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PCAN Flexible Fund 2021 FAQs

Application FAQs

1. When is the closing date and at what time on that date? *The closing date is Tuesday 28th September, applications may be submitted up to 11.59pm.*
2. The application form refers to PCAN objectives – where can I find these? *These are published below at Annex A.*
3. Do you have an offline version of the application form questions please? *These are listed below at Annex B.*
4. Are you able to provide any specific guidance for applicants further to that on the call? *We are unable to provide specific guidance as each application will be different. However if you have a question that is not covered in these FAQs please email* [*pcan@lse.ac.uk*](mailto:pcan@lse.ac.uk) *and we will do our best to respond.*
5. Are the 2000 characters per box on the application form inclusive of spaces? *Yes*
6. Is there any time limit on project duration? *We expect the projects to start spring 2022 with completion no later than November 2023.*
7. Can a lead organisation submit more than one Expression of Interest/Project? *Yes*
8. Can an organisation be involved in more than one Expression of Interest/Project? *Yes*

Eligibility FAQs

1. I’ve seen the call is orientated towards Early Career Researchers, can you advise the criteria for an ECR? *Our criteria for an Early Career Researcher is someone who has obtained their PhD within the last 5 years with a minimum of having submitted at the time of application.*
2. Are NHS organisations eligible to apply for the funding call? *The call is open to all organisations*.
3. Are Local Authorities able to express an interest or do projects have to be University led? *The call is open to all and does not need to be university led.*
4. Is there any eligibility guidance around an applicant’s contract status with their university? *We expect applicants to have an employment contract for the duration of the project.*
5. We are based in the UK but one of our partners would be outside the UK – would their inclusion be an issue? *Having a non UK partner in your proposal would not be an issue providing the project was UK led.*
6. Would a project be eligible that involved research in a local authority beyond the PCAN network cities of Edinburgh, Leeds and Belfast? *Projects are eligible as long as they address one of the issues listed on the project call.*

Financial FAQs

1. What is the value of the award? *The size of each grant will be in the region of £5k - £35K.*
2. What is the value of the PCAN Fellowships? *The value of the Fellowship is not fixed - the applicant will need to specify how much they are applying for in their proposal as it will depend on how much of their time they wish to commit to the Fellowship (typically around 2 days per week). The size of each grant will be in the region of £5k - £35K.*
3. Will you pay salaries for Fellowships? *We anticipate using Brunswick style agreements for our Fellowships as they will be linked to research terms and conditions, we are unable to set these up as Consultancy agreements.*
4. Is the fund able to pay for direct on-costs for staff, i.e. their appropriate contribution to organisational overheads (office, governance, insurance etc). *No, the fund cannot cover these costs.*
5. What percentage of FEC will be covered by a Fellowship award? *100% of the FEC would be covered by the Fund however no estate or indirect costs are allowed.*
6. Could you give an example of where an honorarium would be paid to compensate for an applicant’s time? *The honorariums would be paid where a PI wished to be reimbursed for time spent working on the funded project.*

Other

1. Are you able to disclose what the reporting and monitoring arrangements are? *The PCAN fund is ESRC funded therefore subject to ESRC rules and expectations, including reporting and making any reports or outputs from the project freely available through UKRI platforms ie Gateway to Research.*
2. What are the types of PCAN activities in which participation is expected by the Fellowship? *The sort of activities we would expect Fellows to participate in include webinars and writing commentaries but the main idea of participation in PCAN activities is to ensure the Fellow is integrated in the PCAN team and feels they can contribute to our strategic thinking on place-based climate action, becoming part of the PCAN core network.*

Annex A (PCAN Objectives) and Annex B (list of application questions) follow on separate pages.

Annex A

**PCAN Objectives**

PCAN will help to accelerate and sustain the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient society in five key ways:

1. Creating platforms for engagement: We will support the local delivery of national climate targets by developing five innovative platforms (three city commissions and two thematic platforms), which will be structured fora for sustained two-way, multi-level engagement and the co-creation and sharing of knowledge. The platforms will bring together academics, private decision makers, national and sub-national policy makers, and thought-leaders from the third sector.

2. Reaching new stakeholders: By developing place-based platforms for engagement, and supporting their replication elsewhere, we will extend our reach beyond the usual core groups and involve stakeholders from a diverse range of places and spanning different scales (e.g., private / public / 3rd sector; small / large; local / national / international).

3. Building capacity: We will enhance the capacity of private, public and third-sector stakeholders to take informed climate action by creating platforms where they can exchange views, explore options and identify good practice, and by offering analytical support to those platforms. We will help early career researchers through the award of small grants and by offering career development to the group of Network Analysts who support the platforms.

4. Impacting the debate: We will inform the UK's transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient economy at the local and national level and support the UK's international position as a world leader in climate change policy and clean growth. We do this by co-creating, synthesising and communicating timely, decision-relevant analysis to a wide range of decision makers.

5. Ensuring leverage and replication: We will leverage the existing strengths in our host institutions and other ESRC investments to maximise our joint impact. We intend the engagement platforms we develop to endure and function beyond this initial grant, while responding to evolving demands. We will promote their replication through the creation of local climate commissions in other places.

Annex B

List of Application Questions

THESE ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO DRAFT THEIR RESPONSES OFFLINE – APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE USING THE ONLINE FORM VIA [THIS LINK](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/pcanfund2021/)

**Project/Fellowship Title**

**Proposal Category (Please tick only one box. If you are submitting an application for an Early Career Researcher Fellowship please tick the Fellowship box. If you are submitting a Project proposal please tick the project category you are applying for: \***

**PCAN Fellowship**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  | PCAN Early Career Research Fellowship |

**PCAN Fund Project**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Evaluating the wider impact of Climate Commissions |
|  | Delivering climate action at the local level |
|  | Exploring the co-benefits of climate action |
|  | Place-based climate action in rural areas |
|  | Other innovative proposals on place-based climate action in the UK. |

**Project description / Fellowship outline (2000 characters max) NB. Please indicate how the work would be carried out under a continuing Covid situation. \***

**Expected outcome/contribution to PCAN objectives (2000 characters max) \***

**Name of Fellow / Project Leader (Name, position and brief biography): \***

**Other team members/project partners (Names, positions, if applicable): \***

**Project duration**

**Expected Start Date: \***

**Expected completion date: \***

**Indicative budget (maximum of GBP 35,000) Note: The funding is at 100%, but we are not able to pay indirect costs or estate costs. Should these costs be incurred they would have to be covered by the host institution. \***

**Contact details: Name/Email/Phone No.**