



Expression of Interest Guidance Notes

Quick reference: Expression of Interest form sections

- 1. Project information:** Please estimate to the best of your ability the proposed cost and duration of the project – these do not need to be exact and can change by a reasonable amount in the full application.
- 2. Applicant details:**

New for this call - Principal investigators may be based in countries on the OECD DAC list or the UK.

Each project must include a UK-based BBSRC eligible co-investigator to act as the administrative lead and submit the application (they do not need to be the principal investigator). The organisation where the UK co-investigator is based must be BBSRC eligible. Further co-investigators may be based in the UK, DAC list or non-DAC list countries. All applications must include at least one co-investigator from a country on the OECD DAC list. Preference will be given to applications including investigators from African countries on the DAC list. See below for further details. If there are to be more than two co-investigators, please add extra sections. Early career researchers are eligible to be named applicants.

New for this call – Principal investigators who were awarded money in the first CONNECTED PPF call are ineligible to be Principal investigators on applications in this second call. They are however eligible to be co-investigators.
- 3. Research priorities:** Our funders BBSRC have identified strategic priorities for vector-borne disease research which the CONNECTED Network is aiming





to contribute to. Please identify to which of the five research priorities the proposed project will contribute (can be more than one).

4. **Your idea:** Use this section to outline your proposed project:
 - Summarise your ideas in one or two sentences.
 - Outline how the outcomes are ODA relevant and will have impact in developing countries.
5. **Project details:** Please outline the project objectives and how these will be delivered.
 - Outline the scientific challenge being addressed, proposed experimental plan, and any added value to ongoing work
 - How will the work described be performed within the budget and duration? Include any local administrative requirements, such as permissions to carry out the work.
 - What data or other outputs (see below) do you expect to generate during your project?
 - Describe the future opportunities for funding this work after pump-priming.

Project outputs do not need to be limited to research outcomes, such as pilot data sets. They can include, and are not limited to, the following:

- Policy document
- Literature review (scientific and/or grey literature)
- Horizon scan
- Feasibility study



Partnerships: Outline the roles of each project partner and what they bring to the project.

Summary

CONNECTED aims to build a sustainable network of international scientists and researchers to address the challenges of vector-borne plant viruses in Africa. A key objective is to enable Network members to successfully apply for research funding. To facilitate this, CONNECTED will provide pump-prime funding for a wide range of short term research projects which can be used as the basis for future funding applications with national and international funding organisations. All proposals must include a main objective that promotes the economic development and welfare of a developing country or countries.

Funding available

Pump-prime funding (PPF) awards will focus on **5 priority areas**:

1. Control strategies;
2. Vector biology;
3. New diseases;
4. Vector-virus interactions; and
5. Diagnostics, surveillance, and forecasting.

In this round of pump prime funding, CONNECTED particularly welcomes applications concerning crops other than cassava and vectors other than whitefly, which are under-represented in the projects funded in PPF call 1.

Applications are encouraged from collaborations that include investigators from DAC list countries in all regions of Africa, particularly West Africa, central African and southern Africa, which were under-represented in the projects funded in PPF call 1.





PPF grants are available for projects of up to £30,000 (100% FEC), via competitive application to the Network Executive Team. A small number of £60,000 (100% FEC) projects may be funded. Projects should run for between 3 and 6 months and should lead to relevant and useful outputs for this field or produce pilot data that can be used in larger grant applications to national/international funders.

Expression of Interest

We are adopting a two-stage process for funding applications: an expression of interest stage followed by a full application stage. Applicants should submit an expression of interest outlining the intended project. If successful, applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal. The dates that these stages are open to applications are as follows:

- Expression of Interest call for applications: 22nd October 2018 until 18th November 2018. Applicants can expect to hear the outcome by 3rd December 2018.
- Full applications call: 3rd December 2018 until 27th January 2019.

Projects must include CONNECTED Network members from at least two different organisations. The application must be submitted by a UK-based, BBSRC eligible institution. Both Early Career Researchers and Africa-based researchers are particularly encouraged to apply.

Eligibility

Applicants must be CONNECTED Network members. Membership is free. See www.connectedvirus.net for details.

Please carefully read the following guidance regarding the eligibility of institutions and named applicants for pump-prime funding grants.





Principal Investigators: Principal investigators may be based in countries on the OECD DAC list or in the UK. The DAC list of countries eligible for CONNECTED's PPF grants can be found here:

http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf. Applicants from

eligible DAC list countries can apply as PIs if they hold a position of lecturer level or equivalent status in a university or other recognised higher education institution or other research institution with a credible and relevant research capacity, based in an eligible DAC list county. This includes researchers at both national institutions of eligible countries and establishments of international organisations located in those countries. It does not include establishments of international organisations which are located elsewhere. Please note, grant funds awarded will be distributed from the University of Bristol to the UK administrative lead research organisation that submits the application (see below), which will then distribute funds to DAC and non-DAC list investigators.

UK Co-Investigators: Each PPF application must be submitted by a UK-based institution which is eligible to receive BBSRC funding (this is then termed the submitting organisation). See Section 3.1 of BBSRC's Grants Guide here for more details: <https://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/documents/grants-guide/>. This organisation will act as the administrative lead for the project and will receive the grant funds from the University of Bristol, being required to then distribute funds to all investigators on the project. At the time of application, named co-investigators from the submitting organisation must be eligible for BBSRC funding as per Sections 3.2 to 3.7 of BBSRC's Grants Guide. Eligibility for CONNECTED's PPF also extends to research staff with contracts that last at least up to the proposed end date of the project.

BBSRC-eligible Early Career Researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.





Further Co-Investigators: Each PPF application must include at least one co-investigator; these can be based at institutions in the UK, in DAC list countries or elsewhere. **All collaborations must include at least one co-investigator from a research organisation in a DAC list country.** Eligible co-investigators will have a research staff contract at the applying organisation that last at least up to the proposed end date of the project. Applicants must be resident in the country specified on the application form for the duration of the proposed project.

Preference will be given to applications including investigators from DAC-list countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Any DAC list country investigator must be based in a recognised higher education institution, or in a 'not-for profit' research intensive organisation, which can demonstrate compliance with the following:

- **Research Capacity and Capability:** in-house capacity in terms of staff and infrastructure to support and lead excellent research programmes.
- **Governance and Financial Stability:** robust assurance around managing and accounting for grant funding, demonstrate good governance and control functions including policies and approaches to control risk and mitigate fraud and corruption.

Please also refer to the **Due diligence** section below.

Non-DAC list country international researchers can not apply as PIs. International but non-DAC list applicants may be co-investigators with the following conditions:

- i. in each instance justification must be provided as part of the application (or as a supplement to already submitted applications) that the expertise of the non-DAC list co-investigator is not available in the UK





- ii. the eligibility extension is conditional to the same application also including both a UK partner and a DAC list partner
- iii. CONNECTED must be satisfied that the partnership is being undertaken within the spirit of the aims of the GCRF fund
- iv. funding for international but non-DAC list co-investigators will be at 100% of direct costs with no indirect costs

Early Career researchers (ECRs): ECRs are defined as those who have received their highest degree (BSc, MS or PhD) within the past 7 years. ECRs are eligible to apply as named applicants, irrespective of the country of origin. Please note, at least one UK-based co-investigator is required to be fully BBSRC eligible (they will submit the application), i.e. to hold a position of lecturer level equivalent or higher (please refer to the BBSRC Grants Guide for full information). Please also remember that there can be multiple co-investigators on a single project from various countries. ECRs must be able to demonstrate that they have:

- A track record of excellent research
- The support of their institution
- The resources and facilities to conduct the project

Students: Students are not eligible to receive pump-priming funds.

Industry: Industrial partners cannot receive pump-priming funding from CONNECTED. However, industrial partners can be involved in pump-priming projects as collaborators or if they are providing cash or in-kind contributions. Please see Section 2.23 of BBSRC's Grants Guide for guidance for what in-kind contributions may include.





Due diligence

For expressions of interest, all applicants must be able to agree to the terms provided within the RCUK Financial and Capability Due Diligence Questionnaire (no specific information needs to be submitted for the expression of interest stage)

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/research/201603updatedrcukwebpagewithquestionnaire-pdf/>. However, it is important for applicants to recognise at this stage that for full proposals the applying organisations must be able to provide the information required to complete this questionnaire prior to start of the project. Further guidance will be provided prior to full applications being invited.

Activities supported: ODA compliance

All projects must be within the scope of the CONNECTED Network and its remit, with the primary purpose of promoting the economic development and welfare of a developing country or countries. Please see the CONNECTED Network website for further details (www.connectedvirus.net). Applicants are encouraged to utilise the ODA Guidance for GCRF Networks in VBD document on the CONNECTED website funding page (www.connectedvirus.net/funding, under **Pump-prime funding call #2**). Proposed projects may include scientific and/or non-scientific research. Project outputs should be novel and strategically relevant to the field of plant vector-borne disease, either:

- Generating pilot data or information that can be developed further into a larger grant application, or
- Contributing key pieces of knowledge, process, or policy guidance/best practice guidelines that can be developed into further research collaborations/funding applications, and/or break down current barriers to progress in plant vector-borne disease research.





Project outputs can include, and are not limited to, the following:

- Pilot data
- Policy document
- Literature review (scientific and/or grey literature)
- Horizon scan
- Feasibility study

Applications must show direct and measurable impact and that the pathways to impact are realistic.

Activities not supported:

- Research outside the CONNECTED objectives and remit
- Projects from non-members of CONNECTED
- PhD or other student projects
- Projects without collaboration between two or more institutes
- Projects without collaboration with a country on the OECD DAC list
- Equipment purchase.

Value of grant

Total project cost (100% full economic costing [FEC]) must not exceed £30,000. A small number of £60,000 (100% FEC) projects may be funded. UK partners will be awarded 80% of their share of the project costs including Directly Incurred and Directly Allocated costs, and will be expected to have matched funding for the remaining 20% costs. DAC list country partners can claim 100% FEC of their share of the project's Directly Incurred costs. DAC list country partners are not able to claim Directly Allocated costs. However, they can claim a contribution to Estate Costs and Indirect Costs calculated at 20% of Directly Incurred costs. International





non-DAC list partners can claim 100% of direct costs with no indirect costs. For further information regarding FEC, please see RCUK guidance here:

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/documents/fecfaq-pdf/>.

Application process

Researchers should submit an expression of interest using the application form on the funding page of the CONNECTED webpage

(<https://www.connectedvirus.net/funding/>). Each expression of interest will be reviewed initially by the CONNECTED Management Board and Executive Group, following identification of conflicts of interest, and assessed on their ability to demonstrate:

- ODA compliance
- Technical excellence (includes scientific and non-scientific proposals)
- Likelihood of success (project design and management, suitability of project team, feasibility)
- Strategic relevance (to the remit of the CONNECTED network and the five priority areas)
- Economic and social impact (pathways to impact)
- Timeliness and promise (project is likely to generate valuable data/outputs, could lead to future funding applications)
- Value for money (total funding requested reflects the scale of the project)
- Staff training potential of the project

Selected expressions of interest will be invited to submit full applications for pump-prime funding. Details of the full call will be provided in due course.





What happens next?

Completed Expression of Interest application forms should be emailed in PDF format to: connectedvirusnetwork@gmail.com. All applications will be acknowledged within five working days. The Network Executive will check the application meets the basic criteria and has the required information to be reviewed. Any missing information may lead to the application being rejected.

Any questions?

Please contact connectedvirusnetwork@gmail.com if you have any questions about the Expression of Interest process.

Useful Resources

UK Government information on ODA strategic objectives:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/official-development-assistance-oda--2>

The DAC list of countries eligible for CONNECTED's PPF grants can be found here:

http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC_List_ODA_Recipients2018to2020_flows_En.pdf

