

Funding Opportunity Announcement

UKRI: Enhancing biomedical and health-related data and digital platform resources

The UK Medical Research Council (MRC) have announced a pilot funding opportunity: [Enhancing biomedical and health-related data and digital platform resources](#). Access to reliable, annotated, and usable data at scale underpins recent advances in analytical capabilities, such as advanced statistical techniques, large language models and deep learning. The need for harmonised digital research infrastructures (DRIs), services, tools and standards to support biomedical science, health, and care research continues to increase.

This funding opportunity aims to invest in enhancing DRIs, services, tools and standards that are outward facing and create a stimulating environment for all participants, from those delivering a harmonised and seamless data infrastructure ecosystem to those who will utilise this ecosystem to advance UK life sciences, health and care research and innovation.

Award details:

- The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to £3,750,000
- Project period of up to five years

The funding will cover costs such as:

- directly allocated contributions to salaries of the leadership team and other established specialists and researchers
- directly incurred salaries of other specialists and research staff where there is a clear justification for their critical role in delivering the activity
- technology or equipment to provide accessible facilities and capability essential to the mission and to promote open science when not available elsewhere
- data preservation, data sharing and dissemination (but not publication) costs
- knowledge transfer and exchange activities, including adoption, evaluation and commercialisation
- external stakeholder activities including public engagement and involvement
- travel costs
- costs for innovative training and capacity building when not available elsewhere
- costs to improve environmental sustainability of DRIs
- directly incurred costs for international partners (an exception funded at 100%) may be requested, although we expect most costs to be incurred by UK organisations

Submission Deadlines:

This proposal requires the PI to complete an online application on the [UKRI Funding Service](#), as well as requesting institutional approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration ([eRA](#)) system, prior to submission of the application.

	Deadline
PI to initiate an eRA Preliminary Proposal Approval request and alert their Senior Finance Officer* of the budgetary support needed no later than	07 May 2024
PI to submit an eRA Preliminary Proposal Approval request with a draft budget to the Budget Reviewer step on eRA no later than	28 May 2024
PI to submit an eRA Preliminary Proposal Approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA no later than	04 June 2024
PI to submit the application on the funder portal (UKRI Funding Service) no later than	11 June 2024
RC&I to action the final submission on the funder portal no later than	18 June 2024

Funder deadline	18 June 2024
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***Campus hub:** contact Joy.Joachims@uct.ac.za; **Red Cross/Old Main Building:** contact fhsombf-preawds01@uct.ac.za and copy Anvor.Wevers@uct.ac.za

Please complete this FHS [Intention-to-Submit form](#) if you intend applying for this call. Please note that completion of this form is for the purposes of internal support and tracking, it is not linked to funder application processes and does not commit you to applying to this opportunity.

For any queries, please contact the [Research Development Team](#)