

Frequently asked questions – climate change and modern slavery

Can there be international partners on these calls? Can international partners be the third sector partner?

Yes, international partners are eligible on this call. Projects must be led by a UK higher education institution or independent research organisation eligible to receive UKRI funding and projects must collaborate with at least one UK based third sector organisation. However, projects may also collaborate with international partners on this research. International partners can receive up to 30% of the total project cost at 100% full economic cost. For more details see the call document.

Can businesses be project partners?

Businesses can be partners on these projects. A business's role/tasks in the project will determine if they are eligible for funding (see the call document for full details). We also support businesses being involved in projects by providing in kind support. For specific eligibility advice, please email office@modernslaverypec.org

What is required in the project scope section?

In the project scope section, we are looking to see more detail of the exact question that your research will be considering. For example, are you narrowing the scope to look at one geographical area or exploitation type? The aim is to give the panel a clear idea of what will be included within your project. It helps to determine if the project will meet the aims and objectives of the call, and how it will answer the research questions it sets itself.

Can a project focus on modern slavery responses outside of the UK if it can demonstrate benefit to UK (international) policy?

Yes, it is possible to have a more international focus. Modern Slavery PEC funded work needs to be producing evidence that is of benefit to UK policy makers, so that could include FCDO and the UK's international development policy for example.

What do we understand by “focus on modern slavery” for NGO eligibility?

By this we mean that a partner NGO should have the necessary knowledge and speciality to take part in modern slavery research. Modern slavery may not be the sole focus of the NGO's work, but in setting out the team roles, background and responsibilities you must demonstrate how all of the researchers and partners involved in the project have the skills and experience to complete the project.

Would international travel and subsistence costs for data collection be permitted?

Yes, these would be permitted within this call.

What is meant by a framework to track ESG policies and strategies to better connect environmental issues and impacts along with modern slavery risks?

This is deliberately left open, thinking about how ESG policies can be improved by an evidence-based approach. This might include new ways of measuring and monitoring that could help decision makers improve ESG policies but is left deliberately open for projects to propose an approach.

Do we have a sample application that applicants can look to?

We do not currently provide sample applications due to data sharing restrictions, however in the call document we outline the questions that will be in the application, what we hope to see, and the assessment criteria that the panel will be using when reviewing applications.

Can proposals build on an operational programme? E.g. research carried out to complement an operational programme, adding specific data and evidence to benefit the programme and have policy implications.

Yes, research proposals can build on existing programmes, this should be identified in the application, and applications must demonstrate how the research being applied for demonstrates a new and novel addition to the existing programme.

Who do we consider to be “other decision makers” beyond businesses?

We primarily were referring to businesses as other decision makers, with particular reference to the objective looking at ESG. However, projects might also look at international decision makers in addition to UK based policy impact.

Can applications address both objectives B and C?

Given the size and length of project, we would recommend that applications focus on either objective B or C and not both. If a project focussed on one audience but can also produce recommendations and impacts that address the second objective, this is allowed. We will be looking to ensure that projects are feasible and would like to see a distinct focus within projects to create a portfolio of research.

Glossary of Terms

Principal Investigator (PI) – the lead researcher or academic in charge of the project

Co-investigator(s) (Co-I) – the collaborating researcher(s) or academic(s) working alongside the PI on the project

Project Team – the combination of PI, Co-I(s) and other researchers who are working on the project