**Call guidelines**

**Background**

NEUROMOD+ brings together neurotechnology stakeholders to focus on the co-creation of next generation, minimally invasive brain stimulation technologies. The network focuses on transformative research, new collaborations, and facilitating responsible innovation, encouraging partnership with bioethicists and policy makers throughout the technological development process. Read more about our aims and vision at <https://neuromodplus.org/>.

**Scope**

We invite applications from teams of researchers for proposals of two types:

* **Multi-investigator feasibility studies** to investigate potential new neuromodulation techniques or applications or improve our understanding of the neuroscience underpinning existing techniques.

For projects costing up to **£80,000** at 100% FEC. Neuromod will award at 80% FEC. 12 months max duration.

* **Flexible awards** to cover research costs for a smaller pilot study, or to fund another activity towards the network aims, such as a public engagement project or demonstration.

For projects costing up to **£20,000** at 100% FEC. Neuromod+ will award at 80% FEC. 12 months max duration.

We expect to award two multi-investigator awards and up to four flexible awards this round.

Proposals must address the remit of Neuromod+: to address the challenge of minimally invasive treatments for brain disorders, and research to be carried out must also be within the EPSRC remit. Projects should involve non-invasive or minimally invasive neuromodulation. A project involving a reduction in invasiveness of a neuromodulation technique might be within remit, but one that simply involves invasive neuromodulation, with the novel aspect being some other aspect such as e.g. closed loop, would not be within remit. We aim to prioritise projects which involve modulation of the central nervous system (CNS), as opposed to the peripheral nervous system (PNS) (while recognising that there are different routes to CNS modulation).

**Cross-network proposals**

Five networks were funded in the EPSRC/MRC “Building responsible neurotechnology research capability” call:

1. [Chronic Pain Neurotechnology Network](https://cpnn.ac.uk/)
2. [Closed-loop Neural Interface Technologies (Close-NIT)](https://research.ncl.ac.uk/close-nit/)
3. [NeuroMod+](https://neuromodplus.org)
4. [Neurotechnology for enabling community-based diagnosis and care (N-CODE)](https://www.n-code.org/)
5. [RESPECT 4 Neurodevelopment](https://respect4neurodevelopment.com/)

Projects that the panel considers are more within the remit of another network than of NeuroMod+ will be looked on more favourably if they have matched funding from the other relevant network.

**Eligibility**

* **You must read the** [**EPSRC eligibility criteria**](https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-funding/) **before applying**
* Applicants (investigators) must meet the eligibility criteria as above. However, projects will ideally involve collaboration with colleagues who may not meet these criteria (eg clinicians, early career researchers, those from industry/charity/patient groups, those with lived experience). Please include these contributors in the **Collaborators** section of your proposal, to give us a full picture of your team
* Investigators must be Neuromod+ members. If you haven’t already, [sign up for free](https://neuromodplus.org/join-us/)
* Investigators can lead one proposal per round and be involved in a maximum of three

**Funding**

* Proposals must give costs at 100% FEC but **awards will be made at 80% FEC**
* Costings must be approved by your research office (or equivalent) before submitting
* Funds will be awarded by Neuromod+ to the lead investigator. They will be responsible for distributing funds to co-investigators as necessary
* A collaboration agreement will normally need to be put in place between participating institutions before funding can be transferred

**Submission and review**

* **Please email applications to** [**k.hobson@imperial.ac.uk**](mailto:k.hobson@imperial.ac.uk) **by 30 June 2024**
* Applications will be reviewed by a panel of Neuromod+ PIs plus additional members to ensure breadth of experience
* Outcomes will be announced in August 2024

**Reporting requirements**

* Awardees will be required to report on project progress, finances and outcomes, as required by Neuromod+ and the originating funders, EPSRC and MRC. Full details of reporting requirements will be provided at award stage

**Application form**

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| WHICH TYPE OF FUNDING ARE YOU APPLYING FOR? Please tick to confirm | |
| MULTI-INVESTIGATOR AWARD for FEASIBILITY STUDIES (up to £80,000) |  |
| FLEXIBLE AWARD (up to £20,000) |  |

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| APPLICANT DETAILS |

**Eligibility information reminder**

* Applicants must meet the [EPSRC eligibility criteria](https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-funding/) to be an investigator.
* Postdocs or equivalent are not normally eligible to be investigators/co-investigators but may be eligible to be researcher-investigators if their time is costed on the project (see EPSRC criteria).
* Contributors who do not meet the EPSRC criteria should be included in the “Collaborators” section

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| Investigators |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Name | Organisation (inc. dept) | Current role | Email |
| Principal (lead) investigator |  |  |  |  |
| Investigator 2 |  |  |  |  |
| Investigator 3 |  |  |  |  |
| Investigator 4 |  |  |  |  |

(add more rows if needed)

|  |
| --- |
| Collaborators |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Name | Organisation (inc. dept) | Current role | Email |
| Collaborator 1 |  |  |  |  |
| Collaborator 2 |  |  |  |  |
| Collaborator 3 |  |  |  |  |
| Collaborator 4 |  |  |  |  |

(add more rows if needed)

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| PROJECT DETAILS |

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| --- | --- |
| Project title |  |
| Proposed start date |  |
| Duration |  |
| Total cost (at 100%) |  |
| Summary  (max 150 words) This should be broadly understandable to an educated lay-person |  |

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| Proposal |

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| What is the problem you are trying to solve, or need you are trying to meet? (max 200 words)  Why is your project important? How will it address responsible innovation? |
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| Plan of work (max 350 words)  How will you implement the project? How will you ensure that the project can be realistically achieved in the proposed timeframe? |
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| Project team (max 150 words)  What roles will investigators and collaborators take in the project, how will they complement each other and add value? Highlight how your project involves co-creation. |
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| Impact (max 200 words)  What are the expected outcomes of your project and what is the impact? |
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| How will your project consider and encourage equality, diversity and inclusion? (max 150 words)  For example, how might you include diverse perspectives in the project? How will technology developed be inclusive and accessible to different users? How might you encourage participation from underrepresented groups or challenge research bias? Read the [EPSRC equality, diversity and inclusion action plan](https://www.ukri.org/publications/epsrc-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-action-plan-2022-to-2025/epsrc-three-year-edi-action-plan-2022-to-2025/) here. |
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| How does your project fits with the aims of Neuromod+ (max 150 words)  Note our guidelines about applying to multiple networks. Have you submitted this proposal to any other Network+ funding call? If so, have you been awarded funding? |
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| Figure (optional)  You may add one related figure (with caption) here if you wish. Alternatively, you can add your figure as a separate attachment (eg image file) to the email when you submit. If attaching separately, please note below. |
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| PROJECT COSTS |

Please provide a breakdown of your expected expenditure **at** **full economic cost (100% FEC)** but note that Neuromod+ will fund at 80% FEC. For staff costs/PI time, please give name, duration and % FTE if possible. For other costs/equipment, please provide a short description.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Item/resource | Estimated cost £ (100%) | Comments/description | |
| Directly incurred | **Staff costs** |  |  | |
| **Travel & subsistence** |  |  | |
| **Other costs (includes equipment/consumables)** |  |  | |
| Directly allocated | **PI time** |  |  | |
| **Estates** |  |  | |
| **Other costs (infrastructure technicians/ facilities)** |  |  | |
| Indirect | Indirect costs |  |  | |
| TOTAL COST at 100% | |  | **Amount at 80%** |  |

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| Please justify your proposed expenditure (max 200 words) |
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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CONDITIONS OF FUNDING | Please tick to confirm and add required contact details: | | | |
| I have listed my project costs at 100% FEC but understand that Neuromod+ will fund at 80% FEC | | |  |
| This application and my costings have been approved by my university Research Office (or equivalent) | | |  |
| Finance contact: | Name: | Email: | |
| I understand that a collaboration agreement may need to be put in place between participating organisations before funding can be transferred | | |  |
| Contracts team contact: | Name: | Email: | |

**Please email your completed application to** [**k.hobson@imperial.ac.uk**](mailto:k.hobson@imperial.ac.uk) **by 30 June 2024 (17.00)**