

Guidance Note:

Overheads/Full Economic Costing for Feasibility and Proof of Concept Awards

It is proposed that for all applications to the Northern Accelerator Connecting Capability Fund the partner universities treat this in the same way as 'internal' funding that exists elsewhere in the universities – typical examples would be funds like the EPSRC/BBSRC Impact Accelerator Awards or MRC Confidence in Concept awards. This means:

- Real direct costs incurred by needing to hire/extend the existing contracts of research staff (post docs, technicians etc.) should be costed and included, typically for a fixed period of time;
- Real direct costs of things like lab consumables, access to specialist kit (e.g. microscopes) should be costed at internal rates;
- Indirect costs (to cover things like estates, utilities etc.) that might otherwise ordinarily be incurred for some staff (e.g. post docs) should not be included in CCF applications;
- It is recognised that indirect costs of academic supervision are more complex and represent a real cost to universities. The decision on whether or not to include such costs in a CCF application is left to the discretion of applicants and their support teams. Where such costs are included in an application a clear rationale for their inclusion should be provided.

NB: The funding rules from our funder, Research England, do not specifically exclude overheads/FEC and so the above is not absolutely prohibitive but is offered for guidance. Connecting Capability Funding is provided for the commercialisation of research and a general condition of any grant funding from Research England is that it is used explicitly 'for its intended purpose'.

The preference of the project steering group is that applications follow these guidelines on overheads and applicants should be aware that this view is likely to be reflected in decisions made by the funding review panel.

As per Northern Accelerator CCF application guidance there is a cap for the Feasibility and Proof of Concept awards which applies irrespective of what overhead policy is adopted.

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