therefore don't need backfill (but have good support from employer/RO) is this acceptable to CARP? & Can CARP PAs be requested in addition to part-time NHS work? I have 5 NHS PAs and would be looking to add to this, therefore there would be no reduction in my NHS time and no back fill required. Is that ok? & Can a part-time consultant (7.5 PA job plan) apply for the same number of PAs or would it be a proportion?

For those currently working less than 100% WTE, research time may replace or add to existing commitments within the individual's work plan. If you are adding to existing commitments you would need to state in your application why you were working part-time/LTFT and why you are now able to increase your working time. You would also require for an application a strong commitment from your Trust to protect the research time if you were awarded.

- Could the academic time been spent in blocks rather than 20-50% weekly? i.e. to make the time protection easier, to have some weeks be clinical and some be academic?

Applicants who wish to split their time in blocks for example one week in three, can apply. Applicants must ensure the proposed backfill plan is clearly articulated to the panel via the application and in the letters of support from your employer.



Attachments

Case for Support

- Where can one find the case for support form please?

There is no template for the Case for Support. Please see the [Guidance](#) for details on how to structure your Case for Support.

- How much help can the research partner give to writing the case for support? The project is born from mutual overlap between interests and skills of the clinician and academic, but the academic has a) more experience in writing grants, and b) likely more time available considering the clinician time is not yet bought out.

The purpose of the CARP scheme is to form mutually beneficial collaboration between healthcare professionals and leading biomedical and health researchers. It is expected that your Research Partner (Co-I) will input into the development of the Case for Support and that the document will present the interests of and expertise of the applicant and Research Partner.

- What if the project isn't a quantitative study - can we use that annex page for any other supporting information?

You MUST NOT use the Reproducibility and Statistical design annex (1 page) for anything that does not specifically relate to the statistical analyses, methodology and experimental design aspects of the proposal. If the annex is used incorrectly the application will be returned to you for amendment.

CV

- The example contributions to research teams do not sound like those from someone who is not research active. Comments?

The examples presented in the Webinar PowerPoint are to illustrate the style we are looking for. These are not intended to represent the expected contributions of CARP applicants. This part of the CV should help you to convey a diverse range of outputs and contributions and should facilitate the description of unusual career pathways. The panel will base their expectations for outputs/contributions based on the aims and target applicant for the CARP scheme.

Please see the [CV template](#) provided for further information and the following links:

<https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/research-culture/tools-for-support/resume-for-researchers/>

<https://www.fic.nih.gov/grants/pages/nih-biosketch.aspx>

- Do we submit the job plan together with the application or will this be requested if we are allowed to the next stages?

Applicants should ensure their current job plan is explained in their CV, or can upload this as an attachment in addition to their CV. If your application is awarded we will require a copy of your updated job plan to ensure that your research time is adequately protected.

Other attachments

- For the application, does this also include having to complete and submit the attachments of Justification of Resources and Data Management Plan? Thanks

Yes, both the JoR and Data Management Plan are mandatory attachments.

The [JoR will aid reviewers when assessing proposals](#) so that they can make an informed judgement on whether the resources requested are appropriate for the research posed.

The [DMP](#) should demonstrate how the PI will meet, or already meets, their responsibilities for research data quality, sharing and security. The DMP is reviewed by peer reviewers alongside the case for support. It is advisable that all DMPs use the [template \(DOC, 98KB\)](#) to ensure consistency and make it easier to review.

Carefully read and adhere to guidance; the quality of the DMP may have an impact on peer review and whether the application proceeds to board/panel.

Eligibility questions

If you have questions regarding eligibility and project remit for the scheme please see the [CARP call announcement webpage](#). Also available on the page is the slide deck for Webinar 1 - Is CARP the scheme for you?

- Would the applicant be deemed to be already "Too research active"? Even if they fulfil the less than 0.5 PAs for research activity within their job plan & I have exactly 1 SPA for research. Do I qualify to apply for this award? & If you have a consultant job plan that includes SPA (special interest) sessions, can these sessions be put towards time for the project? & If an applicant is already a named co-applicant or Principal investigator on existing grants (which do not support the applicant's salary), will this work against the applicant?

Applicant "research activity" eligibility was covered within Webinar 1 we advise you to view the [slide deck available on the CARP call page](#) and to read the [CARP Guidance](#) for further information.

"Applicants will generally have no or very limited research funding. It is expected that most applicants will have less than one PA of research time in their current job plan. Applicants who have more than one research PA or have not had a significant break in research activity will need to articulate the added-value of the award, for example how this scheme will put them on a research trajectory they were not currently on and why this scheme is a more suitable option compared to other schemes they are eligible for".

- What is the guidance for applications who want to apply a second time? Is it possible also to get feedback from the previous round?

"Applications declined as part of the pilot scheme may be resubmitted. However, the new application must be substantially different from the previous, unsuccessful submission and you will need to include a covering letter with your new proposal,

indicating how the application has been changed. Please refer to [MRC Guidance regarding resubmissions](#).

As stated in the Guidance for the CARP pilot rounds “*Detailed individual feedback will not be provided*”.

We do recommend that those reapplying to the scheme consider the Chair's summaries from both pilot rounds ([Round 1](#) and [Round 2](#)) and to contact CARP@mrc.ukri.org to inform the team of their intention to resubmit.

- Please define Research Partner - is this another consultant colleague who has an Academic position? What is expected of them? **&** Please could you indicate an appropriate person for the Research Partner who is not the University Head of Department?

The research partner must have a proven track record of securing peer-reviewed research programmes from funders such as UKRI, NIHR, or significant third sector research funders for the duration of the planned partnership. They must also be based at an organisation eligible to hold research council funding (e.g. HEIs and NHS Bodies with research capacity). The research partner must hold a contract of employment with the host research organisation for the duration of the award. The Research Partner is not required to be a Head of Department.

It is expected that the research partner will be provide a suitable environment and support for the research proposed to be conducted. In turn the applicant is expected to contribute/compliment the Research Partner's existing team. Research Partners can be clinical or non-clinical researchers.

- Can you include 2 research partners? Can you have 2 research partners from 2 departments?

You can have more than one Research Partner (Co-I). These partners could be from the same or different departments. If your project partners are at different institutions it must be very clear which RO you will be hosted at and this must be the RO through which you apply. Where Research Partners are at geographically distinct RO's the applicant is encouraged to articulate how travel and time between sites would be managed.

- Can the academic partner be based in a different Institution to the host Institution where the work will be performed?

You must apply through the Research Organisation at which your Research Partner is based.