



**UK Research
and Innovation**

Money Follows Cooperation

Memorandum of Cooperation

Between the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI)

1. The Research Council of Norway is a national strategic and funding agency for basic and applied research. It administers a wide range of schemes, including funding activities for research projects and network-building.
2. UKRI is the UK's largest public funder of research and innovation, composed of seven disciplinary Research Councils, Research England and Innovate UK. The following Research Councils will be able to participate in schemes under this Memorandum of Cooperation: Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Medical Research Council (MRC) and Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).
3. This Memorandum of Cooperation ("this MoC") is aimed at ensuring that researchers based in either Norway or the United Kingdom can easily include researchers based in the other country (and their costs) on research proposals submitted to their National Funder (collectively "the Funders" and individually a "Funder").
4. To develop international opportunities, the RCN and UKRI (hereafter referred to as the Funders) recognise that support for international collaborative research is critical for achieving their respective aims. Facilitating this collaboration, their respective research communities require simple mechanisms to fund collaborative research projects that avoid double jeopardy (where applicants must coordinate two application processes and evaluations to establish a collaboration) and that do not involve a significantly greater administrative burden than obtaining funding from national schemes. The principle of *Money follows Cooperation* (MFC) calls for opening, under certain conditions, the national funding programmes for applicants from other countries, and thus strengthening cross-border cooperation.

5. Therefore, the Funders commit to reciprocally opening their agreed national research project funding schemes to collaborative proposals involving researchers from the other country (for details on agreed funding schemes for each party, see Annexes 1 and 2). For the *Money Follows Cooperation* principle to be applied, the contribution and added value of the international participants to the research must be clearly explained and justified in the proposal. The leadership and the majority of the budget remains in the country of the funder to whom the proposal is submitted.
6. This agreement serves to simplify the process of applying for funding for collaborative research, by allowing collaborative projects to be funded through normal national procedures. Funding decisions on the proposals will be made according to the normal procedures of the party from which funding is sought (the implementing Funder). Grants awarded (including the component for any international partners) will be subject to the terms and conditions of the implementing Funder.
7. Proposals will be evaluated according to the normal procedures of the Funder. The results of the evaluation and methodologies used to evaluate proposals will be shared between the Funders if requested, with the exception of confidential information. Where appropriate, the Funders will seek to involve international academics in the peer review process.
8. In addition to the restrictions set out in Annex 1 and 2, the Funders reserve the right to exclude specific schemes from this agreement if they deem this necessary, but the spirit of this Memorandum of Cooperation is that such exclusions should only be used where there is a compelling strategic case.
9. Researchers only need to apply to one Funder for funding to cover the cost of the entire international collaboration. Where UKRI is the implementing Funder, international collaborators based in Norway will be eligible to claim costs worth up to 30% of the total research grant amount (Full Economic Cost). Where RCN is the implementing Funder, international collaborators based in the UK will be eligible to claim up to 50% of the total research grant amount.
10. The Research Council of Norway can cover the following costs of the UK institutions participating in the collaborative projects, according to its applicable regulations:
 - Salaries and social security contribution based on the national wage scale in the UK
 - Research costs (consumables, travel costs, computing time and data, direct costs of infrastructure use)The following costs are not covered by the Research Council of Norway:
 - Equipment
11. UKRI can cover the following costs of international collaborators employed by Norwegian institutions, according to its applicable regulations:
 - Directly Incurred Costs (e.g. consumables, travel and subsistence costs, communications activities, conference attendance)

- Salary costs for co-investigators and research assistants, provided that these costs are justified and it can be demonstrated that funding investigator salaries from research grants is the standard practice of the institution.

The following costs are not covered by UKRI

- Estates and other indirect costs
- Equipment (any individual item, or components combined to make an item, with a value greater than £10,000)

12. If applicants are budgeting for the use of large infrastructure or facilities, they should, where possible, use the large infrastructure or facilities of the country of the implementing Funder.
13. The Funders will follow their normal practices for distributing funds to national and international funding recipients.
14. The ambition of this arrangement is to achieve a proportionate flow of research funds between the two countries, so that neither of the research communities served by the Funders are financially disadvantaged by the scheme. If a significant imbalance of participation is observed, the Funders will meet to discuss how to redress this imbalance in future. This agreement will be subject to review in 2 years' time.
15. The Funders will collect, share and manage personal data through the application process in accordance with any applicable national and EU Data Protection laws.
16. All rights, title and interests in and to any IP (including trademarks and service marks, copyrights, patents, designs, know-how, and confidential information and the subject of such IP, inventions and innovations) disclosed or introduced by a Funder to the other for the purpose of this MoC will remain the property of the Funder disclosing or introducing such rights, title and interest. The Funders will not use or disclose such rights, title and interests in and to any IP to any other person otherwise than for the purpose of this MoC.
17. The Funders will endeavour to promote equitable, inclusive and positive research cultures and environments which seek to ensure the equality of opportunity and the elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and will have policies in place to deal with any such issues which arise.

18 General

- 18.1 Except to the minimum extent necessary to give effect to Clauses 15-17 of this MoC, nothing in this MoC is intended to create legal relations and furthermore will not give rise to any rights and obligations under international law.
- 18.2 The cooperation under this MoC will commence on the date of its last signature by the Funders and will continue for a period of two years. The Funders may extend this MoC upon their mutual written consent.

- 18.3 Either Funder may discontinue this MoC by giving 6 months written notice to the other Funder,
- 18.4 The Funders will make a good faith attempt to resolve any problem or matter arising out of or related to this MoC through the mutual consent of the Funders.
- 18.5 This MoC is signed in two original copies in English, both texts being equally functional.

The Research Council of Norway

Date: 5/10/22

Signature:

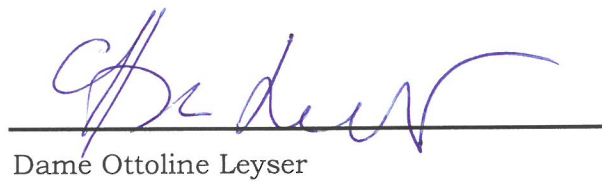


Professor Mari Sundli Tveit
Chief Executive
Research Council of Norway

United Kingdom Research and Innovation

Date: 5/10/22

Signature:



Dame Ottoline Leyser
Chief Executive
UK Research and Innovation

Annex 1: Restrictions on call eligibility for UKRI applicants

The UKRI Research Councils participating in this agreement are the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). This agreement will only apply to calls published by these Research Councils.

For the above Councils, funding calls covered by this agreement will include all calls that are open to the inclusion of Co-Investigators that do not expressly prohibit international collaboration. Applicants should refer to the specific funding call guidance of the call they are applying to for further information.

Annex 2: Restrictions on call eligibility for RCN applicants

This agreement will only apply to calls published by the Research Council of Norway.

Funding calls covered by this agreement will include all calls that allow international collaboration. Applicants should refer to the specific funding call published on the RCN's webpage for further information.

Only research organisations are eligible for funding.