This document sets out answers to a range of questions which potential applicants may have. It may be updated while the call is open to elaborate or supplement answers in response to queries received.

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Is there a limit to the number of applications a PI can lead on?
Currently there is no limit to the number of applications a PI can lead on, however if there are significant similarities between proposals it is likely the panel would questions why multiple proposals have been submitted rather than one combined application.

If collaborations are distinct from each other there is no rule precluding submission of multiple applications, with each application assessed on its own merit.

Who can be PI on a BNSCF application?
Proposals should be led by the individuals who are best placed to facilitate the collaboration between the two institutions. There are no requirements regarding the seniority of PIs.

Can previously rejected applications be re-submitted?
Yes. Applications which have previously not been funded can be re-submitted however, applicants are encouraged to look at ways in which the application can be strengthened and developed.

What is the success rate for previous rounds of the Birmingham-Nottingham Strategic Collaboration Fund?
Since the fund launched in 2012 the average success rate has been 17%.

Do applications have to be for large-scale collaborations?
No. The fund has been established to support collaborations between the two institutions. There are two streams of funding available through the BNSCF:

- Creativity funding: to support formative discussions between groups at the two institutions.
enabling exploration of key complementary strengths and new/emerging opportunities with the aim of creating the foundations for new collaborations/engagement that have the potential to create a step change in our research and knowledge transfer, or professional services activities.

- **Accelerator funding**: to provide funding to pump-prime further developments between the institutions that will forge significant, sustainable activities that respond to/create new opportunities (e.g. for centres, funding, high quality research outputs, partnerships etc.) that will deliver a genuine and sustained impact for both institutions.

**Can applicants apply for Accelerator funding if they haven’t previously received Creativity funding?**
Yes. There is no requirement for Creativity funding to have been received before applicants can apply for Accelerator funding. The fund is available to support collaborations between the two institutions so the type and level of funding applied for should be appropriate to facilitate the proposed collaboration.

**My application is for an education focused collaboration, where can I submit this?**
A separate fund (the [Education Partnership Fund](#)) has been established to fund collaborative educational enhancement projects. Projects to the Education Partnership Fund should investigate challenges that are faced by both universities, and lead to the development of innovative, evidence-based practices that will enhance student learning.

Deadline for EPF Expression of Interest: 6 April 2018

Queries about the Education Partnership Fund should be directed to: hefi.projects@contacts.bham.ac.uk

**Should projects be costed at Full Economic Cost (fEC)?**
No. Indirect and estates costs are not eligible under this fund and only direct costs should be included.

**Queries or further information**
Please direct any queries relating to this scheme to either Soma Mukherjee at the University of Nottingham ([soma.mukherjee@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:soma.mukherjee@nottingham.ac.uk), 0115 951 5762) or Nathalie Kopecky at the University of Birmingham ([n.z.kopecky@bham.ac.uk](mailto:n.z.kopecky@bham.ac.uk), 0121 414 5888).