# TIDAL N+ Funding Calls FAQs

Questions about TIDAL N+2	•
What is TIDALN+?2	) •
What is EPSRC?3	
Questions about the projects we are looking to fund	•
What is this funding call about?3	•
How many projects will you be funding?3	į
What kinds of projects are you looking to fund?3	į
Would you fund research for a product beyond TRL3 (Technology Readiness Level 3)?4	
Would you fund a project about the psychosocial aspects of AT?4	
Should the geographical focus of our project be the UK or is there an international angle as well?4	
Will you be funding projects from people in LMICs (Low and Middle Income Countries)?5	ì
There are overlaps between rehabilitation and AT. Will you fund rehabilitation technologies?5	i
Can I apply for funding for a project that has already started?5	İ
How long should my project take to complete?5	į
Questions about eligibility5	į
Who is eligible for funding as a PI (Principal Investigator/Lead Applicant) or Co-I (Co-Investigator/Co-Applicant)?5	;
I am an ECR (Early Career Researcher). Can I be named as a Co-I (Co-Investigator) on a project?.6	ì
I am an ECR (Early Career Researcher) or PhD candidate. Can I apply as a Pl?6	i
I have not been active in research for a while. I have had a career break and/or have been working in a different type of role. Can I still apply?6	;
I work for a non-UK organization. Can I apply?6	i
We are intending to include non-UK based team members in our application. Is this allo 2841.92	! (m h42e)3(r)7(

Projects should have a multi-disciplinary, co-creation approach. This is very important. There should be involvement of industry, stakeholders, service providers, service users, dinicians etc. as appropriate to your project.

Projects should be deliverable for around £60k. The idea is to fund a few months of research to prove enough to allow you to apply for much bigger funding.

We are particularly keen to fund proposals that demonstrate clear plans for how the work

Applications led by early career academics/researchers are particularly encouraged. We are not looking to fund:

- Projects which are not directly and strongly aligned with the theme of this call
- Incremental product development projects which might be better served by Innovate UK funding or commercial funding
- People who are just want funds to get their product to market
- Activities that are normally the responsibility of central or local government

•

 Research studies that are already underway, though we would consider funding a new study that is part of a wider programme of research that has already begun

Would you fund research for a product beyond TRL3 (Technology Readiness Level 3)?

EPSRC is very much about fundamental engineering and physical sciences research. If there is a solid engineering and physical sciences research question that can be addressed by research, that could be relevant at any number of developmental stages for a product, but probably more at the early stages of product development rather than at the later stages. As long as your project can be expressed as a solid research question that is clearly within y matter what stage of the

product development process that research question comes in, but bear in mind that we are looking to fund research that enables a fundamental, step change in products and services, not incremental improvements. Also, we are looking to fund projects that have a collaborative, multidisciplinary, co-creation approach. We are not looking to fund people who are just want funds to get their product to m40.231 0.22 0.22 RG[f)5(u)-4(n)5(d)-4(s)7(t)-4(o)-6(ge)9(t)

stakeholders (

required to have a contract that extends beyond the term of the grant, we will require this as the project timeframe is only 6 months.

#### Note that:

- Funding is not available to support Directly Allocated staff i.e. permanent academic staff such as lecturer or above, including ECRs with permanent contracts. However, permanent staff can still be named as PI or Co-I where they will supervise the project (and we expect all projects to have appropriate supervision).
- TIDAL also allows and encourages Early Career Research (ECR) staff on fixed-term contracts (i.e., Research Associates / Research Assistants within 15 years of receipt of a doctoral qualification) to submit projects as PI or be named a Co-I. In such cases their time can be budgeted as Directly Incurred staff.

I am an ECR (Early Career Researcher). Can I be named as a Co-I (Co-Investigator) on a project?

Yes. We expect applications to include people in the team who are transitioning towards establishing research independence.

I am an ECR (Early Career Researcher) or PhD candidate. Can I apply as a PI? Yes. We actively encourage ECRs to apply for TIDAL N+ funding, and they can be the Principal Investigator so long as:

- They are employed in an eligible UK academic institution.
- Their contract lasts until at least the end date of the project.
- They hold, or are expected to hold, a doctorate by the start date of the funding being awarded, or can demonstrate equivalent research/innovation experience and/or training. There are no eligibility rules based on years since PhD.
- They have the approval of their own institution before submission: there are often local eligibility criteria which need to be met.

I have not been active in research for a while. I have had a career break and/or have been working in a different type of role. Can I still apply?

Applications are welcome from those returning to research from a career break or following time in other roles, so long as you qualify for EPSC funding. There are no time limits in respect of time spent outside a research or innovation environment.

I work for a non-UK organization. Can I apply?

No. apply as the Principal Investigator (PI) or be a Co-Invest SPF-g2.96 Tf1 0 0 1 161.78 194.09 Tm0

We are intending to include non-UK based team members in our application. Is this allowed?

a PI or a Co-I. All proposed Co-Investigators must be academic employees of an eligible organisation and must be resident in the UK. Non-UK-based team members can be included as partners or collaborators. In most cases, and especially where partners or collaborators are commercial organisations, we would expect them to support the project in-kind by donating their time. If the PI believes that a strong case can be made to see, the PI can cost these in the project budget. This funding must not be used to provide any other kind of funding or subsidy for a partner/collaborator or their organisation.

What organisations qualify for EPSRC funding?

There is a list of qualifying organisations on the EPSRC website.

Note that the following are NOT eligible for funding:

 Industry / businesses. This does not preclude you involving industry partners in your project and including them in your application, but they cannot be funded as principal- or co-investig2 RG[n)-4(ses)]TETG0.00

- and Physical Devices), but the recordings from the workshops held earlier in the year are on our website.
- 2. Applicants for Call 3 and Call 4 to submit an expression of interest form by 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (2 weeks after the workshop) to indicate their intention to submit a full application. ALL lead applicants, for both calls, must submit an expression of interest, whether or not they attend the workshop.
- 3. Applicants submit full application forms 6

- Will this funding make a tangible difference to the research trajectory of the lead researcher?
- If relevant, does the researcher have sufficient support in place, e.g. appropriate collaborations established?
- Is there adequate institutional support for this project?

# Financial justification and value for money

- Are the funds requested essential for the work and justified by the importance and potential of the research?
- Does the proposal demonstrate value for money in terms of the resources requested?

#### Ethical issues

- Are there ethical and/or research governance issues?
- Are there satisfactory plans in place to address these?
- Are there clear plans in place for storing and, if appropriate, sharing data in accordance with GDPR?

# Equality, diversity and inclusion

 How does the proposal demonstrate excellence in commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion?

#### Responsible research and carbon impact

 How does the proposal demonstrate responsible research e.g. measuring and limiting the carbon footprint of the project and other sustainable research practices?

#### Who are the reviewers?

The reviewers will include academics, and representatives of industry and AT user advocates.

How many people will review my application? Each proposal will be reviewed by at least 2 reviewers.

### Who will make the final decision?

The final decision will be made by the Steering Committee with the TIDAL N+ team. If a TIDAL N+ team member is named on any application, they will declare a conflict of interest and will not be involved in any discussion or decisions about that project. Steering Committee members will also be required to declare conflicts of interest and will not be involved in making decisions on any projects where they are conflicted.

# What happens next if I am successful?

A contracting process will be initiated by UCL with your institution to formally agree the contract for the funding. EPSRC terms and conditions will apply, as well as any terms and conditions specific to the TIDALN+ grant, and any terms and conditions specific to this award. We will ask you for details of your contract team if you are successful.

institution should sign and return the contract as soon as possible.

wants to request any revisions to the draft agreement, the lead applicant is responsible for ensuring all requested changes are made and tracked in a

single Word document. This document with requested revisions must be submitted to the UCL contracts manager as soon as possible. Our contracts manager will discuss the and will then send a final version of

the agreement for signature. The lead applicant on the successful project is responsible for having the amended document signed by their institution and returning it to UCL within one week of it being sent out. We would strongly recommend that you are proactive in following-up progress on the contract negotiations with your contracts manager.

Successful applicants will be expected to put in place a collaboration agreement or other suitable agreement with any of their project partners or collaborators (including Co-Is and other collaborators/partners), governing the terms of the collaboration. This agreement, the role and

contribution of each individual/organisation, any financial payments to be made, and delivery deadlines. Successful lead applicants should seek the advice of their contracts team to put appropriate agreements in place.

Each project will be provided with access to a mentor who will support the activities of the project. Your mentor will provide advice and feedback to you at appropriate times during your project activities. The aim is to provide your project with an additional level of support and guidance, rather than monitor its progress. Mentors may be asked to provide feedback to TIDAL N+ team from time to time.

Are there any other obligations for successful applicants? Successful applicants will be expected to participate in network events and will be required to present project updates at our symposia and/or other TIDAL N+ events on- and offline.

NOTE: the workshop dates and submission deadlines are confirmed. Other dates are to be confirmed. We will endeavour to keep to this schedule, but dates may vary slightly. We will keep the website updated with the most current dates.

Any other questions? Anything not clear?
We want you to put in a great application so we are really happy to answer any other questions and queries you may have, or to documentation. Please contact <a href="mailto:TIDAL@ud.ac.uk">TIDAL@ud.ac.uk</a>