ESRC Centres Competition 2018
Outline phase
Je-S guidance for applicants

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Introduction
This is a guidance document created to assist applicants to this call in the completion of their proposal. It is specific to this call and should be used in conjunction with the following information:

- **ESRC Centres Competition 2018**
  www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/esrc-centres-competition-2018

- **ESRC Research Funding Guide**
  www.esrc.ac.uk/RFG

- **ESRC guidance on ‘How to write a good research grant proposal’**
  www.esrc.ac.uk/How-to

- **Je-S help text** is available in every page of your Je-S form, simply click on the question mark against any section (or on the word ‘Help’ in the top right hand corner of each page)

- **Je-S helpdesk** (for all Je-S system enquiries)
  jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk or 01793 444164

If you experience difficulties using Je-S or have questions regarding its use, helpdesk staff can be contacted Monday to Friday 9:00-17:00 UK time (excluding bank holidays and other holidays). Out of hours: please leave a voice message.

When reporting problems by email or telephone, please give your name, organisation and user id, the date and time, what part of the form or system you were working on, and the nature of the problem.

For further information contact:

The Centres Team
Email: esrc.centres@esrc.ac.uk

- **Important:** Where information and guidance issued in this document differs from the general guidance offered in these sources, you should follow the guidance in this document.

Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S)
All proposals under this call must be completed and submitted through the Research Councils’ Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S). To be able to do this the organisation must be registered (or self-registered for certain calls) for Je-S, and the applicants must hold Je-S accounts.

There is one possible category of organisations from which proposals can be submitted:

UK higher education institutions and all other independent UK research organisations are already **recognised institutions** on Je-S. A list of these organisations is available from the Je-S login page. The organisation will have set up the Je-S submission process and will therefore be available within the Je-S searches.
Je-S accounts for applicants
All principal and co-investigators must have a Je-S account which has been verified by a third party before they can be found in searches within the Je-S System and added as an applicant. To get you started on creating an account please refer to the Je-S helptext at https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/SettingupaJeSaccount/SettingupaJeSaccount.htm
Please ensure that applicants select the ‘Account Type: Research Proposal’ and the option ‘An Applicant on a Standard or Outline Proposal’ - see helptext https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/SettingupaJeSaccount/SettingupaJeSaccount.htm

It is recommended that applicants forward their proposal to the organisation submitter pool in good time before the call deadline to allow a sufficient period for the approval and final submission process. The proposal must be submitted through the Je-S System to ESRC by the institution’s nominated contacts. Once the applicant completes and submits the proposal, notification is then sent to their organisation’s ‘submitter’ to action. The ‘submitter’ is the person in that organisation authorised to approve the proposal and do the final stage of submission.

The applicant will receive an email confirming that the proposal has been submitted to the Submitter Pool - this means the proposal is still with the organisation but is not yet submitted to the Research Council. The final submission process is the responsibility of the host institution, and we cannot accept responsibility for any delay which may occur at this stage. We strongly advise applicants to check that they receive an email confirmation from the Je-S System confirming that the proposal has been submitted to the Research Council.

Before creating your proposal
Research proposals may only be made on Research Councils’ Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) forms.

Please note that the deadline for research organisation submission of proposals is 16.00 on 15 March 2018. You should allow sufficient time for completion of the research organisation submission process checks/authorisation. You can view all Je-S registered organisations via the Je-S login page, to ascertain whether the proposed submitting organisation is registered.

As in the recent Large Grants competition, we have again, with regret, decided to limit the number of applications per institution and ask research organisations to support only the most competitive bids. Your research organisation will have been contacted and told how many proposals they can submit to this competition. Your institution will be able to provide you with further information.

Your proposal will actually be sent to Je-S/ESRC from the submitter pool at your research organisation. There is a further layer of administration between your submission of the proposal and the proposal being submitted to the ESRC, via Je-S. The research organisation's submission route usually includes both an approver (for example - head of department) and submitter pool (such as, central finance office), and the ESRC cannot accept responsibility for any delay which may occur as a consequence. We strongly advise applicants to secure confirmation from their relevant administrator that the proposal has been successfully submitted to the Je-S team (see also ‘Tracking your proposal’).
Creating your proposal

1. Log in to Je-S at https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/JeS2WebLoginSite/Login.aspx

2. Documents screen: Select ‘New Document’

3. Add new document screen: Select ‘Call search’ (highlighted at top of screen).

4. When prompted, type in the call title 'Centres Competition 2018' and select from the list created. The remaining three selection fields will be automatically populated.

5. Select the ‘Create Document’ button.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the proposal is created and submitted against the correct call (and consequently correct scheme). We will not accept proposals for processing that are not submitted using the above call route.

Completing your proposal

The initial Je-S document instructions page will give you general guidance on the navigation layout, specifically icon descriptions.

The left hand column ‘Document Menu’ lists all the sections associated with this call and clearly identifies which ones are mandatory (red cross, turning to green tick when completed).

The details below are not an exhaustive step-by-step guidance, and we recommended that you refer to the Je-S help text for additional information.

Please note you may return to edit saved documents at any time.

Project details

- Select organisation and department from drop down lists
- ‘Your Reference’ should be supplied by your research organisation (consult your Research Office). If your administration office does not have a system for referencing grant proposals, a suitable reference of your own choice will be acceptable. Use "Your reference" to help distinguish easily between proposals in users’ Current Documents lists. The reference is intended to be a unique identifier for the proposal, and is unrelated to the reference that the organisation would be asked to provide if a grant were awarded.
- Enter ‘Project Title’ (maximum limit of 150 characters)
- For ‘Proposal Call’, select Centres Competition 2018. Please note that the option will only be available once the call is live.
- Your start date should not be before 1 October 2019. Your grant should have a proposed duration of 60 months.
- Submission route - It is recommended that once this initial section is completed, check the submission path (via Document Actions tab) to see if the proposal has to be signed off by submitters and approvers, in which case please make sure they will be available to process the document on the day you intend to submit it to Council.
Investigators
Enter the name of the principal investigator (PI) and any co-investigators (Co-I) if applicable. This means principal investigators on proposals to this call must be based at a UK institution eligible for Research Council funding; see the RCUK website for a list of eligible organisations (www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs).

Investigators may be from more than one research organisation, but the PI must be from the organisation that will administer the grant. The PI will take intellectual leadership of the project and manage the research; this individual will be the contact person for ESRC correspondence. All named investigators are responsible for ensuring that successful proposals are undertaken and completed in the manner specified.

Please note that it is mandatory that you answer positively to the question ‘Post will outlast project?’ To clarify, there is an expectation that the PI’s post will be in place for the duration of the project.

UK co-investigators in business, civil society or government bodies
Please note that any researcher from an established business, civil society or government body based in the UK will be eligible to be listed as a co-investigator under Centres Competition 2018.

ESRC will fund 100% of justified costs, however, the project costs associated with these types of Co-I contributions must not exceed 30% of the overall cost of the grant (at 100% fEC). (It is important to note that the combined costs for International Co-investigators, and UK Business, Third Sector and Government Body Co-investigators must not exceed 30% of the full 100% fEC cost of the grant.) Please note that costs cannot be claimed from government bodies.

On receipt of the proposal, eligibility of business, civil society or government body will not normally need to be checked if it is reasonably clear that they are appropriate to conduct the work. Where there is doubt, checks will be carried out should a positive funding decision be taken.

It is recommended that potential UK co-investigators from business, civil society or government bodies should contact the Je-S Helpdesk (jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk) if their organisation is not selectable as part of the Je-S person account registration process. These organisations will then be added to the Je-S database, which will allow relevant selection as part of the required person account registration process (that co-applicants are obliged to initiate, via the login page).

All project costs relating to UK business or civil society co-investigators must be prefixed as ‘UK Co-I’s business or civil society costs’ and must be entered into the costs section on Je-S as follows:

Co-investigator ‘time’ allocation must be entered under the standard Co-I section, but the salary rate must be entered as zero. The co-investigator salary costs must then be entered under ‘Other Directly Incurred Costs’ (please tick the ‘Is Exception’ box to ensure 100% costs claimed), as should all other claimed staff salaries and related costs associated with the UK Co-I’s business or civil society body.
All costs must be specifically justified, and applicants must explain why such costs are required to achieve the aims of the research project. Applicants must also state clearly in the ‘Justification for Resources’ attachment of the Je-S form which costs in the proposal relate to the UK co-investigator’s business, civil society or government body. Please note that UK co-investigator’s business or civil society salary costs should only be claimed where clear justification is provided as to why this cost cannot be met by the UK co-investigator’s business or civil society organisation.

Host/submitting institutions are reminded that for calls that encourage non-academic COIs, a suitable support structure should be in place to assist such individuals in registering for Je-S accounts and contributing to the research case.

**International co-investigators**

Please note that any academic researcher (PhD or equivalent) from an established international research organisation of comparable standing to an ESRC-eligible UK research organisation will be eligible to be listed as an international co-investigator under this scheme. ESRC will fund 100% of justified costs, however, the project costs associated with these types of Co-I contributions must not exceed 30% of the overall cost of the grant. (It is important to note that the combined costs for International Co-investigators, and UK Business, Third Sector and Government Body Co-investigators must not exceed 30% of the full 100% fEC cost of the grant).

It is recommended that potential overseas-based co-investigators should contact the Je-S Helpdesk (jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk) if their organisation is not selectable as part of the Je-S person account registration process. These organisations will then be added to the Je-S database which will allow relevant selection as part of the required person account registration process (that co-applicants are obliged to initiate, via the login page). Please ensure you initiate such discussions as soon as possible before the call closing date.

All costs associated with the international co-investigator - whether salary, fieldwork, equipment or travel and subsistence - should be entered as ‘Other Directly Incurred’ and should be marked as an ‘Exception’ using the tick box. All costs should also be prefixed with ‘Overseas’.

Co-investigator ‘time’ allocation must be entered under the standard Co-I section, but the salary rate must be entered as zero.

All costs must be specifically justified, and applicants must explain why such costs are required to achieve the aims of the research project. Applicants must also state clearly in the ‘Justification for Resources’ attachment of the Je-S form which costs in the proposal relate to international research organisations. Please note that international co-investigator salary costs should only be claimed where clear justification is provided as to why this cost cannot be met by the international research organisation.

**Objectives**

The ESRC Centres Competition is open to innovative new research addressing any major social and economic topic. Centres are seen as an integral part of the ESRC’s long term strategy for extending research in excellence and impact and successful proposals must add value to the current portfolio of ESRC Centres. ESRC envisage centres as long term investments which strengthen the social science landscape in the UK. We anticipate that
over time centres awarded under this call will become major strategic partnerships with their host research organisations.

Proposals may be made for fundamental or more applied research topics. All projects must be grounded in empirical evidence, and should make appropriate use of existing data. There will be no priority areas for this call. We welcome applications of excellent quality in any area of social science within ESRC’s remit.

We particularly encourage ambitious and novel research proposals addressing new concepts and techniques and those with the potential for significant scientific or societal and economic impact.

Submissions from existing centres should explain how the proposal meets the current centre’s aims and objectives and how the research programme will be expanded upon. Proposals for new centres should ensure that they do not substantially overlap or duplicate an existing centre.

If you intend to apply as an existing centre, you should highlight this in the institutional letter of support, stating the name of the existing centre and grant reference, otherwise your submission will be counted as part of your research organisation’s demand management allocation.

The call offers researchers considerable flexibility to focus on any subject area or topics, providing that it falls within ESRC’s remit. We strongly encourage inter/multidisciplinary working both within and beyond the social sciences, as long as at least 50% of the proposed programme of research is within ESRC remit. Please refer to the list of research areas that fall within ESRC remit (www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/is-my-research-suitable-for-esrc-funding/discipline-classifications/) for further information.

(4000 character limit)

Summary
Provide a plain English summary of the research you propose to carry out in a language that could be publicised to a general, non-academic audience. Please note that this section may be made available on the Gateway to Research database, therefore applicants should ensure confidential information is not included in this section (4000 character limit)

Academic beneficiaries
Please summarise how your proposed research will contribute to knowledge, both within the UK and globally. This should include how the research will benefit other researchers in the field and identify whether there are any academic beneficiaries in other disciplines and, if so, how they will benefit and what will be done to ensure that they benefit.

Please list any academic beneficiaries from the research and give details of how they will benefit and how the results of the proposed research will be disseminated. Also describe the relevance of the research to beneficiaries. (4000 character limit)

Please note that this section may be published to demonstrate the impact of Research Council-funded research. Please ensure confidential information is not included in this section.
For further detailed guidance please access the helptext page linked to this Je-S section.

Staff duties
Summarise the duties of the staff members that will be involved in your project, including the applicants. Ensure that it is clear why it is necessary for this person to perform this role at the resource level you have requested. (2000 character limit)

Impact summary
Applicants are required to consider carefully how best to build links and contacts at the concept and development stage of the proposal with the potential beneficiaries and users to be involved within the grant and to work towards co-production of knowledge with research users where appropriate. It is vital that the economic and societal impact of all projects funded by ESRC is maximised.

Please address the following two questions (4000 character limit):

- **Who will benefit from this research?** List any beneficiaries from the research, for example those who are likely to be interested in or to benefit from the proposed research - both directly or indirectly. Beneficiaries must consist of a wider group than that of the investigators’ immediate professional circle carrying out similar research.
- **How will they benefit from this research?** Describe the relevance of the research to these beneficiaries, identifying the potential for impacts arising from the proposed work.

Please note that this section may be published to demonstrate the potential impact of Research Council-funded research. Please ensure confidential information is not included in this section.

It is important to consider the potential impact of your research from the beginning of your programme. To help you with this, we have developed a step-by-step guide (www.esrc.ac.uk/research/evaluation-and-impact/developing-an-impact-strategy/)

Ethical information
This section must be comprehensively addressed. (4000 character limit)

Applicants must ensure the proposed research will be carried out to a high ethical standard and must clearly state how any potential ethical and health and safety issues have been considered and will be addressed ensuring that all necessary ethical approval is in place before the project commences and all risks are minimised.

The ESRC’s Framework for Research Ethics (www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics/) contains a full explanation of our approach, with guidance for applicants.

Other support
Enter details of any support sought or received from any other source for this or other research in the same field in the past three years. Complete all fields for support either received or pending a decision. Contributions from project partners should not be entered here - they should be detailed in the project partners section.
Related/previous proposals
Please state whether your application under this call is related to any proposals previously submitted to us. Please note the policy on ‘invite only’ resubmissions at [www.esrc.ac.uk/resubmissions](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/resubmissions) on the ESRC website. You must detail the appropriate related proposal and its relationship here. Select ‘Related Proposals’, then ‘Add New Related Proposal Item’ before entering the details of any related proposals.

Please enter the reference numbers of any support sought or received from us in the past five years via the ‘Previous proposals’ section. Please note that this only relates to previous ESRC research grants.

Staff
If your project requires staff other than the team of investigators, their details should be entered here. ‘Directly Allocated staff’ are those who will be working directly on the project, but whose involvement on the grant can only be based on an estimate of the time the work will take (for example - investigators). ‘Directly Incurred staff’ are those whose time on the project is actual, auditable and verifiable (for example - researchers and technicians).

Please note: Non-UK Co-Is must enter their time allocation under ‘Directly Allocated Staff’ but should enter the salary rate as zero. All costs associated with non-UK investigators will need to be entered under ‘Other Directly Incurred Costs’ in the Resources section of the form and the ‘Exceptions’ box will need to be ticked for each item.

Reasonable and fully justified travel and subsistence costs will be provided for international co-investigators in accordance with normal ESRC guidelines. Other directly incurred costs (as outlined in the ESRC Research Funding Guide) may be applied for, provided they are fully justified

Associated studentships
Associated studentships, formerly known as grant-linked studentships, are permissible under this call. Up to three ESRC funded associated studentships may be included on any one proposal. The student must have a distinct, independent area of enquiry that will add value to the overall research objectives of the grant. The total cost of the studentship(s) can also be match-funded by the Research Organisation.

In exceptional cases, proposals that include more than three associated studentships will be considered, providing that a strong justification for capacity-building in that particular area and how it adds value to the overall proposal is supplied.

Associated studentships must be located at an ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), on an accredited pathway, and can start from 1 October 2019 onwards. Only principal investigators or co-investigators based at the DTP are approved to act as primary supervisors, and these must be identified in the studentship attachment. The total cost of the studentships must be included in the total costs for the grant, and within the maximum funding available. Please note that the case for such studentships will need to be provided at the full proposal stage.
Please note that the RO can also fully fund studentships as part of their institutional support. RO fully funded studentships, they are not obliged to follow the same requirements as ESRC-funded associated studentships, but their role should be explained in the case for support.

For more information on associated studentships, please see the ESRC website: [www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/associated-studentships](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/associated-studentships)

**Resources**

All resources requested must be broadly justified in the ‘Justification’ attachment. However, it is not expected that financial details will be precise at this stage.

The Centres Competition 2018 will provide up to **60 months** funding with an overall limit of £8 million (100% fEC) per grant. If successful, ESRC will meet 80% of the full economic costs on proposals submitted and the host institution is expected to support the remaining 20%.

We recommend that a minimum of 10% of the overall budget should be dedicated to deliver the activities outlined in the impact summary.

**T&S** - add each item of Travel and Subsistence required for your project. You should indicate the calculations upon which this figure is based in the ‘Destination and Purpose’ box.

**Equipment** - enter any items of equipment costing £10,000 or more (including VAT) in this section. The **actual level of funding sought from the ESRC** should also be entered in this section.

For items of equipment costing between £10,000 and RCUK equipment purchase threshold value (£115,000 excluding VAT), the research organisation will need to provide extra justification for these items in the ‘Justification of Resources’ attachment, providing evidence of an evaluation of the use of existing relevant capital assets. They will be expected to make a contribution towards the cost of the equipment in the order of 50% of the cost.

All requests for items of equipment costing above the RCUK equipment purchase threshold (£115,000) should be accompanied by a two-page business case (to be included as an attachment within the equipment screen and not the attachments section) outlining the strategic need for the equipment. RCUK will decide the strategic location for these items and will potentially fund them at 100%. The ESRC will have flexibility in relation to the funding of equipment to negotiate with potential grant recipients to achieve best value from the limited funds at its disposal.

For all items of equipment requested above the RCUK equipment purchase threshold (£115,000) three equipment quotations must be provided. Where you believe that there are less than three potential suppliers for an item you should explain this in the ‘Justification of Resources’ attachment and upload two blank documents as equipment quotes. For items of equipment which cost less than the RCUK equipment purchase threshold it is optional to provide quotations and up to three can be uploaded.
Social surveys - Social survey costs which are being sub-contracted should be included under this section and are eligible for fEC exception funding at 100% (for the amount sought from the Council). (Please see ‘other directly incurred costs’ section if surveys are to be carried out using in-house resources.)

Other directly incurred costs - including justified; project specific consumables, consultancy fees, and equipment costing less than £10,000, recruitment and advertising costs.

Costs for social survey work proposed to be done using in-house resources should also be included under this section and will be funded at the standard 80% fEC funding rate. Proposals including such costs will need to fully justify why the work should not be subject to external competition, and provide benchmarking or other data to support a case that best value for money is being achieved through using research organisation staff rather than external contractors.

All project costs relating to UK business or civil society co-investigators must be prefixed as ‘UK Co-I’s business or civil society costs’. The co-investigator salary costs must be entered under ‘Other Directly Incurred Costs’ as should all other claimed staff salaries and related costs associated with the UK co-investigator’s business or civil society body, and should be marked as an ‘Exception’ using the tick box.

All costs associated with international co-investigators, whether salary, fieldwork, equipment or travel and subsistence should be entered as ‘Other Directly Incurred Costs’ and should be marked as an ‘Exception’ using the tick box. All costs should also be prefixed with ‘Overseas.’

All costs relating to UK business and/or civil society co-investigators and/or international co-investigators must be specifically justified, and applicants must explain why such costs are required to achieve the aims of the research project. Applicants must also state clearly in the ‘Justification for Resources’ attachment of the Je-S form which costs in the application relate to UK business, civil society or international research organisations. Please note UK business, civil society and international co-investigator salary costs should only be claimed where clear justification is provided as to why this cost cannot be met by the UK business, civil society or international research organisation.

Other directly allocated costs - including support staff salaries, a share of the costs of departmental support staff and the costs of access to major research facilities.

Estates and indirect costs
Estate and indirect costs are specific to each research organisation, and do not require justification in your case for support.

Research organisations that have implemented the TRAC costing methodology and have passed the Quality Assurance process should apply their own estate and indirect costs. Non-research organisations that are not required to implement TRAC must have a robust costing methodology in place that has been validated in order to apply their own estates and indirect cost rates. The standard default rates should be used where research organisations have not yet developed their own rates.
Your Research Office will be able to assist with this section.

**Project partners**
If you have secured a commitment from another organisation or funding body to provide additional resources for this project, the details of that support should be entered here. A letter of support from each partner organisation confirming the level of support will be required as part of the **full** stage proposal only but details should be included at outline.

**Timetable**
Provide a clear timetable for the project and the intended progress of the research through the different stages. Your planned timetable can be expanded upon if necessary within your case for support.

**Data collection**
Applicants must adhere to ESRC policy. Please refer to the full statement on data management planning and datasets deposition requirements for data intensive investments in the ESRC Research Data Policy ([www.esrc.ac.uk/datapolicy](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/datapolicy)) and in the Research Funding Guide ([www.esrc.ac.uk/RFG](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/RFG)). Explain clearly how you will meet these requirements, if relevant to your proposal, in your case for support. A data management plan will be required for full stage proposals.

**Classifications**
Please identify whether the research will involve significant collaborative contributions from colleagues outside of the UK. If ‘yes’ please expand within the ‘Case for Support’ attachment.

**User involvement**
If ‘Users’ have been/will be engaged with your research project, please specify the nature of their engagement. ‘Users’ are individuals, groups or organisations who have an interest in or may benefit from the research. Users may be from the public sector, private sector, civil society or the wider public in general. Engaging users in your research from its conception and development through to the dissemination stage is likely to increase the impacts achieved. Applicants should expand upon how the proposed work will be managed to engage users and beneficiaries in the pathways to impact attachment.

**Attachments**
It is important that applicants **only submit the supporting attachments specified in this document**. We reserve the right to reject applications that do not include the required attachments or include attachments not specified in this guidance. It is recommended that attachments are uploaded in PDF (rather than Word) format, to ensure unsupported font type issues do not cause problems with maximum length requirements, please see Je-S guidance; [https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/SystemRequirementsFormatsandSa/SystemRequirementsFormatsandSa.htm](https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/pages/SystemRequirementsFormatsandSa/SystemRequirementsFormatsandSa.htm)

The following are mandatory Je-S attachments for this call:
- Case for support (6 A4 pages max)
- Justification of resources (2 A4 page max)
- Pathways to Impact (2 A4 pages max)
• CV (2 A4 pages max. for each named researcher)
• Other attachments (mandatory) - Institutional Letter of Support (1 A4 page max)
• Other attachments (mandatory) - list of key publications (1 A4 page max)

**Important note:** If you are unclear about whether you can include a specific attachment please contact esrc.centres@esrc.ac.uk for advice, as unrequested attachments can hinder the processing of your application. ESRC reserves the right to return or reject proposals that include attachments not permitted on this call.

**Case for support (maximum of six sides of A4 – minimum font size 11 with 2cm margins)**

This is the body of your research proposal. It must not exceed 6 pages and must include the following sections:

- The introduction should set the aims and objectives of the study in context. It should briefly sketch the main work on which the research will draw. Any relevant policy or practical background should be included.
- The research questions to be addressed should be clearly stated.
- Give a description of the proposed research methods and explain the reasons for their choice.
- The bibliography for key references cited in the proposal should be attached under the ‘list of publications’ attachment.
- Please indicate if you think that your proposal may be eligible for Overseas Development Aid related funding.

Using up to one page of the six sides in the ‘Case for Support’ attachment, applicants are required to include the following information:

- Applicants must provide a management plan explaining how they will provide leadership to a potentially diverse group of academic and (as appropriate) non-academic collaborators, how the proposed programme of activities and its outputs will be managed, and the role and function of any advisory or management groups. This section should include how various work-streams in the proposal will be co-ordinated and managed and detail project management resources and administrative support. Please explain how centre leadership will provide adequate operational capabilities and resources to meet the demands of the research.
- Additionally this section should very briefly outline a commitment to the professional development of researchers at all stages of their career and capacity-building. To be further developed at full phase.

**Justification of resources (maximum of two sides of A4 – minimum font size 11 with 2cm margins)**

A two-side A4 statement justifying that the resources requested are appropriate to undertake the research project. The justification of resources should explain why the resources requested are appropriate for the research proposed, taking into account the nature and complexity of the research proposal. It should not be simply a list of the resources required, as this is already given in the Je-S form. Where you do not provide explanation for an item that requires justification, it will be cut from any grant made. Please indicate if a full proposal will include a case for associated studentship(s) and indicate that the DTP director has been contacted for support.

**Pathways to Impact (maximum of two sides of A4 - minimum font size 11 with 2cm margins)**

While the Impact Summary section of the Je-S form is for applicants to explain who will benefit from the research and how, the Pathways to Impact attachment should be used to explain what will be undertaken by the applicant to ensure that opportunities for users to benefit from your research, and thus for achieving economic and societal impact, are maximised.

The Pathways to Impact is your opportunity to describe how the potential impacts of your research will be realised. This attachment is specific to users and beneficiaries of the research who are outside of the academic research community including, for instance, the public sector, private sector, civil society or the wider public in general. User communities for ESRC research may include bodies and individuals from industry, charities, universities, local authorities and other public bodies, government departments and independent policy bodies.

Potential academic beneficiaries of your work and pathways towards achieving academic impact should not be detailed in this attachment but in the ‘Academic Beneficiaries’ section of the Je-S form and the ‘Case for Support’ as appropriate.

In describing plans to maximise impact, applicants should consider what is achievable and expected for research of this nature. If you do not feel that your research has potential to achieve impact outside of academia, you should use the Pathways to Impact attachment to explain why this is the case. However, it is expected that applicants will have considered impact in its broadest economic and societal terms before coming to this conclusion. Applicants should note that while we recognise the value of this type of research, reviewers may comment on the applicant’s reasoning during consideration of the proposal.

Impact can take many forms, manifest at different stages in the research process, and be promoted in different ways. It may be helpful to consider impact in respect of the short term (during the currency of the grant), medium term (up to one year afterwards), and the long term. A statement about our expectations of the research we fund is at [www.esrc.ac.uk/impact-expectations](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/impact-expectations).

Please detail how the proposed research project will be managed to engage users and beneficiaries and increase the likelihood of impacts. The resources required to undertake effective knowledge exchange will need to be accurately reflected and fully costed at the full proposal stage. To be effective, all communication, engagement and impact activities must be planned in detail and properly resourced. To this end it is recommended that approximately 10% of the overall budget should be dedicated to delivering the project’s impact strategy as outlined in the Pathways to Impact attachment.

For further detailed guidance please access the relevant ESRC specific attachment Je-S helptext page.
CV (maximum of two sides of A4 per person - minimum font size 11 with 2cm margins)
A CV for each applicant and named research staff member must be included. This should include contact details, qualifications (including class and subject), academic and professional posts held since graduation, a list of the most relevant and recent publications, and a record of research funded by the ESRC and other bodies. This should not exceed two A4 sides.

Other attachments (mandatory)
Institutional Letter of Support (1 A4 page max- minimum font size 11 with 2cm margins)
ESRC has recently reviewed and revised our centres policy with the aim of fostering and sustaining a larger number of centres within the UK social science infrastructure over the longer term. ESRC will provide an opportunity for centres that are successful in this Competition to go on to apply for further graduated ESRC support to follow on from the centre grant. It is expected that a successful centre will apply for a lower level of ESRC ‘transition funding’ to follow on from the centre grant for up to a further five years, supported by strong strategic, and minimum financial, commitment from their host Research Organisation (RO). Towards the end of the ESRC transition funding the centre may then apply for a further period of recognition as an ESRC centre to help it leverage funding from other sources and in communicating and engaging with research users.

This new funding model is intended to help centres establish a self-sustaining funding model beyond the life of ESRC funding and, in particular, establish a new relationship between ESRC and ROs, in recognition of mutual benefits, in supporting these high-profile and high-impact centres of excellence over a longer period. (Further information about the review and the background and principles behind the new revised funding model are available on the ESRC website (www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-large-investments/esrc-centres-and-institutes)). The policy explicitly aims to embed centres in the higher education funding landscape and host RO are expected to play an important part in providing this longer term strategic and financial support to the Centre beyond the life of the ESRC centre grant. In particular, there will be a normal expectation that, if successful, the host RO will plan to provide the minimum RO contribution required (25% of the full economic costs of the proposed ESRC centre grant) for the centre to apply for transition funding towards the end of the ESRC centre grant.

As in previous Centres Competitions, ESRC will be looking for evidence of long term institutional commitment, both strategic and financial, to the proposed Centre application through the provision of grant-associated parallel activities and capacity-building. We have not previously stipulated a minimum expectation in this regard. It is not our intention to change the actual level of commitment ROs have generally offered in the past but in view of this new funding model we are introducing a minimum requirement to demonstrate the ESRC/RO joint strategic commitment to the centre over the longer term. We recognise that the centre grant already requires an RO contribution of 20% (as ESRC funds 80% of the full economic costs of the proposal). We will be looking for evidence that an additional strategic commitment from the RO will equate, at a minimum, to what will be required for transition funding (for example - the RO will provide an additional strategic commitment to the centre of no less than 5% of the full economic costs of the proposal). However, we would encourage ROs to continue to offer the level of support they have in past proposals through commitments appropriate to their plans for the Centre.

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Some examples of institutional commitment may include (but are not limited to):

- studentships
- equipment
- refurbishment of facilities to specifically support the centre activities
- seminar and summer schools
- administration of the Centre
- the appointment of new lectureship posts
- support through the institution’s existing knowledge exchange, impact and/or international strategies

ESRC would particularly welcome commitments to cover costs that are not eligible under the centres scheme. If successful, the contribution to the centre’s outcomes and impact of these additional strategic RO commitments will be reviewed as part of the ESRCs standard investment management during the grant, and through the Transition review process on application for transition funding.

Outline proposals must include a substantial Institutional Letter of Support from the Pro-Vice chancellor of research (or equivalent role) from the lead organisation that confirms the RO’s (and any Partner ROs’) commitment to the Centre application.

If you intend to apply as an existing centre, you should highlight this in the institutional letter of support, stating the name of the existing centre and grant reference, otherwise your submission will be counted as part of your research organisation’s demand management allocation.

List of key publications
The bibliography for references cited in the proposal only should be attached. Please note publications not cited in the proposal should not be added here. A list of the most relevant and recent publications by the applicant should be included in the applicant CV.

Proposal classifications
The information provided in this section will be used by us to identify appropriate panellists. It would therefore assist us greatly if you could populate the Research Area/Qualifiers/Keyword sections to provide a comprehensive description of your area of expertise.

The Proposal classification area is a harmonised (and expanded) structure agreed with other Research Councils. Therefore, if your area of expertise crosses the remits of more than one Research Council you will now only need to provide the information once.

It is an essential requirement that your primary research area is in the social sciences. We strongly encourage inter/multidisciplinary working both within and beyond the social sciences, as long as at least 50% of the proposed programme of research is within ESRC remit. Please refer to the list of research areas that fall within ESRC remit (www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/is-my-research-suitable-for-esrc-funding/discipline-classifications) for further information. Please note this information is used to determine eligibility for ESRC funding and to assist in the selection of appropriate reviewers.
Submit your proposal
After all mandatory sections have been completed, the submit button will appear across the top menu bar. Please ensure that you have completed all attachments that are not standard mandatory attachments for Je-S but are a mandatory requirement to be completed for this specific call. The submit button will route your finalised proposal to the authorising facility within your organisation (as explained in the Registration section above).

Please note that the proposal must be formally submitted by your organisation before 16:00 on 15 March 2018.

Commissioning timetable
- Call published - November 2017
- Information and Networking Day - 11 December 2017
- Closing date for proposals - 16:00 on 15 March 2018
- Outline Phase Decisions to applicants - 4 June 2018
- Full Stage Call published (Invite Only) - 4 June 2018
- Shortlisting Panel meeting - January 2019
- Interview shortlisted applicants - February 2019
- Decisions to applicants - March 2019
- Start date - 1 October 2019

Tracking your proposal
There are additional document maintenance actions that can be undertaken via the Document actions button. For example, the ‘Show submission path’ will indicate to you where in the organisation submission chain the proposal currently is located (and who holds current responsibility) - such as - owner, approval pool, submitter pool or submitted to Council.

Further enquiries
Enquiries relating to ESRC research funding rules and proposal procedures should be addressed to:
- The Centres Team
  Email: esrc.centres@esrc.ac.uk

Enquiries relating to technical aspects of the Je-S form should be addressed to:
- Je-S helpdesk
  Email: jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk
  Telephone: 01793 444164