



Frequently Asked Questions: NuSec Research Collaboration Grants

This document provides answers to questions and supplements the information provided in the [NuSec Research Collaboration Grant – Application Guidance](#)

Collaboration

Is collaboration with US partners still mandatory?

No, we have widened the scope of the previous NuSec UK-US collaboration scheme so that now you can apply for grant funding without a US partner. The grants support UK researchers working in areas of nuclear security and non-proliferation, either for collaborative work with colleagues in the US, or for research activities solely in the UK.

Is the previous NuSec UK-US Collaboration Grant scheme still open?

No, we have replaced the previous UK-US Collaboration Grant with this revised NuSec Research Collaboration Grant. Applicants should use the new application form to apply.

Has the scope of the US collaboration widened to include DTRA?

Yes, applicants can apply to collaborate with either the 3 NNSA consortia, or with the 2 DTRA University Research Alliances, provided that the topic of the proposed work is nuclear security and non-proliferation.

Can UK researchers attend NNSA/DTRA Consortia Summer schools?

Yes. Though you will need to check with the organiser of the Summer School to confirm: - whether the school will be running online or in person, if there will be any charges or constraints on student numbers and any planned experiments / laboratory work.

Applications

Can I submit my application well before the current stated deadlines?

Yes, you are welcome to submit your application before the stated deadline, but your application will not be considered until after the deadline.

Can a postdoc or student submit an application?

No, the application must be submitted on behalf of a student or postdoc by an academic member of staff or for a government laboratory by a senior researcher.

Can I apply for more than one type of funding on the same application form?

Yes, you can apply for more than type of funding e.g., a PDRA project combined with a travel grant.

Can I submit more than one grant application?

Yes, you may submit more than one grant application, but preference will be given to applicants who have not yet received one of our Collaboration Grants or if a subsequent application is a further development of a previous NuSec collaboration award e.g., Travel grant for Research visits leads to the development of a PDRA application.

Awards

Will the NuSec award only cover 80% of the project costs?

Yes, the NuSec award will cover 80% of the overall eligible project costs. Therefore, the host institution is expected to provide the 20% shortfall in the funding. This applies for all types of grants, e.g., travel grants as well as postdoc salary.

Will NuSec fund the full Economic Costs (FEC) of Postdoctoral Research Projects (PDRAs)?

As of 7th October 2022, NuSec will fund the FEC of PDRAs. Overheads and estate costs are now eligible project costs for PDRA applications.

What employer salary costs can I claim?

You can claim for employer salary costs to cover the employer contributions for NI and USS pension. These will be awarded at 80% of the requested value, in the same way as all other costs.

How will Awards be given?

Applications will be assessed by the NuSec Management group, with input from a senior member of the collaborating US consortium for more major grant applications. You will be notified by e mail of the outcome of your application. Successful applicants will receive a contract (Collaboration Agreement) for signature from the University of Surrey Legal department that will reflect standard Surrey and STFC standard terms and conditions.

Payment

Will my award be paid upfront?

No. Payments will be made upon the submission of a certified statement of actual expenditure and an invoice from your University Finance office.

When can I submit an Invoice?

All invoices must be received within 3 months of the project end date. After this date, the award will be deemed to have ceased.

Liability

What are the liability obligations?

Liability is limited to the value of the grant,

Award recipients will be invited and are expected to attend an annual NuSec Science Network Workshop to present the research generated by their Collaboration grant award.