**Coast-R Small Grants Fund Round 1 Webinar 7.10.25**

**Questions & Answers:**

**Q: Is someone who is employed in a PDRA role, and has learning and experience equivalent to a PhD, eligible to be named as the lead/co-lead ECR on a project?**

**A:** If the PDRA has been through a process whereby they have had to demonstrate learning and experience equivalent to a PhD in order to secure their role, then they are eligible to be named as the lead/co-lead ECR on a project.

**Q : Is someone who is post-doctoral and employed in a lectureship within a UKRI-eligible organisation eligible to be named as the lead/co-lead ECR on a project ?**

**A :** Yes, ECRs employed in a lectureship by a UKRI-eligible organisation are eligible to be named as lead/co-lead on a project.

**Q : Is someone employed on a part-time contract within a UKRI-eligible organisation eligible to be named as the lead/co-lead ECR on a project?**

**A :** Yes.

**Q : Is someone who has already secured a post-doctoral position within a UKRI eligible organisation, but has not yet completed their PhD (submission & corrections) eligible to be named as the lead/co-lead ECR on a project?**

**A :** No. Someone who has not yet fully completed all stages of their PhD and is still a doctoral candidate (registered on a doctoral programme), is not eligible to be named as the lead/co-lead ECR on a project.

**Q : Can projects include an element of international activity, ie. research and knowledge exchange between nations (outside of the UK home nations)?**

**A :** Due to the nature of Coast-R’s funding from UKRI (which does not have an international remit), we are not able to fund projects where activity substantially takes

place or benefits areas outside of the UK home nations (ie. England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales).

**Q : Are UK local authorities (councils) classed as a UKRI-eligible organisations?**

**A :** No. Please see the latest list of eligible organisations published by UKRI (updated January 2025): [Research organisations eligible for UKRI funding – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/publications/organisation-eligibility/research-organisations-eligible-for-ukri-funding/) Local authorities are not classed as eligible organisations by UKRI.

**Q : Can salary costs for researchers based at NGOs that are not UKRI-eligible organisations be included?**

**A :** Partner costs (including salary costs) for partner organisations which are not UKRI-eligible organisations may be included in broader project costings. However, please note the following points :

* Where they are included, partner costings must follow the rules set out in the ESRC’s Policy on inclusion of Co-Leads from UK Business, Third Sector or Government Organisations, link here : [Inclusion of business, third sector or government body Co-Is on ESRC proposals](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/ESRC-050625-Project-Co-Leads-from-UK-Business-Third-Sector-or-Government-Organisations-Policy.pdf)
* Under these rules, partner costs which can be included may be restricted or limited, and may be restricted further if the organisation in question has previously received funding which could be classed as a Subsidy under the UK Subsidy Control Act 2022. Please ensure that you read this guidance thoroughly and adhere to these rules in the inclusion of any partner costs.
* ECR project leads/co-leads must be employed by a UKRI-eligible organisation.

**Further note on eligibility of lead applicant organisations** : Whilst we strongly encourage partnership working within projects, for this funding round *it is essential that the lead applicant organisation is a UKRI-eligible organisation.* For a full list of these, please consult the most recent list of eligible organisations here : [Research organisations eligible for UKRI funding – UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/publications/organisation-eligibility/research-organisations-eligible-for-ukri-funding/)