



## **International Opportunities Fund (IOF) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**(First issued - March 2017)**

**Q: Do Co-Investigators (Co-Is) of IOF proposals also have to be a PI or Co-I of an active NERC grant to be eligible?**

A: No. Only the PI of an IOF proposal need to be a PI or Co-I of an active NERC grant, or a NERC Research Centre Scientist leading a NERC support programme or project. The Co-Is of an IOF proposal will still have to meet the standard NERC eligibility criteria for Co-Is (see section C of [NERC research grants handbook](#)).

**Q: Would the PI of a grant that is co-funded by NERC but administered by a different research council be eligible e.g. funded under LWEC?**

A: The grant could be eligible but the decision will be made on a case-by-case basis. The applicant will need to provide the details of the grant they are building on, how it fits in NERC remit and the start and finish dates for the grant.

**Q: Is a NERC Research Centre scientist leading a task within a National Capability project or programme at a NERC Research Centre eligible?**

A: No. NERC Centre Research scientist must be leading the entire NERC Research Centre project/programme to be eligible i.e. of equivalent status to a PI on a NERC research grant.

**Q: Are NERC National Capability funded projects conducted outside of NERC Research Centres eligible?**

A: Yes. Organisations such as PML, SAMS and SMRU carry out NERC National Capability work as delivery partners. However, the applicants should be currently leading a NERC National Capability funded research programme (i.e. of equivalent status to a PI on a NERC research grant), and that the IOF funding will be used to directly build on this NERC supported work.

**Q: Will IOF only support new International Project Offices (IPOs)?**

A: No. Funding for IPOs can include funding for existing IPOs. However, if the funding is for taking over an existing IPO then it should be clear in the application why the UK is taking over the IPO, why the existing organisation/country will no longer be the hosting the IPO, and what the added value will be to existing NERC funding.

**Q: Can International Project Partners also be named as a Visiting Researcher or sub-contractor?**

A: No. International Project Partners cannot receive funding directly from the IOF award. However, Minor Directly Incurred costs may be requested to facilitate collaboration. Requests for such support must be well justified, since an objective of the IOF is to promote partnerships that add value to NERC funded research, consequently with an expectation of significant contributions from the international partners.

**Q: Are CVs for International Project Partner allowed in Je-S?**

A: No. Only include CVs for each named PI, Co-I, research staff post and Visiting Researcher as stated in the AO. Any additional CVs will not be accepted and will be removed if submitted through Je-S.

**Q: Under the 'Related Proposals' tab in Je-S, which options should I choose: resubmission, follow up or continuation?**

A: Please select either *continuation* or *follow up*. Please note that the IOF grant is expected to directly build on and add value to existing NERC-funded project. There is now also the new requirement for a separate section in the Case for Support document on value added to existing NERC-funded research. See section 6 Application Process in the published AO for details.