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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE OF THESE GUIDELINES

These guidelines explain what we’re looking for in an Expression of Interest application to the Accelerator Award. If you’re not sure which kind of funding to apply for, please email grants helpline, with a short summary of your research idea.

To get your application right first time, you will need to read these Application Guidelines (including the eGMS guidelines) and the Costs Guidance. You can access these by clicking on the icons below.

![eGMS guidelines](image)

![Costs Guidance](image)

2. ABOUT THE CRUK-FC AECC-AIRC JOINT PARTNERSHIP

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) recognises that cancer research is a global endeavour and is continually looking for new opportunities to facilitate collaboration that will significantly benefit the field. As such, we have partnered with Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC) and Fundación Científica de la Asociacion Española Contra el Cáncer (FC AECC) to fund the Accelerator Award, to catalyse progress in cancer research in areas of shared priority. The funding partnership will facilitate international collaboration, bringing together leading scientists and research locations; enable access to a wide pool of expertise and resources; and support translational cancer research for patient benefit.
2.1.1. ABOUT CANCER RESEARCH UK

Cancer Research UK’s vision is to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured. In its research strategy, CRUK has clearly articulated its ambition to accelerate the progress of cancer research over the next 20 years so that, by 2034, three in four people diagnosed with cancer will survive for at least ten years. Its ambitions will be achieved by funding a broad range of high quality research to help better understand, prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

2.1.2. ABOUT ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER LA RICERCA SUL CANCRO

Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro uses its funds to support cancer research in Italy. Its mission is to understand, prevent and cure cancer through research and outreach activities. AIRC aims to find solutions to challenges in cancer research, awarding grants to the most deserving projects, as well as supporting training fellowships. AIRC is collaborating with other international cancer research charities and organisations to accelerate the attainment of its mission. You can read more about its research strategy here.

2.1.3. ABOUT FUNDACIÓN CIENTÍFICA DE LA ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA CONTRA EL CÁNCER

Fundación Científica de la Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer’s vision is to reduce the impact of cancer by accelerating scientific findings, promoting innovation and consolidating cancer research within Spain. It aims to meet these objectives by funding high quality projects at all stages of cancer, and promoting scientific talent. Its strategic priorities include globalisation, clinical research, as well as research in rare cancers. You can find more details about the FC AECC’s research strategy here.

3. THE ACCELERATOR AWARD

3.1 WHAT WE WANT TO SEE FROM APPLICANTS

The Accelerator Award is funded through a partnership between Cancer Research UK (CRUK), Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC) and Fundación Científica de la Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer (FC AECC).

Enabling team science across the UK, Spain and Italy, the Accelerator Award allows you to develop the tools and resources that will unlock new research into unanswered questions about cancer.

Accelerator Awards should outline the scientific question(s) that the proposal would help unlock clearly at the outset to provide context for the application, although the proposal should
not aim to answer directly a research question(s) \(^1\). To convey the added value of the collaboration, teams should demonstrate that their tool/resource is of a breadth and scale that would not be possible to develop in isolation. They should also describe how their proposal will advance cancer research and how the outputs of the award will contribute to the scientific community\(^2\), as well as patient and public benefit.

Accelerator Awards enable the scientific community to respond agilely to opportunities that arise in the cancer landscape. We welcome applications covering a wide-variety of fields. Some examples of these are pre-clinical studies, biomarkers, imaging, radiotherapies, engineering, physical sciences and also training programmes, although proposals outside of these fields are equally welcome.

\(^1\) Any research findings generated should be limited to providing preliminary data, validating tools and/or other resources to demonstrate their value.

\(^2\) We expect that tools/resources generated and their benefits to be made available to the wider scientific community. These resources can then be utilised by investigators in a research setting using their research-specific funding.

### 3.2 WHAT ISN'T SUITABLE FOR ACCELERATOR AWARD FUNDING

You shouldn’t apply for an Accelerator Award if your proposal addresses a specific research question and/or if it doesn’t require a collaborative approach to meet your proposal.

Furthermore, applications that come under the remit of any of the other funding schemes available through CRUK, AIRC and/or FC AECC will not be supported. Please click on any of the below to find out more about the remits of these other funding schemes:

- [Cancer Research UK Funding for Research](#)
- [FC AECC Funding for Research](#)
- [AIRC Funding for Research](#)

### 4. THE ACCELERATOR AWARD PROCESS

**EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST**

Submit an overview of the need you and your team seek to address, and the approach you will take to do this.
SHORTLISTING
Our Accelerator Award Committee, comprising independent experts in translational cancer research, will shortlist teams to be invited for full application.

ONLINE HOSTING AND SEED FUNDING
Summaries from each teams’ application will be hosted online to encourage additional collaboration. Shortlisted teams will also receive £5,000 of seed funding to develop their full application.

FULL APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW
After submission of the full application, shortlisted teams will be interviewed by our Committee who will make the final funding recommendations.

AWARD
Successful teams will enter into a Collaboration Agreement with the funding partner(s) and will be issued with a grant award letter(s).

5. WHO CAN BE IN AN APPLICANT TEAM

5.1 TEAM MEMBERS: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Accelerator Award is intended to fund cross-institutional research teams, bringing together the right people to create the best teams capable of delivering the proposal presented. We would anticipate that an applicant team would typically be made up of:

- A Principal Investigator
- A number of Co-Investigators
- A number of Collaborators
- A Project Manager
### Table 1
**Team Members: Roles and Responsibilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Principal Investigator**  | • The Principal Investigator must be able to demonstrate that they can lead the proposal and team effectively, be engaged throughout the duration of the award, as well as meet their other research commitments.  
 • They must ensure that all team members comply with the Terms and Conditions of the award.  
 • They will be the primary contact for the administration of the award. |
| **Co-Investigator**         | • Co-Investigators are individuals that are making a major scientific contribution to the proposal, and may be in receipt of a significant portion of funding from the award budget.  
 • Each Co-Investigator will be responsible for the scientific and technical direction of their work stream/contribution to the award, and as such any financial and contractual obligations that fall under their remit. |
| **Collaborator**            | • Collaborators are individuals who are working within or across the proposed work packages, and who are critical to, but not leading, any part of the Accelerator Award proposal.  
 • Collaborators bring specialist expertise and are not in receipt of significant funding from the award budget.  
 • Collaborators will be responsible for delivering on their agreed commitment to the proposal. |
| **Project Manager**         | • All teams in receipt of an Accelerator Award are expected to appoint and budget for a project manager.  
 • The project manager will have responsibility for the management and coordination of the Award’s day-to-day activities. |

### 5.2 Eligibility

#### 5.2.1 General Criteria

Each Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator or Collaborator must be based at:

- a higher research-degree awarding institution (such as a university),
- a research hospital or
- a research institution

that is of good standing and appropriately accredited or registered in the country in which it is based (known as the **Host Institution**). Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators should have a permanent position, or at least a position that will continue for the duration of the Award.

#### 5.2.2 Additional Criteria for Principle Investigator and Lead Host Institutions

- The Principal Investigator must be based at a Host Institution in the UK, Spain or Italy.

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**The Accelerator Award**  
Expression of Interest Guidelines – 2018
• The Principal Investigator’s Host Institution will be the ‘Lead Host Institution’ for that application. Please see the table below for further detail.
• Host Institutions may only submit one application per round for which they are the Lead Host Institution, but other researchers based at that institution may apply as Co-Investigators or Collaborators on as many other applications as they choose.
• Applicants based in Spain should note that only certified FC AECC cancer centres will be eligible to lead applications from Spanish institutions.
• Teams led by a Principal Investigator based in Spain or Italy must include at least one Co-Investigator based in the UK at a Cancer Research UK Centre or the Francis Crick Institute.
• Principal Investigators and Lead Host Institutions must also be in a position to comply with the Terms and Conditions of the award (further detail provided below).

Table 2
Terms and Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria for Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Criteria for Lead Host Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UK</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Lead Host Institution be either the Francis Crick Institute, or host a Cancer Research UK Centre.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Principal Investigator must be based at a Cancer Research UK Centre or the Francis Crick Institute.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPAIN OR ITALY</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Lead Host Institution must:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Principal Investigator must:</td>
<td><strong>• Have state-of-the-art infrastructure and services that allow for high quality cancer research at an international level.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Be highly competitive in oncolgical research at the international level and have an internationally recognised impact in their specific field;</td>
<td><strong>• Have an educational training program for PhDs and MDs to teach all the skills necessary to become leaders in oncology research.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have been consistently funded by AIRC or FC AECC through peer-reviewed grants and fellowships in the last five years.</td>
<td><strong>• Work to make cancer ever more treatable, thus helping the national health system of the country in which they are based to improve patients’ care and long-term survival.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have received funding from international agencies and/or organisations in the last five years.</td>
<td><strong>• Submit their research activities periodically to scientific evaluation processes through external and independent scientific committees.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have a highly-cited publication record in oncology research the last five years; and</td>
<td><strong>• Have in place an ethics committee and a policy on research integrity.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Be actively engaged in outreach activities and dissemination of cancer knowledge to the general public.</td>
<td><strong>• Be a certified FC AECC cancer centre, if based in Spain.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Belong to a certified FC AECC centre, if based in Spain.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.3 COLLABORATIONS

The Accelerator Awards aim to encourage collaboration and collaborative approaches to address the needs and challenges of the cancer research community.

We are looking for genuine collaborations, with each Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator and Collaborator adding value to the proposal. The team should:

- Build upon existing knowledge
- Incorporate existing infrastructure where possible and build capacity where needed
- Create platforms for research to enable the cancer research community to accelerate progress
- Have a clear programme of management for a proposal of this scale
- Be able to adapt to internal and external challenges and opportunities
- Work to building sustainability of the resource created through the award

6 WHAT THE ACCELERATOR AWARD CAN FUND

You can apply for up to £1 million of funding per year, for up to 5 years, subject to annual scientific review by the Committee.

6.1 RESEARCH COSTS

This section contains cost guidance specific to the Accelerator Award. You should read this section along with CRUK’s cost guidance when completing your application.

6.1.1 CURRENCY TO BE USED IN THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST APPLICATION

All application costs need to be submitted in Great British Pounds (£) for any funds intended for UK-based Principal or Co-Investigators. Any costs to be awarded to Spanish or Italian-based Principal and/or Co-Investigators should be submitted in Euros.

Where costs have been converted from other currencies, the rate used should be 1 GBP to 1.13 EUR. For any other currencies, you should choose an appropriate rate and disclose this in the proposed budget.

6.1.2 INDIRECT COSTS/OVERHEADS

Applications should not include requests for overheads/indirect costs.
6.1.3 RESEARCH STAFF

You can’t request funds for the salaries of Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators.

You can request funds for the salaries of technical staff, post-doctoral researchers, academic appointments and project managers who are recruited on fixed-term contracts to work specifically on the funded proposal.

6.1.4 PHD STUDENTS

You can request funds to support PhD studentships on the award. These can be an opportunity to exchange knowledge and expertise between collaborators.

Cancer Research UK’s costs guidance details the fixed sum it provides to its students based in the UK and covers a stipend, research costs and tuition fees.

For PhD studentships based in Italian or Spanish Institutions, we will provide the same as AIRC’s and FCAECC’s standard studentship support.

PhD studentships must be guaranteed support for four years (non-clinical studentships) or three years (clinical studentships), and recruited within the duration of the award.

6.1.5 LABORATORY EXPENSES

Funds to purchase laboratory running expenses, for example, chemicals and materials can be requested for specific use in the funded award.

6.1.6 EQUIPMENT

Any equipment that costs over £5K (per item) should be listed as equipment spend. Please note that equipment allowances should be spent within a year of issue, so please note in your final application budget request the year the equipment would be purchased. Any equipment costs that are less than £5K (per item) should be listed as laboratory running expenses.

6.1.7 NETWORKING COSTS

We have designed the Accelerator Award to encourage collaboration and foster relationships within the team and with the wider research community.

You should allocate a proportion of funding to hosting meetings/workshops to support the synergistic working of the team.

We also encourage teams to host networking meetings or workshops with the wider research community to share the learnings and outputs from the team, if appropriate. These meetings
should be meaningful and add value to the proposal. All networking costs proposed should be reasonable and justified in the full application.

6.18 PATIENT INVOLVEMENT COSTS

As charities that are funded entirely by public donations, the funding partnership is keen to explore opportunities where patients and the public can meaningfully add value to our research activity. As such, reasonable costs for any patient involvement or engagement activity can be applied for.

7 THE ACCELERATOR AWARD COMMITTEE

The Accelerator Award Committee comprises a panel of international experts and meets once a year. They will consider all applications before making the final funding recommendation. Additional technical expertise may be sought to provide advisory comments to the Committee on the day.

7.1 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

In assessing the applications, the Accelerator Award Committee will consider the following:

- The scientific and strategic rationale behind the proposal – is it meeting a need of the cancer research community?
- The significance and impact of the proposed outputs – will they enable researchers to accelerate progress in cancer research? Will it lead to genuine patient benefit?
- The value added by a collaborative approach – what is the team able to achieve that it couldn’t in isolation?
- Capability - does the proposal seem realistic? Are the right people involved to deliver this?

Expressions of interest must also include a brief summary of any potential ethical considerations (see section 8.4) and a top line budget summary.

8 ACCELERATOR AWARDS: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Accelerator Award funding will be conditional on acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of the Award.
8.1 TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL TEAMS THAT DO NOT INCLUDE A TEAM MEMBER IN ITALY OR SPAIN

Where the successful team is led by one or more Principal Investigators based in the UK, and does not include a Co-Investigator based in Italy or Spain, the award will be made under Cancer Research UK’s Grant Conditions (available here).

In addition, within three months of the start date of the Award, each institution hosting Principal Investigators or one or more Co-Investigators will be required to enter into a Research Collaboration Agreement with each other and Cancer Research UK that covers the matters set out below under ‘Collaboration Arrangements’. Funding for year 2 of the award will not be released unless a Research Collaboration Agreement has been fully executed.

8.2 TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL TEAMS THAT INCLUDE A TEAM MEMBER IN ITALY OR SPAIN

Where the successful team is led by a Principal Investigator based in Spain or Italy, or includes a Co-Investigator based in one of those countries, the terms and conditions of funding and the collaboration arrangements will be combined in a Funding and Collaboration Agreement. The draft form of the Funding and Collaboration Agreement will be provided to shortlisted teams and will be broadly consistent with the Cancer Research UK Grant Conditions and the conditions of grants issued by AIRC and/or FC AECC (as applicable). The collaboration provisions of the agreement will cover the matters listed below under ‘Collaboration Arrangements’ and will have some flexibility, depending on the needs of the successful team. Shortlisted teams will be asked to outline their preferred collaboration model in their full application.

8.3 COLLABORATION ARRANGEMENTS (ALL SUCCESSFUL TEAMS)

The Research Collaboration Agreement/Funding and Collaboration Agreement (as applicable) will establish a Steering Board to manage and run the funded programme of work, with each team member and appropriate funding body represented on that committee.

Arrangements will also be set out for the performance and allocation of research activities, reporting, the ownership and use of intellectual property rights, confidentiality, and publication of results, exchanges of information and materials, and related issues.

8.4 ETHICAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS (ALL SUCCESSFUL TEAMS)

The ethical and regulatory requirements for successful teams will be set out in full in the CRUK Grant Conditions or Funding and Collaboration Agreement (as applicable). Applicants’ attention is drawn in particular to the following requirements.
• All researchers involved in the funded team are expected to maintain the highest levels of scientific integrity, and follow the principles of good research practice as detailed in the Concordat to Support Research Integrity.
• All host institutions must have procedures for obtaining any necessary or appropriate ethical approval for the research funded by the grant.
• In the event of proposed animal use, all host institutions working with animals must have standards of laboratory welfare that either meet or exceed those required by UK Home Office regulations and EU law. In this regard, the relevant institution should:
  o Be based in one of the following: an EU member state, Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland or the USA – or
  o Provide documentary evidence of a system of regulatory control of laboratory welfare that meets or exceeds the regulation in force in the country in which the laboratory is based.

We understand that funding confirmation may be required before ethical or regulatory approval can be granted. In cases such as this, the funders may make a provisional offer of funding but won’t release any money to the successful team until receipt of written confirmation of ethical or regulatory approval. Please bear this in mind when you propose a start date for your award.

If based in the UK, any tissue sample collections must be registered with the UK CRC Tissue Directory as part of our terms and conditions. More information about this can be found here.

9 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The aim of the Expression of Interest is to determine if your proposal meets the criteria of the Accelerator Award’s aim, the rationale for the proposed investment and the quality of the collaboration.

Applicants should ensure the following areas are included and outlined clearly, the:

• Unmet need and the scientific and strategic rationale for the proposal
• Significance and impact of the proposed outputs
• Value added by a collaborative approach

9.1 HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

To apply for an Accelerator Award, please contact the CRUK Research Funding Manager to discuss your proposal in order to open an application on CRUK’s electronic Grants Management System (eGMS).
The Expression of Interest must be submitted online using eGMS. At the Expression of Interest stage, the Principal Investigator will be required to set up a profile on eGMS, if they do not already have one. Current CRUK grant holders will already have an account on eGMS.

Access the eGMS homepage here: https://egms.cancerresearchuk.org/. To create a new eGMS account, please select ‘New User? Register here’.

9.1.1 EGMS STEPS

We require the following steps to be completed in the eGMS system to submit an Expression of Interest application;

- **Application overview** – full details of the Principal Investigator, proposed title, start date and duration of award.

- **Expression of Interest application form** – using the template on eGMS, please complete and upload the form.

- **Letters of support** – upload letters of support from:
  - Agreed Co-Investigators and Collaborators.
  - The Director of the lead CRUK Centre (if the application is being led from the UK), or the equivalent senior figure (e.g., the Head of the Institute or Faculty) if the application is being led by a Spanish or Italian-based Principal Investigator.

9.1.2 NAVIGATING THROUGH EGMS

The following symbols are used throughout eGMS.

Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>eGMS symbols</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Add Icon" /></td>
<td>The Add Icon. Click this icon as instructed in the instructional text on the top of the page. It is used to add information to your application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Edit Pen Icon" /></td>
<td>The Edit Pen Icon. Click to edit information already entered. For example to edit costs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE ACCELERATOR AWARD

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST GUIDELINES – 2018

[Logos]
On the Review and Submit page you can check the completeness of your application. These are the icons used to denote completeness of each application section on the Review and Submit page.

**Additional Information**

For additional assistance in completing your application the following resources are available.

**FAQs:** available within eGMS and on the eGMS website: [http://science.cancerresearchuk.org/funding/apply/](http://science.cancerresearchuk.org/funding/apply/)

**Grants Helpline:** +44 (0)20 3469 5452 or grants.helpline@cancer.org.uk

**Terms of Use:** These are located at the bottom of the eGMS homepage. This includes a link to our Privacy Policy which details how we will use your data under the Data Protection Act 1998.

### 9.2 ASSESSMENT, FEEDBACK AND NEXT STEPS

Expressions of Interest will be assessed by our international Accelerator Award Committee. Successful applicants will be short-listed and invited to submit a full application. All applicants will receive written feedback.

By submitting an Expression of Interest, you agree that, if shortlisted, a summary of the team’s proposal and the names of researchers involved may be hosted online and in materials produced by the funders to promote the scheme. This will provide an opportunity for researchers with complementary and/or desired skills to contact the Principal Investigators and discuss potential collaboration.

If shortlisted, you will receive £5,000 of seed funding. This will be awarded to the named Principal Investigator at the Host Institution listed on eGMS. These funds should be used to:

- Hold meetings/workshops with the collaborators to define and develop the final proposal
  - And/or
- Enlist project management expertise to assist with planning of the proposal
After submitting the full application, applicant teams will be invited to interview by Committee. Further details will be given in due course.

9.3 PUBLICITY

As funders of the Accelerator Award, Cancer Research UK, AIRC and FC AECC will be leading on all national and regional press and PR for the shortlisting and funding announcement of the successful awards. Principal Investigators are asked to ensure that the press teams within their host institutions, and those of their collaborators, are made aware of this and do not do any proactive PR or social media (including blogs and tweets) about the awards, prior to any activity co-ordinated by the funding organisations. All researchers and their host institutions will be welcome to use CRUK/AIRC/FC AECC’s press materials for their websites once any media embargoes are lifted.

9.4 USEFUL CONTACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRUK office</td>
<td>Bouran Sohrabi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:acceleratoraward@cancer.org.uk">acceleratoraward@cancer.org.uk</a></td>
<td>+44(0)203 469 8343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIRC office</td>
<td>Luana Grimolizzi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:acceleratoraward@airc.it">acceleratoraward@airc.it</a></td>
<td>+39 (0)202 7797 411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC AECC</td>
<td>Marta Puyol</td>
<td><a href="mailto:acceleratoraward@aecc.es">acceleratoraward@aecc.es</a></td>
<td>+34 91 310 82 07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For help with submitting your application, please contact grants helpline (+44 (0)20 3469 5452).