

MENASP-CP GCRF RESEARCH FUND

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

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www.menasp.com

These FAQs are intended to supplement provided in the [MENASP-CP GCRF Research Fund](#) application pack. We encourage prospective applicants to carefully read through all relevant documents on the web page, and these FAQs below, before submitting a funding application.

These FAQs will be updated regularly.

1. Who can apply?

Researchers and practitioners can apply. Your work must be focused on the MENA region, relating to social policy and/or conflict prevention. Lead or sole applicants must be from the UK or a MENA based [DAC listed](#) country. If you are not based in the UK or a DAC listed country (i.e. from Europe, US, Canada, Australia, etc) you cannot apply alone and must have a lead partner from the UK or DAC listed country. Government officials in any country are not able to apply for funding.

2. Is a UK partner required?

A UK partner is not required; however, the lead or sole applicant must be based in the UK or a MENA DAC listed country. The Network will work closely with awardees to ensure there is collaboration and appropriate guidance provided.

3. Which countries of focus are covered in the call?

Middle East and North African region with a preference for conflict affected states.

4. Can I apply for a project in Iraq?

We will accept applications focused on countries such as Iraq that are currently subject to UK sanctions. Applicants must be aware, however, that there may be additional processes to be followed that ensure the financing, safeguarding and other project activities meet our due diligence requirements. A full list of countries subject to sanctions can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-sanctions-regime-specific-consolidated-lists-and-releases>

5. I am a researcher, but currently not affiliated with any institution, can I apply?

Due to the due diligence restrictions, applicants must be based at or affiliated with an eligible institution and not apply as a freelancer or team of freelancers. All funds will be managed by the institution and as such affiliates

should be aware of this. Please see the eligibility check document here: <https://www.menasp.com/en/funding-opportunities/> for further details on eligible institutions.

6. I am a Principal Investigator from an eligible institution (UK or MENA DAC list based), do I need to be in partnership with another institution?

No. Partnerships are not required, though collaboration is encouraged. Please be aware funding is ring-fenced for MENA-led proposals.

7. How do we factor in the extreme fluctuation in inflation and exchange rates?

We understand this is an important consideration for everyone as we too are finding while managing the whole MENASP project. All direct and indirect costs must be included in the £50,000 budget cap and we advise applicants to consider and prepare for exchange rate fluctuations when estimating costs, using a prudent exchange rate when converting costs into GBP. A reasonable and fully justified contingency may be considered for the purpose of exchange rate fluctuations, if included within the total budget limit, however this should be proportionate. Projects should use the budgeting process and justifications to help identify what is achievable in this call and not overstretch activities or budget items.

8. I applied in Round 1 and I was/was not successful can I apply again?

We will welcome applicants from Round 1 of funding who were either successful or unsuccessful. Applicants should take care to make sure the new proposal for Round 2 fits the remit of this specific funding call and not just re-submit projects. If applicants were successful in Round 1, the project should contribute something new – we are not able to fund follow-on or impact funding for the Round 1 project.

9. What should the proposal focus on?

Your proposal should relate to the Research Fund's Call Concept note which includes the Fund's core aims and research questions.

10. Do I need to have a PhD to be eligible to apply?

While it is encouraged to have a PHD or be a PHD student as a minimum level of experience for applicants, we will accept the equivalent in research experience if this can be demonstrated in your CV and application. PHD related costs and projects that form the PHD's methodology will not be eligible.

11. Are there are instances where hospitality costs are eligible?

Hospitality costs are generally not eligible, however in exceptional circumstances, small justifiable hospitality costs may be considered if essential to the running of an activity in your project. Please email menasp_network@bath.ac.uk for clarity.

12. Does MENASP support experimental methodologies such as using AI as a research method?

Yes, we are looking for innovative and creative proposals. Please note the eligible and ineligible costs in the Call Description document to ensure costs related to innovative forms of research is acceptable.

13. What definition of social policies are you accepting?

You are expected to show engagement with the literature. Useful starting points are the work of Armando Barrientos on social protection or the work of Rana Jawad on social policies in MENA. Please search the MENASP network digital library for useful resources too.

14. What do you mean by an Ethics Review?

This is the process of assessing the potential ethical considerations when conducting research involving humans or animals. Each proposal should consider the potential harm or bias that could be at place in the research, i.e. appropriate interview settings and consent for children or vulnerable adults. The proposal requires some Ethical consideration and processes in place. The review process of application may also involve an Ethics interview to establish what form of review is required for the proposal in question. For instance, the proposal may have to be put before the University of Bath's ethics review committee. For more information, please watch our Ethics guidance videos found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V69KkmfagZY>.

15. What should I do about COVID and activity planning?

Given the increased uncertainty surrounding in-person events, travel, and other factors due to COVID, please ensure you are factoring in contingency plans for all activities. Where possible please include this in your explanation of planned activities. The Network will also work with successful proposals on ensuring plans factor for contingency and risks, however it is encouraged to show evidence of this in your proposals.

16. What is Due Diligence?

Due diligence is the checks the MENASP Network via the University of Bath have to undertake to ensure that the applicant is able to perform the tasks they have set out, manage the funding appropriately and has the capacity to meet the deadlines set. Successful applicants will go through due diligence before being awarded the funding and starting their activities. Full details on the due diligence process are provided in the supporting resources on the website page here: <https://www.menasp.com/en/funding-opportunities/>

17. Can I conduct the research in Arabic?

The application, reporting and dissemination to the funder (MENASP) must be in English. Research can be conducted in Arabic; however, you will need to arrange translation for your research.

18. Who should I contact if I have a question?

Please contact the MENASP team at menasp_network@bath.ac.uk.

Should you have any enquires regarding the call, please send an email to: menasp_network@bath.ac.uk quoting reference **MENASPCP03/30** in the subject.

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