

immana

**Innovative Methods and Metrics for
Agriculture and Nutrition Actions**

Competitive Research Grants to Develop Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions

Led by London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Frequently asked questions



Funded by:



1. Who is funding the IMMANA Grants Programme?

This programme is part of a larger project on Innovative Metrics and Methods for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA), an initiative funded with UK aid from the UK government through the Department for International Development. The goal of the programmes is *to accelerate the development of a robust and coherent scientific evidence base which will support effective policy and investments in agriculture for improved nutrition and health*. The Grants are a central component of IMMANA, which has three inter-related objectives:

- Strategic Engagement with the research community to fill knowledge gaps in measurement and understanding of agriculture's role in nutrition and health, implemented through *IMMANA Grants*;
- Capacity Building for a cadre of early career researchers who are developing, adapting and applying these new methodological approaches, implemented through *IMMANA Fellowships*; and
- Strengthening Collaboration across national, institutional and disciplinary boundaries, mobilizing the research community to deliver the best metrics and methods for evidence-based policy making and program design through the *Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH) Academy*.

2. Which countries are eligible? Does the research collaboration need to be linked to a UK organisation?

There are no specific geographical eligibility criteria and no requirement to be working with UK collaborators. Applicants should be aware that the proposed research must be strongly linked to agriculture and food systems in low and middle income countries, particularly South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, and partnerships with researchers/institutions in those countries will strengthen applications. We encourage collaborations and partnerships across different countries and sectors and this will be one of the assessment criteria. A list of low and middle income countries can be found on the [World Bank website](#).

3. Do all proposals have to include partners based in low and middle income countries?

No, the panel will particularly welcome proposals that demonstrate strong partnerships with Southern partners, but this is not an eligibility requirement. Partnership proposals should demonstrate the

added value that would be created by the proposed partnership, and the contribution it would make to enhance the scientific capacity in low and middle income countries.

4. What is the upper limit of the individual grant applications?

The budget is up to £250,000 per grant. The IMMANA programme as a whole will award up to £3.8mn of competitive research grants over two rounds of funding.

5. Does the £250,000 pounds exclude indirect costs?

No. The £250,000 grant limit is the total amount that can be allocated to any one grant. This limit will need to include any indirect costs.

6. Do you support indirect or overhead costs?

There are budget guidelines in the Call for Applications. The budget must be in pound sterling (£). Indirect or overhead costs are permitted up to 15% of the total budget.

7. What are the costing guidelines for UK universities? According to the guidance, the costs include estates and overhead. Is the costing at full economic cost or 80%?

The IMMANA grants are available to applicants internationally and are not restricted to UK applicants, which is why there is no specific guidance on the costing procedures followed by UK universities. Indirect costs are permitted but the bulk of the costs of the budget should be for direct costs such as salaries and transport. All applications will be reviewed for value for money and this should be a consideration when putting together budgets. If your application is shortlisted to the full proposal stage then you will be asked to justify the budget, including indirect costs.

For the purposes of IMMANA, **'Direct costs'** include salaries of directly hired project personnel, travel for project personnel, supplies directly related to the project, sub-contracts, publication costs etc. For IMMANA, **'indirect costs'** include overhead expenses which are incurred *as a result of the project*, for example use of existing shared equipment for the purpose of the project, grant management directly related to the project and project related travel insurance. Overall, we expect these costs to be kept to a minimum and the indirect costs are expected to facilitate effective implementation of the proposed project.

Including indirect costs that are not easily identifiable within the budget and are not directly related to the proposed project is strongly discouraged (examples include administrative, legal, audit, human resources, facility and equipment maintenance, library and IT support and grant management expenses that are related to overall general operations of the organisation). Indirect and estate costs approved may be up to 15% of the proposed budget and will be based on rigorous evaluation for value for money.

8. Is there specific guidance that can be given on the ceiling air fares and per diem costs?

Air fares, and all travel, must be standard (economy) class travel. You should justify these costs and per diem costs in the application and pay attention to value for money.

10. The Call for Applications suggests that I should budget for attendance at the annual Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy conference. Is this right? If I have more than one organisation involved, does a representative from each organisation have to attend?

As stated in the Call for Applications, attendance at the annual Academy conference is mandatory for grant-holders and this should be budgeted for in your application for each year of your proposed research project. However, we only require one representative per grant to attend the conference, so if you have more than one organisation involved, this does not mean that you will need to send multiple representatives. We would expect the Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator to attend the conferences. Of course, you can send more representatives to the conference if you wish.

To assist with budgeting, here is some more information:

- Location: Although we cannot provide the exact location at this stage, between 2015 and 2018, we expect to hold one conference in each of the following regions: East Africa, West Africa, and South Asia.
- Duration: We expect the Academy conferences to be two days long, with two additional days for IMMANA activities. When budgeting, allow at least four nights' accommodation.
- Timing: the Academy conferences will be held each year in late spring/early summer (i.e. at some point between April and July)
- Types of cost to include: When budgeting, take into account airfare, accommodation, visas, insurance and inoculation, as well as additional costs like local transport (e.g. airport), meals, etc.

11. IMMANA is focused on the development of metrics and methodologies - is the emphasis exclusively on metrics that are fully generalizable to all locations or is there also interest in locally valid metrics?

There will be trade-offs as metrics have to be developed within a context. A key motivation behind the IMMANA grant programme is for researchers to develop metrics/methods/tools that can be eventually used or adapted by other researchers in other contexts. A balance between locally-valid metrics and generalizable metrics will be important. When developing your concept memo, it might be useful to ask yourself: What is the translational feasibility of what you are developing? How will the research community benefit from it? What is the potential for this methods or metric to move the field forward?

12. Does natural resource use fall within the grant's conception of "agriculture and food systems" or is it outside of topic area that the grant aims to fund?

Natural resource use is within IMMANA's conception of agriculture and food systems and therefore the topic is within the scope of IMMANA. When putting together your application, you'll need to be cautious that you situate natural resources in the context of the linkages between agriculture/food systems and nutrition outcomes.

13. Are appendices accepted with the concept memo?

No, for reasons of consistency we are asking all applicants to restrict the concept memo to the template provided. If your application is shortlisted to the next stage, there will be more opportunity to provide more detail on the proposed research project. At this stage, we're looking for ideas, not a fully polished proposal.

14. Is there information on previously funded IMMANA projects in order to see what type of proposals were funded?

Yes. There has been one previous round of applications and seven grants were awarded. Details of successful applicants can be found on the [IMMANA website](#).

15. I submitted a concept memo and/or full proposal in the first round of IMMANA grants but was not successful. Can I resubmit the application?

Yes, any application not successful in round 1 can be re-submitted in round 2. Please ensure that while you can submit a new concept memo in this round, and you respond to the specific requirements of this round as both the concept memo template and Call for Applications are different.

17. Can my organisation apply for both an IMMANA Grant AND an IMMANA Fellowship?

Yes, this is possible. However, you need to bear in mind the guidance in the Call for Applications. This states that: "We will not normally provide IMMANA Fellowships to researchers to join IMMANA Grants, but it would be acceptable in principle for an institution to be hosting both an IMMANA Grant and an IMMANA Fellowship, as long as they are clearly separate activities." In practice, this means that if you apply for both a Grant and a Fellowship, we would not expect these two applications to be dependent on each other or to cover the same activities. The two must be distinct.

18. What will happen to the concept memos and proposals that are not successful? Will feedback be provided and will applicants be able to reapply?

We are not in a position to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants at the concept memo stage. Feedback will be provided to applicants who submitted full proposals.

21. What are the contractual requirements of the grants?

The standard terms and conditions are provided for information within the call documents. These terms and conditions are non-negotiable.