

Catalyst Project Funding Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- No. Question (Q) / Answer (A)
1. Q **Do all project collaborators need to be BactiVac Network members?**
A *Yes, all named collaborators do need to be Network members*
2. Q **Can I apply for membership at the same time as submitting an application for funding?**
A *Yes, the Network can process both applications in parallel but be aware that it can take up to four weeks (and maybe longer) for membership applications to be processed and all applicants need to be members for awards to be made on projects*
3. Q **Is it compulsory to have a UK partner within the application collaborators?**
A *Yes, there must be a UK partner listed in the application*
4. Q **Does the UK institution need to be the lead applicant?**
A *No, the lead applicant can be based anywhere in the world with the exception of China (please refer to Question 5)*
5. Q **Are Network members based in China eligible to apply?**
A *Due to the funding regulations to which BactiVac has comply, applicants from China cannot be lead applicant (as our funding model is that all funds go via the lead applicant institution). Co-applicants from China can be included on applications but as the Network is unable to provide any funding to China, such a co-applicant would not be eligible to apply for budget within the Application.*
6. Q **Are UK government core funded institutions such as [NIBSC](#) eligible to apply?**
A *Core funded institutes, such as NIBSC are eligible to apply but not as the Lead Applicant. Any funding requested must be to deliver novel research that is not covered by their core funding and applicants will need to confirm this in their application (in the justification for resources requested section of the form).*
7. Q **Can an investigator or an institution be a co-applicant on multiple applications?**
A *An individual can apply as lead applicant in one application but can be included as a co-applicant on multiple applications. An institution can be the lead applicant institution on multiple applications (i.e. more than 2), provided that the lead investigator on each application is different, the substantive content of the application is different, and the team composition is different. We are keen to encourage new novel partnerships between diverse network members, especially those involving LMICs.*

No. Question (Q) / Answer (A)

8. Q **Are recipients from past or current BactiVac catalyst funding eligible to apply for funding?**

A *We are keen to encourage applications from individuals and/or institutions that have not, as yet, benefited from BactiVac catalyst funding. However, recipients from past or current BactiVac-supported research may apply to this round of catalyst funding provided that the proposed project is deemed by BactiVac to be distinctly different from previously funded research. BactiVac will not normally consider applications for follow-on funding for research that was initially supported by the Network, as the expectation is that previously successful applicants secure additional follow-on substantive funding from other external sources.*

9. Q **Where can I find a list of countries that are considered to be Low to Middle income countries (LMIC)?**

A *The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible countries [can be found here](#); all LMIC countries that appear on this list are considered to be ODA eligible, with the exception of China (please refer to Question 5). The list of LMIC countries is subject to [updates by the OECD](#).*

10. Q **Do applications have to have an LMIC partner?**

A *No, we will accept and consider applications without an LMIC partner. However, as there is an Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) requirement on our funding, the proposed research needs to be primarily of direct benefit to LMICs. Preference will also be given to applications that are LMIC-led and/or have LMIC partners involved. All applications need to be relevant to bacterial vaccines/vaccinology, and must be ODA-compliant, with the primary benefit of any funded research being to populations in LMICs.*

11. Q **Do applicants and co-applicants have to be based at different institutions?**

A *Yes, at least one of the co-applicants must be based at a different institution. Applications where all applicants are based at the same institution will not be accepted. Every application must have a lead applicant and no more than 5 co-applicants.*

12. Q **How can I find more details about potential collaborators?**

A *Our [Members' Directory](#) is a tool where members of the Network can login and access further details about other members and thus identify potential collaborators.*

13. Q **Do I need to have all the research governance requirements for the project already in place (e.g. collaboration agreements, intellectual property (IP) considerations, animal licences, etc.)?**

A *The expectation is that any required research governance is in place by this time so that the start of the project is not delayed.*



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14. Q Does the BactiVac scope include the development of bacterial vaccines to veterinary as well as human pathogens?

A The scope of this funding round is that all projects must focus on pathogens with outbreak potential. Please note that the only One Health projects eligible for consideration in this round **are those involving zoonotic diseases, specifically pathogens that cross the animal–human species barrier**. All other veterinary-focused research projects fall outside the scope of this call and will not be considered.

15. Q Is the inclusion of investigator/applicant supervision time/costs allowable?

A No, investigator/applicant project management/supervision costs are not supported and should not be included in the budget requested. We will consider funding applicant salary costs where their time is committed to directly delivering the research and a justification for this would have to be included within the application.

16. Q How much information is required in Section 17 regarding the 20% matched funding for UK institutions?

A The information needs to show that the UK host institution is aware of the need to meet the remaining 20% of the fEC funding so that the direct costs required to deliver the project are provided to the lead applicant. This only applies to UK higher education institutions who are costing their requests for funding on an fEC basis.

17. Q How do I record supervision time in Section 17

A Supervision time for lead applicants and each co-applicant cannot be costed into the budget, but this should be recorded in Section 17 as the number of hours per week spent supervising the project and an indication of the corresponding financial value of the time allocated for supervision purposes (i.e. all elements of time spent on the project which cannot be costed into the budget such as time having meetings/analysis of results, direct staff supervision etc). There should be an entry of project management/supervision time input for every applicant (relevant to the time spent on the project as detailed in the Application Form sections 7 & 8).

18. Q Must the budget be broken down equally between all applicants in the proposal?

A No, however proposal budgets should ensure that all partners are adequately resourced to deliver their respective contributions to the research project. Applicants should also ensure that they provide details in the application form of any matched funding or in-kind contributions provided in support of the project from other sources as this is key information that the Network needs to track and report on.

19. Q Do I need to complete the Due Diligence Questionnaire?

A Yes, this is a mandatory part of the application process and is a requirement for funding. Your application cannot be accepted without this supporting document, and funding cannot be awarded without the appropriate due diligence approval from University of Birmingham. The Due Diligence Questionnaire at the point of application relates to the lead applicant institution. Please note that in accordance with [UKRI trusted research and innovation principles](#), **if successful in your application, you will be required to provide evidence of due diligence and export control checks on all named co-applicants**.



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20. **Q Will I be notified if my application is deemed ineligible?**

A *Applications submitted by the submission deadline will undergo a screening process to ensure compliance with the eligibility criteria and that all the required supporting documents requested have been provided. An email acknowledging receipt of your application will be sent by the BactiVac Admin Team to the email address provided within 2 working days of receipt. A notification will be sent if the submitted application is not eligible to be processed further for peer review.*

21. **Q Will I receive feedback on my proposal?**

A *All eligible applications submitted by the deadline will be put forward for peer review. If your application is unsuccessful, anonymised feedback can be provided, upon request, to support you in improving your application in future rounds of catalyst funding.*

