3ʳᵈ Call for Research Proposals

on the topics of

Intelligent User Interfaces

and

Context- and Content-Adaptive Communication Networks

Deadline:	**22 January 2013, 17:00 CET**
Documents and procedures:	http://www.chistera.eu
CHIST-ERA Secretariat:	Mathieu Girerd Agence Nationale de la Recherche +33 1 73 54 82 13 mathieu.girerd@agencerecherche.fr
Indicative budget:	10 000 000 €

Key Facts & Figures

CHIST-ERA

CHIST-ERA is a consortium of national funding organisations with programmes supporting Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies (ICST). The CHIST-ERA consortium is itself supported by the European Union's Future & Emerging Technologies scheme (FET).

CHIST-ERA promotes multidisciplinary and transnational ICST research with the potential to lead to significant breakthroughs. The national funding organisations jointly support research projects selected in the framework of CHIST-ERA, in order to reinforce European capabilities in selected topics.

Content of the Call

Topic 1	Topic 2
Intelligent User Interfaces **IUI**	**Context- and Content-Adaptive Communication Networks** **C3N**
Indicative budgets:	
4 700 000 €	**5 300 000€**
Proposals must be submitted by international consortiums with research partners in at least three of the following countries:	
Austria Belgium France Ireland Latvia Luxemburg Poland Romania Switzerland Turkey	Austria France Latvia Luxemburg Poland Romania Switzerland Turkey United Kingdom
Proposals are evaluated based on criteria of scientific excellence, implementation and impact.	
Each partner must separately fulfil national conditions, as described in the annex. Industrial partners are allowed in some countries.	
Each consortium partner is funded separately by its national funding organisation.	

Tentative Timeline

22 January 2013	**Deadline for proposal submission (17:00 CET)**
June 2013	Notification of accepted proposals
October 2013	Projects start
October 2015/2016	Projects end (recommended duration: 24 to 36 months)

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Research Targeted in the Call

Each year, CHIST-ERA launches a call for research proposals in two new topics of emergent scientific importance. This year's call concerns the following topics:

1. **Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI);**
2. **Context- and Content-Adaptive Communication Networks (C3N).**

In previous years, CHIST-ERA calls have targeted quantum computing, consciousness, knowledge extraction and low-power computing. Future calls will target new topics.

The [CHIST-ERA](#) consortium has created a common funding instrument to support international research groups that engage in long-term research in the area of information and communication technologies. Through this instrument, national funding organisations support and join the European Union's "[Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)](#)" agenda. By coordinating their efforts, they can support more diverse research communities, able to tackle the most challenging and novel research topics.

Submitted proposals should be of a FET-like nature, and contribute to the development of an international and multidisciplinary research community. The transformative research done in CHIST-ERA should explore new topics with potential for significant scientific and technical impacts in the long term.

The two topics of this year's call are described below.

1st Topic: Intelligent User Interfaces

Computers are taking an ever more central role in our lives, and increasingly support us for social interactions. Traditional interfaces are insufficient for this progressively more important role. Intelligent interfaces will expand from the screen, keyboard and mouse and into our life. Ultimately, all aspects of our life (body, emotions, history, etc.) can become the media of interaction. A new kind of user interfaces, whereby the user can interact with the computer in varied ways (multi-modal interaction), is needed. This computer builds an interaction model by combining multiple forms of interaction, including:

- Voice/dialogue;
- Sketch/pen-based;
- Tangible/haptic;
- Posture/body (including gestures and biosignals);
- Augmented reality/gaze;
- Brain-computer interaction;
- Plus traditional interfaces.

It functions in the noisy real-life world. It not only relies on explicit commands, but also uses contextual information, learns from past interactions and behaviours, recognises emotions, makes sense of user intentions, identify social schemes, induce new behaviours among users, recovers gracefully from errors and misunderstandings, etc. It requires new ways of thinking about meaning, the interpretation of signs and the transfer of knowledge between the users and the system.

The resulting interfaces are evaluated to be usable, natural, effective and empowering for users.

Target Outcomes

Projects are expected to deliver one or more of the following:

- Methods and models for interacting with the user using multiple modes of interaction, seamlessly combining them and switching from one another, so that the multimodal interaction makes sense to the user as a whole and makes the interfaces more natural and more effective;
- Richer user models that include behaviour models, mental models, capacity expertise, etc.;
- Methods and models to build an affective, social, behavioural representation of the user from multiple forms of interaction, over short to very long periods of time;
- Multiple-interaction systems tailored to non-conventional needs, assistive technologies and accessibility (children/learners, the elderly, disabled people, including those with very limited communication means);
- Multi-modal interfaces for collaborative and/or remote tasks;
- Representative data sets, metrics and protocols to study any of the above.

Expected Impact

Projects are expected to enable one or more of the following:

- Strengthen the research field: develop a deeper and more unified fundamental understanding of multi-modal interaction;
- Strengthen interdisciplinary communities: bring together researchers and research communities working on distinct modes of interaction or from different backgrounds (computer science, electronics/mechanics, neurology, psychology, etc.) in the broader framework of a multi-modal interaction and explore multi-modal interactions in different application fields (e.g., information systems, educational systems, etc.);
- Create new technologies and applications: make the outcomes of the research, including data sets and test protocols, available to other researchers and to industry and implement them into platforms (software and hardware) that can be extended by third-parties to develop further adaptive and multi-modal interfaces.

In all cases, projects should address the question of measuring progress toward the foreseen applications and the proposals should provide a detailed description of how ideas and systems will be experimentally texted (evaluation data, metrics and protocols). Projects are encouraged to include the means for objective, significant and reproducible experiments when these are not already available elsewhere.

Topic 2: Context- and Content-Adaptive Communication Networks

In the current information-driven society, the massive use of communications in public, professional and private life, the impact of social networks and the increasing use of mobile devices, particularly smartphones, challenge the design of telecommunication networks. In particular, user and context-driven needs are very much constrained by the centralised design and management of existing communications infrastructures. New networks must bring new services, increase user's quality of experience, improve network resilience to failures, and improve capacity to maintain the desired quality of service at home and on the move. A fresh rethinking of the network architecture and its control is necessary to fully support services and content access by mobile users.

Beyond merely shipping bytes from machine to machine, intelligent networks should provide richer platforms for applications and in the end better experience to users, in particular by:

- Being service and content-aware (or even service and content-centric) so that applications access the network in terms of content and services (as in cloud services), rather than machines/physical locations, and allow the network to adapt to the delivery of said content or alternatively to adapt the content itself (i.e. different requirements for delivering different types of data);
- Adapting to the context in which they operate, including physical properties such as energy consumption and user perception of behaviours (usage patterns, social sensing), and collecting this information to derive high-level network situations, learn from them, and adapt/regulate the system, all the way from the network itself to the of content being delivered.

To do so requires reconsidering the layered network structure as a whole. It requires adapting the behaviour of network layers, rethink how layers interact and possibly rethink the entire layer structure letting information flow down to the lower layers (content and context to drive the transport or network layer) and up to higher layers (addressing controlled at application and transport level).

The networks should gain in intelligence to spot hidden patterns, detect emergent behaviours and learn over time, should not only offer richer application platforms but they should also become more scalable, more autonomous, are more privacy-aware, secure and allow more diversity/market competition in network services.

Target Outcomes
Projects are expected to deliver one or more of the following:

- Content and service-adaptive/centric: novel network architectures/algorithms where transmission, routing or networking is content- or service-based rather than location-based. Networks support applications by providing high-level platforms (network pushes data, queries evaluated in network). A scalable solution that fully supports user mobility, and existence of services and content in multiple, possibly time varying locations. Content should be reachable and authentic, and privacy should be preserved;
- Network aware: in network tools, algorithms and methods for sensing network properties (energy, bandwidth, connected devices, topology, etc.) including by using sensors of smart devices in the network and an associated adaptive network control-framework;
- Context-aware: in network algorithms and methods to evaluate usage pattern, including human and social behaviours while maintaining privacy. Network architecture to adapt to it;

- Self configuration of applications: methods and algorithms to aggregate knowledge inside a network and over time (learning), and provide applications with user-related data such as services, information, content or context adapted to the network's high level situation;
- New approaches to network layering that better support any of the above. Network layer architectures where more information flows between layers. Vertically-integrated network architectures. Design of application platforms supporting such networks.

In all cases, projects are encouraged to produce demonstrators and to conduct the usage evaluation. The proposal should describe very clearly the project goals and how evaluation of the progress towards these goals will be conducted. Projects are encouraged to include the means for significant and reproducible experiments when these are not already available elsewhere.

Expected Impact

Projects are expected to enable one or more of the following:

- Strengthen the research field and develop a deeper fundamental and comprehensive understanding of new enhanced communication network architectures;
- Bring together researchers and research communities working on distinct network layers and on content and context extraction in the broader framework of a content- and context-adaptive communication networks;
- Create new technologies and services enabling the emergence of innovative network technologies, transfer such technologies from the laboratories to industry, improve user quality of experience, and create new platforms for the application developers who in turn create new services for the end-users.

Proposals should describe the potential acceptability and long-term practical feasibility of the proposed approaches and the nature and volume of further efforts expected to put them in practice in the long term.

Eligibility

Proposals are submitted by international consortiums with partners (research groups) in multiple countries.

CHIST-ERA is a hybrid national/international funding instrument. The call and the proposal evaluation and selection are international. Funding is then provided by national funding organisations directly to the selected consortium partners. It is therefore necessary that the consortium is eligible for CHIST-ERA, and that all partners are eligible to be funded by their national funding organisation.

Each partner is directed by a principal investigator (PI), who will interact with the national funding organisation. One partner acts as the coordinator for the consortium and is the single point of contact with CHIST-ERA.

Eligibility of the Consortium

CHIST-ERA targets consortium requesting a total funding of between approximately ½ million and 2 million euros, and projects lasting between 24 and 36 months.

The following criteria must be met:

1. The consortium is **international**:
   - It must have a minimum of three partners;
   - Partners must be located in at least three distinct countries.
2. The consortium is **balanced**:
   - At most 60% of the total funding may be requested by partners from one country.
3. The consortium is **focused**:
   - Research must have a clearly defined goal. It is recommended that consortia contain no more than six partners.

Research groups from countries whose national funding organisations do not participate in the concerned topic may be part of a consortium if they are able to secure their own funding. Third-party funding is not considered for the criteria above. The consortium coordinator must be supported by a national funding organisation participating in the topic.

Eligibility of National Partners

The eligibility criteria for partners are specific to the national funding organisation. **Be aware that some national funding organisations:**

- **will only fund partners applying for one topic;**
- require that eligibility of partners is checked with them prior to applying;
- only fund non-commercial research.

The table on the next page provides an overview of national rules. Details, as well as the national contact points are found in the annex.

In order not to jeopardize the whole consortium, partners should ensure that no doubts exist concerning the eligibility of their institution (university, academic institutions, industry), the eligibility of their PI (permanent staff, position secured for the duration of the project, etc.), and their eligible costs.

Eligibility of National Partners: Overview Table

This table gives an overview of national eligibility criteria. **Check the annex for detailed conditions.** PIs should speak to their national contact point (found in the annex) if any doubt exists about their eligibility. Note that some national funding organisations require that partners contact them prior to submission.

Organisation	May apply to		Funding of industry	Eligibility criteria
	IUI	C3N		
Austria (FWF)	**Yes**	**Yes**	No	Standard FWF eligibility criteria apply. You must in any case contact FWF prior to submission. FWF forms must be sent at the time of submission.
Belgium (FNRS)	**Yes**	No	No	Standard FNRS eligibility criteria apply. You must contact FNRS if you did not receive project funding before.
France (ANR)	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	Standard ANR eligibility criteria apply. You must read the document mentioned in the annex. You can contact ANR for any further information.
Ireland (IRC)	**Yes**	No	No	Standard IRC eligibility criteria apply. You must contact IRC prior to submission.
Latvia (LZA)	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes (SMEs)**	Universities and research institutes as well as SMEs are eligible for funding. See the annex for further information.
Luxemburg (FNR)	**Yes**	**Yes**	No	All institutions authorised to undertake research as well as development and technology transfer activities in Luxembourg are eligible. See the annex for further information.
Poland (NCBR)	**Yes**	**Yes**	No	Universities, R&D units and research institutes are eligible for funding with quota up to 100%.
Romania (UEFISCDI)	**Yes**	**Yes**	No	Eligibility criteria for the "Ideas" Programme apply (cf. annex).
Switzerland (SNSF)	**Yes**	**Yes**	No	Standard SNSF eligibility criteria apply. See the annex for further information. You must contact SNSF if you did not receive project funding before.
Turkey (TÜBITAK)	**Yes**	**Yes**	No	Standard TUBITAK eligibility criteria apply. See the annex for further information.
UK (EPSRC)	No	**Yes**	No	Standard RCUK eligibility criteria apply. See the annex for further information.

Application Procedure

1. Ensure the Proposal is Valid

- The research is in line with one of the two topics of the call.
- The consortium meets eligibility criteria.
- Each partner meets national eligibility criteria.

It is the responsibility of each partner to ensure its eligibility. Check the overview table on page 9 and the detailed national regulations in annex for partner-specific conditions.

Please make sure that all partners that must contact their national funding organisation prior to submission have done so.

2. Submit the Proposal

The coordinator prepares a joint proposal for the whole consortium, using the proposal form available on the CHIST-ERA website. The form is submitted using the electronic submission system on the website.

We recommend that a draft of the proposal be submitted several days before the deadline to guarantee against unforeseen issues. Proposals that have already been submitted can be modified until the deadline.

Partners whose national funding organisation requires submitting national forms alongside the consortium application must do so at this point.

The coordinator and all partners must be in a position to diligently answer email queries for a period of one month after the submission. If a partner's PI is not available, he must be represented by a collaborator of the same organisation.

Evaluation and Selection of Proposals

Proposals will be assessed by an evaluation panel of international experts. There will be one panel for each topic of the call. Proposals that are not in line with either one of the topics will be rejected.

The proposals will be evaluated and ranked according to the following criteria:

1. **S/T Quality:** Scientific and/or technological excellence with respect to the topics of the call:
   a. Soundness of the concept, and quality of the objectives;
   b. Progress beyond the state-of-the-art;
   c. Quality and effectiveness of the methodology and the associated work plan;
   d. Originality and novelty of ideas.
2. **Implementation:** Quality and efficiency of the implementation and management:
   a. Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures;
   b. Quality and relevant experience of individual participants;
   c. Quality and added value of the consortium (complementarity, balance, etc.);
   d. Appropriateness of allocation and justification of requested resources (staff, equipment…);
   e. Identification of risks.
3. **Impact:** Potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results:
   a. Contribution, at the European and/or international level, to the expected impacts;
   b. Societal and scientific importance;
   c. Appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of project results, and management of intellectual property.

The assessment of each proposal by the evaluation panel will be detailed in a consensus report, which will be made available to applicants.

On the basis of the ranking and of available funding, a board representing the call's national funding organisations (Call Steering Committee) will propose a list of projects to be funded. The final decision to fund a research group remains with the national funding organisations.

Management of Projects

Setting up the Consortium

If the proposal is selected for funding, each partner should submit the required administrative information to his national funding organisation to obtain his CHIST-ERA grant. The subsequent "negotiation phase" between the partner and the national funding organisations follows the established national procedures and, if successful, results in a grant agreement between the two parties.

All partners of a consortium should request grants starting at approximately the same date, to ensure that the collaborative research can be conducted as planned.

The administrative and financial management of grants is overseen by the respective national funding organisations, according to national rules and guidelines.

Three months after a project's start, a consortium agreement has to be signed by all partners and sent to the CHIST-ERA Secretariat.

Reporting and Publications

Consortiums must present the status of their project at each yearly event organised by CHIST-ERA. Partners may request funding for the researchers involved in the project to attend the yearly event.

Furthermore, the coordinators of funded projects have to submit a scientific report on each 12-month period of the project. The reports must be sent to the CHIST-ERA Secretariat within two months of the end of each period.

Some national funding organisations require separate reports for individual project partners. This will be specified in their grant agreement.

Any publications resulting from CHIST-ERA projects must acknowledge CHIST-ERA, and an electronic copy must be sent to the CHIST-ERA Secretariat.

Annex: National Contact Points and Regulations

Austria (FWF)

National Contact Point

Dr. Stefan Mühlbachler

FWF-Der Wissenschaftsfonds
Sensengasse 1
1090 Wien

Tel: +43 1 505 6740 8408
Fax: +43 1 505 6739

Stefan.muehlbachler@fwf.ac.at

http://www.fwf.ac.at/

Funding Criteria and Regulations

All Austrian partners must contact FWF prior to submission.

For Austrian proposers hold the same application criteria as for regular stand-alone projects (see pages **1** and **5-7** of "application guidelines" available at the FWF website:

http://www.fwf.ac.at/de/applications/p/p_application-guidelines.pdf

Applications forms can be found following this link:

http://www.fwf.ac.at/de/applications/i-internationale_kooperationsprojekte.html

Filled and signed FWF forms have to be sent to the FWF office concurrent to the submission of the joint CHISTERA proposal.

Belgium (FNRS)

National Contact Point

Arnaud GOOLAERTS, PhD
European and international affairs
Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS
Rue d'Egmont 5
1000 Bruxelles

Tel: +32 (0)2 504 93 09

arnaud.goolaerts@frs-fnrs.be

Funding Criteria and Regulations

For the general eligibility criteria, please refer to http://www1.frs-fnrs.be/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=867.

The maximum amount of requested funding per project is 200 000 euros for a total period of three years.

Eligibility of the proposal:

- Basic research carried out in a research institution from the "Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles"
- The FNRS will not fund industrial partners or any activity related to the private sector.

Eligibility of the applying scientists:

- The applying scientists must be linked to a research institution from the "Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles". This contractual link must at least cover the whole duration of the project.

France (ANR)

National Contact Point

Mathieu GIRERD
Chargé de mission CHIST-ERA
Agence Nationale de la Recherche
212, rue de Bercy
75012 Paris

Tel: +33 1 7354 8213

mathieu.girerd@agencerecherche.fr

Funding Criteria and Regulations

The specific appendix for applicants from France will be available by end November on the website of ANR: http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/AAPProjetsOuverts.

Ireland (IRC)

National Contact Point

Gemma Irvine

The Irish Research Council
Brooklawn House,
Crampton Avenue, Shelbourne Road,
Dublin 4,
Ireland

Tel: +353 1231 5000

info@research.ie

Funding Criteria and Regulations

Eligibility criteria for regular IRC funding programmes apply (www.research.ie). You must contact IRC prior to submission.

Latvia (LZA)

National Contact Point

Maija Bundule

Centre of European Programs
Latvian Academy of Sciences (LZA)
Akademijas laukums 1
Riga, LV-1050
Latvia
Tel: +371 67227790
Maija.Bundule@lza.lv

Funding Criteria and Regulations

Funding criteria derive from the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia No 414 on procedure for providing support for participation in international cooperation programs for research and technology (adopted on 19 June 2012).

Universities and research institutes as well as SMEs (as defined by the European Commission) are eligible for funding.

A maximum of 220 000 euros can be requested per project.

For further information visit the LZA website (www.lza.lv)

Luxembourg (FNR)

National Contact Point

Dr. Andreea Monnat (Mrs.)
Programme Manager
Fonds National de la Recherche
6, rue Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
P.O. Box 1777 L-1017 Luxembourg

Tel: +352 261925-53
Fax: +352 261925-35

andreea.monnat@fnr.lu

www.fnr.lu

Funding Criteria and Regulations

Eligible organisations and funding quota	Public Research Centres, the Centre d'Etude des Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-économiques, the University, and all other public bodies, departments and institutions authorised to undertake research as well as development and technology transfer activities in Luxembourg are eligible and FNR funds the full cost model (consumables, travel, equipment, Personnel, overhead)
Organisations excluded from funding	All private national institutions and international private and public institutions

Poland (NCBR)

National Contact Point

Wojciech Piotrowicz
Department of Programmes Management
Section of Management of Applied Research Programmes INFOTECH
Ul. Nowogrodzka 47a
00-695 Warszawa

Tel: +48 785 661 476

wojciech.piotrowicz@ncbr.gov.pl

www.ncbr.gov.pl

Funding Criteria and Regulations

Following organisations are eligible for funding: universities, R&D units and research institutes (including international) with funding quota up to 100%.

For further information please visit www.ncbr.gov.pl.

Romania (UEFISCDI)

National Contact Point

Monica Cruceru

Expert
Research Funding Directorate
Management and Administration of Exploratory Research Programmes European Science Foundation Department
Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding
Address: 21-25 Mendeleev Str., sector 1, zip cod 010362 Bucharest, ROMANIA

Tel: +40 21 307 1961
Fax: +40 21 307 1919

monica.cruceru@uefiscdi.ro

www.uefiscdi.gov.ro

Funding Criteria and Regulations

- The leader of Romanian team must have a doctorate. If the doctoral diploma is not officially recognized in Romania, its recognition must be obtained before signing of the funding contract;
- The leader of Romanian team has a fixed term contract with an institute from Romania covering at least the duration of the project or has the agreement of the host institution for his or her employment at least for the duration of the contract;
- It is forbidden to submit a proposal which seeks to fund activities which had already obtained funding from the state budget;
- The host institution does not have a seizure on its accounts; it has not made false declarations concerning the information required by the UEFISCDI; it has not broken the terms of a different contract signed previously with the UEFISCDI;
- The host institution agrees to ensure the necessary administrative support, to provide access to all necessary infrastructures, to support the implementation of the project in good

conditions and to employ the members of the Romanian team, while observing all legal provisions in force.

- A Romanian researcher can submit only one proposal per call topic.

Eligible costs

- Personnel / Staff costs (including all corresponding state and social contributions) – the Romanian team including the PI, will be paid according to the provisions of the Governmental Decision 475/2007 (upper ceilings) and in full compliance with the working contract of Romanian team with its organization;
- Equipment and consumable costs necessary for the JRP, including equipment, consumables, material expenses, publication, information / bibliography expenses or for access to the research infrastructure of third parties, subcontractors, etc.
- Travel and subsistence allowances (including travel and accommodation costs, allowances, conferences fees, medical insurances, visa fees) corresponding to international travel of the Romanian JRP team members, for documentation periods, participation in high level scientific conferences thematically linked to the JRP, workshops and communications in the field of the JRP;
- Overhead - indirect expenses are calculated as a percentage of direct expenses: salaries, inventory and mobility (no more than 25%).

General regulations

- Once the transnational evaluation procedure has been completed and the researchers have been notified, the applicants will be invited to formally apply to the national funding "Ideas" Programme;
- The Romanian partners awarded in this call should submit an annual report (scientific and financial) in accordance with the regulations established in the corresponding national funding "Ideas" Programme.

Switzerland (SNSF)

National Contact Point

Dr. Gilles Dubochet

[Swiss National Science Foundation](#)
Division II – Mathematical, Natural and Engineering Sciences

Direct phone: +41 31 308 21 68
Secretariat: +41 31 308 23 23
gdubochet@snf.ch

Funding Criteria and Regulations

Applicants from Switzerland must be eligible for [SNSF projects funding](#). Swiss applicants who have not previously obtained a project grant in division II should contact the national contact point to check their eligibility. Grants will be managed according to [standard SNSF rules](#). Follow-up applications may not be submitted.

Turkey (TUBITAK)

National Contact Point

Ms. Ezgi Bener
ICT NCP for Turkey

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey - TUBITAK

EU Framework Programmes National Coordination Office

Atatürk Bulvarı No: 221
06100 Kavaklıdere/ Ankara

Tel: +90 312 468 53 00 / 2580
Fax: +90 312 427 40 24

ncpict@tubitak.gov.tr

www.fp7.org.tr

Funding Criteria and Regulations

The specific appendix for applicants from Turkey is available on the website of TÜBİTAK EU Framework Programmes National Coordination Office:

http://www.fp7.org.tr/home.do?ot=5&rt=1&sid=3222&pid=0&cid=25367

UK (ESPRC)

National Contact Point

Dr. Richard Gunn
Portfolio Manager, Information and Communication Technologies

EPSRC
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
SWINDON
SN21ET

Tel: +44 (0) 1793 444304

Richard.Gunn@epsrc.ac.uk

Funding Criteria and Regulations

For UK applicants, the standard RCUK eligibility criteria apply. See "Funding Guide: Eligibility" at EPSRC website: http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/apprev/basics/Pages/fundingguide.aspx.