Public Support for Research Funding: Opportunities for Collaboration Between UK and Brazilian Researchers

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UK Research and Innovation

The UK’s largest public funder of research and innovation (R&I), uniting nine councils that span all sectors and disciplines.

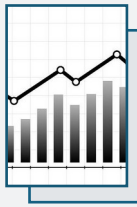
We are a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), funded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).



We fund UK institutions, while encouraging international collaboration.

The Strategic Importance of International Collaboration to UKRI

- Global challenges demand strong international research partnerships.



Climate change transcends national borders



Pandemics transcend national borders



Energy transition is globally interconnected



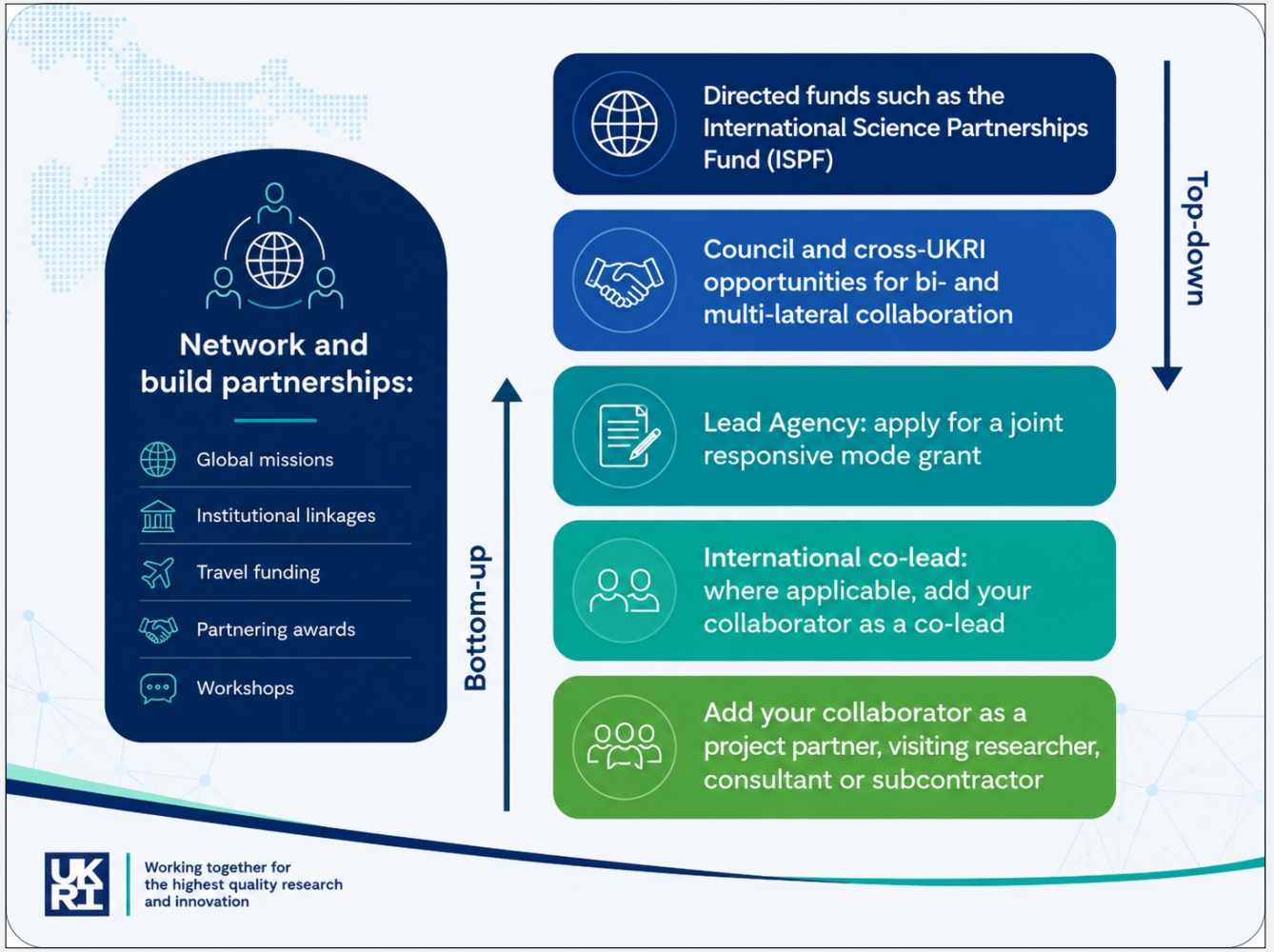
Biodiversity loss affects us all

High-impact research increasingly depends on:
• access to diverse datasets
• field sites outside the UK
• complementary expertise
• global networks

- UKRI's mandate is excellence, and international collaboration strengthens excellence
- International research partnerships can drive economic growth and strengthen global engagement
- International collaboration also builds trust and strengthens global research systems

Supporting UK-Brazil Collaboration: Track Record and Funding Mechanisms

- UKRI has a longstanding commitment to UK-Brazil collaboration, driving scientific excellence and innovation through strong partnerships.
- Between 2015 and 2025, UKRI invested over £252 million across 436 awards involving Brazil.
- Top five research areas by commitment value: geography and environmental sciences, social work and social policy, engineering, biological sciences, and public health, health sciences and primary care.

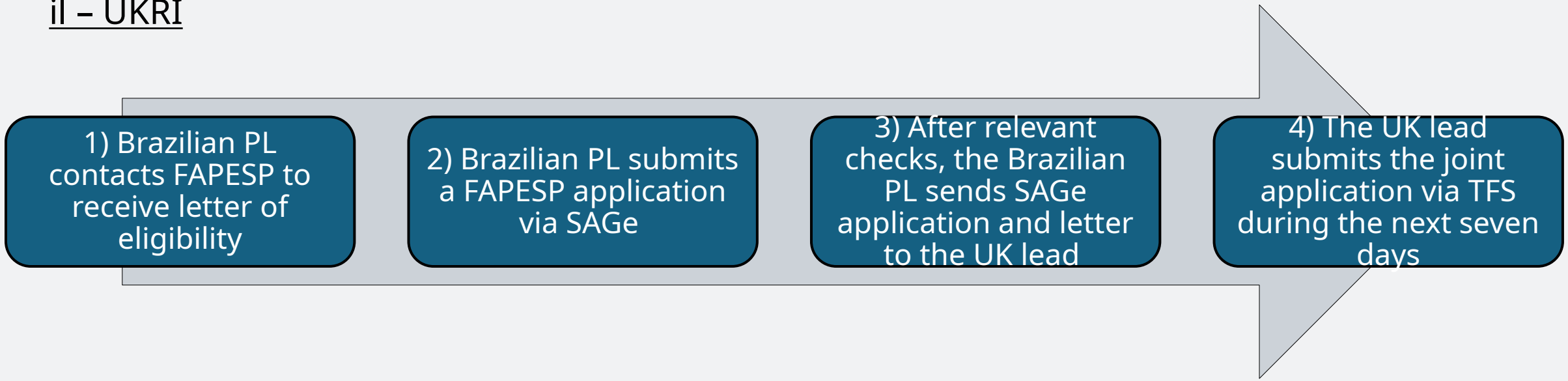


UKRI's approach to supporting international collaboration

https://www.ukri.org/publications/explainer-our-support-for-international-research-and-innovation/

Enabling Collaboration Through Cross-Council Lead Agency Agreements

- Lead Agency Agreements facilitate international research partnerships by enabling joint proposals to be reviewed through one lead funder.
- More information on how to apply can be found here Collaborate with researchers in Braz il – UKRI



- UKRI and FAPESP have recently renewed their MoU to support collaborative applications
- Applications under the agreement can be submitted until December 2030
- The agreement applies to the councils: AHRC, BBSRC, ESRC, EPSRC, MRC, NERC, and STFC

Project Co-Lead (International): Enabling Global Research Collaboration

- The Project Co-Lead (International) role enables eligible international researchers to contribute as recognised leaders on UKRI-funded projects.
- Project Co-Leads (International) from any country can be supported through UKRI funding where their contribution and associated costs are clearly justified.
- Eligible costs for Project Co-Leads (International) are capped at 30% of the total project cost at 100% full economic cost (fEC).

Participating UKRI research councils:
• Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
• Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
• Medical Research Council (MRC)

• The Project Co-Lead (International) role allows UKRI applicants to request funding for eligible costs incurred by overseas collaborators who make a substantive contribution to the project.

Travel and Placement Grants: Enabling Global Research Collaboration

EPSRC Overseas Travel Grants (Link)

- These grants provide funding for overseas visits to learn new techniques and establish or develop research collaborations
- Single visits are typically up to six months, and multiple visits are up to twelve months in total
- No upper funding cap applies

BBSRC International Travel Award Scheme (Link)

- Enables researchers to add an international dimension to their BBSRC-funded research, by establishing new contacts with international counterparts
- Visits abroad may last up to one month
- The full economic cost (fEC) can be up to £3,000

- These are small-scale funding programmes designed to catalyse international research collaboration
- These opportunities are representative examples and are not intended to be exhaustive.

Seed and Network Awards: Enabling Global Research Collaboration

EPSRC International Centre to Centre (Link)

- Programme aims to provide leading UK research groups with the opportunity to work in partnership with the best international researchers
- Awards during the last round could be up to £1,800,000, with EPSRC funding at 80% fEC
- Projects are ordinarily 3–5 years long

NERC Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund (Environmental Sciences) (Link)

- Enables UK researchers to develop new international partnerships and networks, which underpin the development of long-term sustainable collaborations
- Applications including partners from Brazil may be eligible for co-funding from FAPESP
- Awards can last up to two years, with NERC able to fund costs up to £100,000 at 80% fEC

- These are high-profile funding programmes that enable ambitious international research partnerships
- These opportunities are representative examples and are not intended to be exhaustive.

Seed and Network Awards: Enabling Global Research Collaboration

BBSRC Brazil Pump-Priming Award (Link)

- Short-term funding to initiate or strengthen collaborations between BBSRC-funded and FAPESP-funded researchers
- Up to £35,000 for travel and subsistence and other collaborative activities, such as workshops or exchanges
- Projects can be up to two years long

AHRC Curiosity Award (Link)

- Flexible awards that fund fundamental research leading to further research opportunities
- Awards can be up to £100,000, with AHRC covering 80% of costs
- Awards can last up to five years, and applications can include international co-leads

- These opportunities offer flexible support for building and strengthening research collaborations between the UK and Brazil
- These opportunities are representative examples and are not intended to be exhaustive.

Project Partners, Visiting Researchers and Contractors

- Bottom-up approaches enable collaboration with partners across most UKRI grant funding schemes.
- UK applicants can include international partners as Project Partners and request funding to support visiting researchers for short stays, typically up to 12 months.
- Many grants also cover other collaboration-related costs, such as travel for UK researchers to visit partner labs.

Eligible costs across most UKRI grants
• Travel for UK researchers to partner labs
• Extended overseas visits
• Hosting visiting researchers
• Consumables while UK researchers are working overseas
• Costs of international researchers while within the UK

• It should be clear that international collaboration, particularly with Brazil, is an integral part of UKRI's research and innovation portfolio.

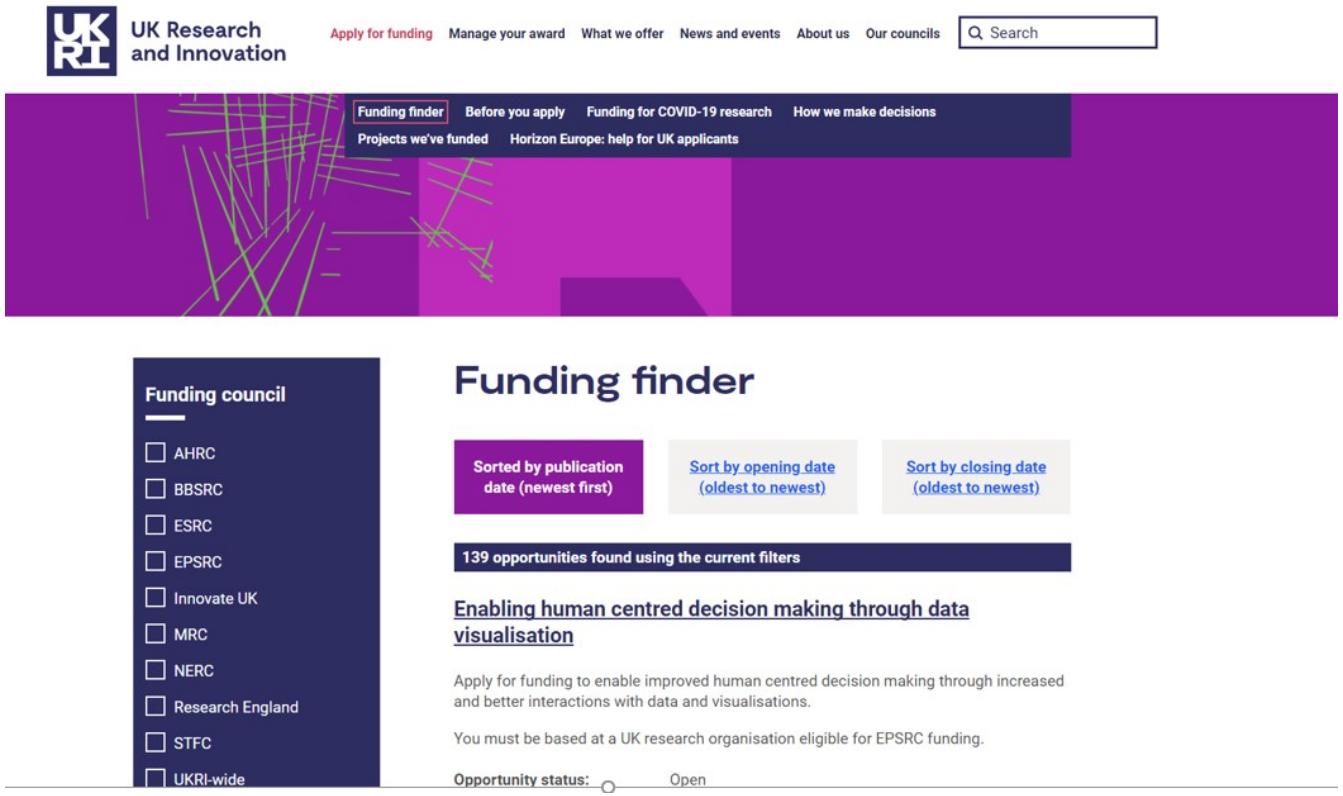
• A recent MoU renewal with FAPESP targeted funding opportunities and collaboration mechanisms embedded across most UKRI awards demonstrate UKRI's commitment to international partnership.

Funding Finder

All UKRI funding opportunities can now be found in one place on our website. You can filter by country, council, type of funding and sort by publication date.

[Opportunities – UKRI]

[Future research and innovation funding opportunities – UKRI]



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Are there any questions?

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