

International Science Partnerships Fund

International Research Empowerment Programme (IREP)

Frequently Asked Questions

Funding and eligible costs

- 1. Is there a requirement that the direct staffing costs need to be evenly distributed between the UK and Malaysia institutions?**

The costs can be distributed as agreed by both UK and Malaysia institutions as long as it does not exceed the 30% cap of the total budget.

Eligibility Criteria

- 1. Are UK branch campuses eligible to apply as the Lead Institution?**

UK branch campuses in Malaysia may apply as the Malaysia Lead institution provided that other eligible HEIs or research organisations are also involved as Associated Partners in-country. However, the branch campuses cannot apply as the Lead institutions in links with their own affiliates in other country.

- 2. Can we apply for this grant if we have applied for other ISPF opportunities before (i.e Research Collaboration Grant)?**

Yes, you can apply for this grant even if you have applied for other ISPF opportunities as they are completely different programmes. You may also build your proposal for IREP based on the one you have submitted or you can build a new one.

- 3. If I have applied for other ISPF opportunities before, can I apply for IREP with the same UK institution or does it have to be a different UK institution?**

You may apply to IREP with the same UK institution or other UK institution.

- 4. Am I eligible to apply for the grant if I am affiliated to a private university in Malaysia?**

Malaysian private universities are eligible to apply as the Malaysia Lead Institution as long as they are a recognised in country.

- 5. Do the Project Leads need to be a Malaysian or UK citizen to apply for this grant?**

We do not require the leads to be a UK or Malaysian citizen. However, the leads need to be from the eligible institutions in both countries and obtain the approval from your respective institution to manage and lead on the project.

6. Are we allowed to include more than one institution from the UK in our application?

Yes, you may include more than one UK institution granted that one will be the UK Lead Institution while others may join as Associated Partners.

7. Is there any age limit or a set definition for early career researcher?

There is no age limit or a set definition on early career researchers for this grant. However, we do encourage applications from researchers who hold a permanent position in either the UK or local university to ensure that they will be able to lead the entirety of the project.

8. For contract staff in Malaysian universities, is there any condition regarding the duration of the employment contract?

The employment contract end date shall exceed the project end date. This is to ensure that you will be able to lead on the project until the end of funding.

9. Can we have an industrial collaborator?

Yes, they may participate in the project as an associated partner.

10. Does IREP allows application from social science and humanities field or just on STEM related fields?

Application for IREP is not limited to the STEM fields. Applications from social sciences and humanities are welcomed.

Application process

1. Do we need to provide evidence of prior work in the area in our application?

In the application form, we do have a section to provide the context of your proposed activity, so it is encouraged to include evidence of prior work in your proposal.

2. If we have a previous collaboration with a UK partner, do we need to include that in our application?

You are encouraged to mention the collaboration in the collaboration section of the application form where you are asked about previous engagement with the UK.

3. Should the application come from the UK Lead or the Malaysia Lead?

Submission of the application should be done by the UK Lead only.

4. Are risk assessment forms required if the Malaysian partner plans to travel to the UK partner institution for the project?

If your proposal includes travelling either international or domestic, you should submit the travel risk assessment form along with your application.

Supporting documents for application

1. Does the CV have to follow a specific format?

No specific format is required for the CV. The CV should not exceed two sides of an A4 paper.

2. Will Letter of Intent (LOI) from our associated partners be sufficient as the supporting letter?

Yes, an LOI will be sufficient in replace of a supporting letter. Applicants must ensure that the LOI includes details of the project and the ways in which the associated partners will be contributing to the project (ie in-kind or financial). The LOI should also be dated within 3 months of the submission.