**Understanding geohazard processes and their impacts across India**

Apply for funding for a collaborative UK-India project to improve understanding of geohazard events in India and its neighbouring countries.

You must:

* be based at a UK research organisation eligible for NERC funding
* be in a role that meets the individual eligibility requirements
* have at least one Indian partner based at a Ministry of Earth Sciences, India (MoES) institute

The full economic cost (FEC) of the UK component can be up to £1 million. We will fund 80% of the FEC. Total funding available is £4 million for UK applicants with matched equivalent resources from MoES for Indian applicants.

All projects must be collaborative and include UK and Indian researchers. One collaborative application should be submitted by the UK project lead to NERC detailing both the UK and Indian contributions to the project.

Each project must list one project lead from the UK and one project co-lead (international) from India.

You may be involved in no more than two applications submitted to this funding opportunity. Only one of these can be as project lead.

It is expected that project teams will need to incorporate researchers from a range of disciplines in order to fully address the aims of the programme. On the UK side all applications should include NERC remit researchers and must cover at least two UKRI-council remits. You must ensure that all three essential project components of the scope are addressed.

### UK eligibility

This is a UK Research and Innovation funding opportunity led by NERC.

Before applying for funding, check the following:

* [NERC eligibility guidance for applicants](https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/guidance-for-applicants/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-funding/)
* [eligibility of your organisation](https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/eligibility-as-an-organisation/)

### Indian eligibility

The Indian project co-lead may be based at any Indian research institute, but applications must involve collaboration with at least one researcher from a MoES institute.

MoES institutes are:

* [National Centre for Seismology (NCS)](https://seismo.gov.in/)
* [National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS)](https://www.ncess.gov.in/)
* [Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL)](https://seismo.gov.in/borehole-geophysics-research-laboratory)
* [National Centre for Polar & Ocean Research (NCPOR)](https://ncpor.res.in/)
* [India Meteorological Department (IMD)](https://mausam.imd.gov.in/)

The Indian project co-lead’s institute should have labs, infrastructure and facilities to conduct the necessary research.

### Who is eligible to apply

#### UK

This funding opportunity is open to research groups and individuals.

We encourage multidisciplinary research and collaborations with other organisations.

We welcome applications from individuals at any career stage, subject to NERC eligibility criteria.

UKRI has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the new UKRI Funding Service. For full details, visit [Eligibility as an individual](https://www.ukri.org/publications/roles-in-funding-applications/).

#### India

All Indian applicants should hold a permanent position in India.

Early career researchers are encouraged to apply.

MoES will fund social scientists on a need-based basis. Indian project co-leads are encouraged to identify and include social scientists and other experts (where appropriate) at the time of submitting their applications, so that appropriate routes for funding can be agreed at the award start.

Applications involving ineligible applicants, from either India or the UK, will result in the whole application being rejected.

#### International applicants

Each project will be delivered by a combined team of UK and Indian researchers, jointly led by a UK project lead and an Indian project co-lead.

All Indian costs will be funded by MoES.

NERC do not fund overseas organisations, except for specific costs for project co-leads (previously co-investigator) from Norway and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). Read more about this in the [NERC eligibility guidance for applicants](https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/guidance-for-applicants/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-funding/).

You should include all other international collaborators (or UK partners not based at approved organisations) as project partners. This includes organisations from the business or financial sectors.

Project partners fund their own involvement. We will only fund minor incidental expenses, such as some travel costs, if needed for project partners.

### Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all funding applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

We support people to work in a way that suits their personal circumstances. This includes:

* career breaks
* support for people with caring responsibilities
* flexible working
* alternative working patterns

Find out more about [equality, diversity and inclusion at UKRI](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/) and [NERC’s diversity and inclusion action plan](https://www.ukri.org/publications/nerc-diversity-and-inclusion-action-plan-2022-2025/).

### Scope

The vast majority of deaths from geohazards (such as earthquakes and related landslides) occur in low and middle-income countries, where the attendant damage to essential infrastructure, devastation of local economies, and mass displacements of people can have impacts which last decades.

Building resilience to geohazards presents a major challenge that requires collaborative international action by researchers, policymakers, governments, private sectors, and civil societies.

The Understanding geohazard processes and their impacts across India programme is an investment of up to £4 million from UK Research and Innovation with matched equivalent resources from MoES for Indian applicants. It will fund essential interdisciplinary research that:

* seeks to understand the contextual fundamental physics of earthquake and landslide processes (for example, fault plane mechanics, crustal deformation mechanisms, rainfall thresholds) behind geohazard events in India and its neighbouring countries
* develops and tests new technologies and techniques for low-cost solutions to monitoring, identifying and quantifying geohazards over vast regions, including addressing barriers to uptake and implementation by local communities
* explores the social, cultural and environmental impacts of cascading geohazards within India and its neighbouring countries in order to enhance environmental, structural and community resilience at the local, regional and national scale by devising novel risk reduction and mitigation strategies

It is expected that project teams will need to incorporate researchers from a range of disciplines in order to fully address the aims of the programme. On the UK side all proposals should include NERC remit researchers and must cover at least two UKRI-council remits. You must ensure that all three essential project components of the scope are addressed.

### Essential Project Components

Applications to this funding opportunity must address all three of the following components:

* projects should further understanding of and address knowledge gaps in the fundamental properties and physics of earthquake and landslide processes through appropriate methods such as (but not limited to):
  + experimental rock mechanics
  + borehole data and characterisation
  + Earth observation, monitoring and mapping
  + scaling up laboratory experiments to field and/or regional scale
  + the development of new Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning tools to advance the field of earthquake and landslide analysis, prediction and understanding
  + creation of new low-cost sensing technologies and tools
  + earthquake early warning systems
  + data assimilation
  + palaeo-reconstructions
  + seismic tomography
* new understanding should then be applied to improving risk and vulnerability maps and models to refine short and long term hazard forecasting and early warning systems of earthquakes and any subsequent cascading hazards. These hazards could include (but are not limited to):
  + aftershocks
  + liquefaction
  + landslides
  + tsunamis
  + flooding
  + damage to the built environment
  + damage to critical infrastructure
* projects should also propose novel mitigation strategies in order to enhance resilience to geohazards. This could include (but is not limited to):
  + structural mitigation measures to improve resilience; how buildings and communities should be designed to improve shock resistance
  + understanding the ability of local communities to manage and respond to geohazard risks; identifying solutions to improve community knowledge and capability, as well as addressing barriers to community uptake and implementation
  + the use of nature based and nature inspired solutions

Projects will need to demonstrate the robust solutions required to minimise risk and enhance community knowledge in order to create safer, more resilient societies that are well equipped to manage and respond to geohazards in and around India now and in the future.

Research should be informed by local knowledge and understanding of disaster events. Projects should therefore employ a participatory approach from the outset in order to co-develop tools and approaches with local communities, that will have direct impact on the ground.

### Geographical focus

Projects will need to focus on geohazards in India and its neighbouring countries but can choose to research events that occur at any type of plate boundary, including the previously understudied intraplate regions. Additionally, projects could concentrate on marine earthquakes and tsunamis, including within the Andaman subduction zone. Where appropriate, projects should also outline where their research will have broader global applicability.

For more information on the background of this opportunity, go to the Additional information section.

### Duration

The duration of this award must be four years.

Projects must start by 15 February 2024.

### Funding available

The FEC of the UK component of your project can be up to £1,000,000.

We will fund 80% of the FEC with the following exceptions:

* justified equipment would be funded at 50%
* eligible costs for international project co-leads (previously co-investigator) from Norway and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) would be funded at 100%

Matched funding will be available from MoES for the Indian component of applications.

#### Indian costs

The total funding requested for all Indian partners (added up) should be entered as one figure under the International co-Iead role heading.

A breakdown of the funding requested from MoES (Rs in Lakh) to cover the Indian component of the application should also be included under the Resources and Cost Justification section.

#### What we will fund

* facilities costs

#### What we will not fund

* PhD studentship costs
* ship time costs and marine equipment

### Services and facilities

You can apply to use a facility or resource in your funding application.

You should discuss your application with the facility or service at least two months before the funding opportunity’s closing date to:

* discuss the proposed work in detail
* receive confirmation that they can provide the services required within the timeframe of the funding

The facility will provide a technical assessment that includes the calculated cost of providing the service. NERC services and facilities must be costed within the limits of the funding.

You should not submit the technical assessment with the application, but you must confirm you have received it.

For more information, go to the [NERC research grants and fellowships handbook](https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/guidance-for-applicants/handbooks-guidance-and-forms/).

Read the full list of [NERC facilities that require a technical assessment](https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/facilities-and-resources/find-a-nerc-facility-or-resource/).

High Performance Computing (HPC) and the large research facilities at Harwell have their own policies for access and costing.

### Supporting skills and talent

We encourage you to follow the principles of the [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](https://researcherdevelopmentconcordat.ac.uk/) and the [Technician Commitment](https://www.techniciancommitment.org.uk/).

### International collaboration

International collaboration is an essential element of this funding opportunity. All applicants should visit [Trusted Research](https://www.npsa.gov.uk/trusted-research) for more information on effective international collaboration.

### Responsible research

Through our funding processes, we seek to make a positive contribution to society and the environment. This is not just through research outputs and outcomes but through the way in which research is conducted and facilities managed.

All NERC grant holders are to adopt responsible research practices as set out in the [NERC responsible business statement](https://www.ukri.org/about-us/nerc/our-policies-and-standards/nerc-as-a-responsible-business/).

Responsible research is defined as reducing harm or enhancing benefit on the environment and society through effective management of research activities and facilities. Specifically, this covers:

* the natural environment
* the local community
* equality, diversity and inclusion

You should consider the responsible research context of your project, not the host institution as a whole. You should take action to enhance your responsible research approach where practical and reasonable.

### Research disruption due to COVID-19

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major interruptions and disruptions across our communities. We are committed to ensuring that individual applicants and their wider team, including partners and networks, are not penalised for any disruption to their career, such as:

* breaks and delays
* disruptive working patterns and conditions
* the loss of ongoing work
* role changes that may have been caused by the pandemic

Reviewers and panel members will be advised to consider the unequal impacts that COVID-19 related disruption might have had on the capability to deliver and career development of those individuals included in the application. They will be asked to consider the capability of the applicant and their wider team to deliver the research they are proposing.

Where disruptions have occurred, you can highlight this within your application if you wish, but there is no requirement to detail the specific circumstances that caused the disruption.

### UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service

We are running the funding opportunity on the new UKRI Funding Service. You cannot apply for this opportunity on the Joint Electronic Submissions (Je-S) system.

The project lead is responsible for completing the application process on the Funding Service, but we expect all team members and project partners to contribute to the application.

Only the lead research organisation can submit an application to UKRI.

Watch our [recording on how to apply for an opportunity in the Funding Service on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7f6TNz8mN8).

To apply

Select ‘Start application’ near the beginning of this Funding finder page.

1. Confirm you are the project lead.
2. Sign in or create a Funding Service account. To create an account, select your organisation, verify your email address, and set a password. If your organisation is not listed, email [support@funding-service.ukri.org](mailto:support@funding-service.ukri.org)
3. Answer questions directly in the text boxes. You can save your answers and come back to complete them or work offline and return to copy and paste your answers. If we need you to upload a document, follow the upload instructions in the Funding Service. All questions and assessment criteria are listed in the How to apply section on this Funding finder page.
4. Send the completed application to your research office for checking. They will return it to you if it needs editing.
5. Your research office will submit the completed and checked application to UKRI.

Watch our [research office webinars about the new Funding Service](https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/improving-your-funding-experience/about-simpler-and-better-funding/).

### Deadline

We must receive your application by 3 October 2023 at 4:00pm UK time.

You will not be able to apply after this time.

Make sure you are aware of and follow any internal institutional deadlines.

We will not be returning applications for amendment.

### Personal data

#### Processing personal data

NERC, as part of UKRI, will need to collect some personal information to manage your funding service account and the registration of your funding applications.

We will handle personal data in line with UK data protection legislation and manage it securely. For more information, including how to exercise your rights, read our [privacy notice](https://www.ukri.org/about-us/privacy-notice/).

We will need to share the application and any personal information that it contains with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, India (MoES) so that they can participate in the assessment process. MoES will handle personal data as governed by India’s policy on data sharing and dissemination.

#### Publication of outcomes

NERC, as part of UKRI, will publish the outcomes of this funding opportunity on [What NERC has funded](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/what-we-have-funded/nerc/).

If your application is successful, we will publish some personal information on the [UKRI Gateway to Research](https://gtr.ukri.org/).

### UKRI Funding Service: section guidance

#### Summary

Word count: 550

In plain English, provide a summary that we can use to identify the most suitable experts to assess your application.

We may make this summary publicly available on external-facing websites, so make it suitable for a variety of readers, for example:

* opinion-formers
* policymakers
* the public
* the wider research community

##### Guidance for writing a summary

Succinctly describe your proposed work in terms of:

* context
* the challenge the project addresses
* aims and objectives
* potential applications and benefits

#### Applicants

List the key members of your team and assign them roles from the following:

* project lead (PL)
* project co-lead (UK) (PcL)
* project co-lead (international) (PcL (I))
* researcher co-lead
* specialist
* grant manager
* professional enabling staff
* research and innovation associate
* technician
* visiting researcher

Only list one individual as project lead.

#### Section: Vision and Approach

Word count: 5

Create a document that includes your responses to all criteria. The document should not be more than six-sides of A4, single line spacing in 11-point Arial (or equivalent sans serif font) with margins of at least 2cm. You may include images, graphs, tables. One extra side is allowed for the project plan (for example a Gantt chart).

For the file name, use the unique funding service number the system gives you when you create an application, followed by the words ‘Vision and Approach’.

Save this document as a single PDF file, no bigger than 8MB. Unless specifically requested, please do not include any personal data within the attachment.

If the attachment does not meet these requirements, the application will be rejected.

The Funding Service will provide document upload details when you apply.

Question: What are you hoping to achieve with and how will you deliver your proposed work?

##### What the assessors are looking for in your response

For the Vision, explain how your proposed work:

* is of excellent quality and importance within or beyond the fields or areas
* has the potential to advance current understanding, generates new knowledge, thinking or discovery within or beyond the field or area
* is timely given current trends, context and needs
* impacts world-leading research, society, the economy or the environment

Within the Vision section we also expect you to:

* clearly describe how your application will address one or more knowledge gaps in our current understanding of the fundamental properties and physics of earthquake or landslide processes, and justify why your chosen methods are the most appropriate
* describe how you will utilise knowledge and understanding gained from the project to refine hazard forecasting and early warning systems of earthquakes and subsequent cascading hazards
* describe how your project will enhance resilience to geohazards through novel mitigation strategies
* identify the potential direct or indirect benefits and who the beneficiaries might be

For the Approach, explain how you have designed your work so that it:

* is effective and appropriate to achieve your objectives
* is feasible, and comprehensively identifies any risks to delivery and how they will be managed
* if applicable, uses a clear and transparent methodology
* if applicable, summarises the previous work and describes how this will be built upon and progressed
* will maximise translation of outputs into outcomes and impacts
* describes how your, and if applicable your team’s, research environment (in terms of the place, its location, and relevance to the project) will contribute to the success of the work

Within the Approach section we also expect you to:

* demonstrate access to the appropriate services, facilities, infrastructure, or equipment to deliver the project
* demonstrate how your proposed project represents a true collaborative partnership between the UK and India, highlighting the relevance and benefits the research will bring to both countries
* demonstrate how you will employ a participatory approach throughout the project so that your research will be both informed by local knowledge and understanding of geohazards events, and so that new understanding, tools and approaches are developed in partnership with local communities
* provide a detailed and comprehensive integrated project plan including milestones and timelines in the form of a Gantt chart or similar clearly demonstrating an equal commitment to the project from the UK and Indian side in terms of effort (additional one page A4)

#### Section: Project partners: contributions

Word count: 1,000

Question: Provide details about any project partners’ contributions.

##### What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you do have project partners, [download and complete the project partner contributions template (DOCX 52.1KB)](https://ukri-tfs-prod-assets.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Project-partner-contributions-template.docx) then copy and paste the table within it into the text box.

Ensure you have obtained prior agreement from project partners that, should you be offered funding, they will support your project as indicated in the template.

A project partner is a collaborating organisation that is contributing to the application and will have an integral role in the proposed research. Project partners cannot normally receive funding directly from the grant. Two exceptions to this are:

* where a project partner is providing services or equipment that will go through a formal procurement process audited by the host research organisation
* the project partner can receive small amounts of funding from the grant, such as for travel and subsistence to attend project meetings. These will need to be requested and fully justified in the application

If you do not have any project partners, simply add ‘N/A’ into the text box, mark this section as complete and move to the next section.

#### Section: Applicant and team capability to deliver

Word count: 1,500 (1,000 words to be used for R4RI modules and, if necessary, a further 500 words for Additions)

Question: Why are you the right individual or team to successfully deliver the proposed work?

##### What the assessors are looking for in your response

Evidence of how you, and if relevant your team, have:

* the relevant experience (appropriate to career stage) to deliver the proposed work
* the right balance of skills and expertise to cover the proposed work
* the appropriate leadership and management skills to deliver the work and your approach to develop others
* contributed to developing the positive research environment and wider community

The word count for this section is 1,500 words – 1,000 words to be used for R4RI modules and, if necessary, a further 500 words for Additions.

Use the Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI) format to showcase the range of relevant skills you, and if relevant your team (project lead and project co-leads, researchers, technicians, specialists, partners and so on) have and how this will help to deliver the proposed work. You can include individuals’ specific achievements but only choose past contributions that best evidence their ability to deliver this work.

Complete this section using the R4RI module headings listed. You should use each heading once and include a response for the whole team, see the [UKRI guidance on R4RI](https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/resume-for-research-and-innovation-r4ri-guidance/). You should consider how to balance your answer, and emphasise where appropriate the key skills each team member brings:

* contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge
* the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships
* contributions to the wider research and innovation community
* contributions to broader research or innovation users and audiences and towards wider societal benefit

##### Additions

Provide any further details relevant to your application. This section is optional and can be up to 500 words. You should not use it to describe additional skills, experiences, or outputs, but you can use it to describe factors that provide context for the rest of your R4RI (for example, details of career breaks if you wish to disclose them).

Complete this as a narrative. Do not format like a CV.

UKRI has introduced new role types for funding opportunities being run on the new Funding Service.

For full details, see [Eligibility as an individual](https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/eligibility-as-an-individual/).

#### Section: Data management and sharing

Word count: 500

Question: How will you manage and share data collected or acquired through the proposed research?

##### What the assessors are looking for in your response

Provide an outline data management plan which should clearly detail how you will comply with NERC’s published [Data Sharing Policy](https://www.ukri.org/about-us/nerc/our-policies-and-standards/nerc-data-policy/), which includes detailed guidance notes.

Indicate:

* which NERC data centre is required to archive the data
* whether the total volume of data is likely to be larger than 1TB
* any other detail on how you will comply with NERC data policy

For details of data centres, see the [NERC Environmental Data Service](https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/facilities-and-resources/find-a-nerc-facility-or-resource/).

We will pay the data centre directly for archival and curation services, but you should ensure that you request sufficient resource to cover preparation of data for archiving by your research team.

Additional services from the data centres, such as database development or a specialist in project data management during your project, must be discussed with the relevant data centre prior to submission and the costs included in your application.

#### Section: Ethics and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

Word count: 1,000

Question: What are the ethical or RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work? If you do not think that the proposed work raises any ethical or RRI issues, explain why.

##### What the assessors are looking for in your response

Demonstrate that you have identified and evaluated:

* the relevant ethical or responsible research and innovation considerations
* how you will manage these considerations

If you are collecting or using data, identify:

* any legal and ethical considerations of collecting, releasing or storing the data including consent, confidentiality, anonymisation, security and other ethical considerations and, in particular, strategies to not preclude further re-use of data
* formal information standards with which your study will comply

#### Section: Facilities

Word count: 250

Question: Does your proposed research require the support and use of a facility?

##### What the assessors are looking for in your response

If you will need to use a facility, you should follow your proposed facility’s normal access request procedures. Where prior agreement is required, ensure you obtain their agreement that, should you be offered funding, they will support the use of their facility on your project.

For each requested facility you will need to provide the:

* name of facility, copied and pasted from the [facility information list (DOCX, 34.9KB)](https://ukri-tfs-prod-assets.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Facility+Information+for+TFS.docx)
* proposed usage or costs, or costs per unit where indicated on the facility information list
* confirmation you have their agreement where required

If you have to attach a facility form, then upload it as a PDF. If you need to upload multiple forms, then combine them into a single PDF.

If you will not need to use a facility, you will be able to indicate this in the Funding Service.

#### Section: Resources and cost justification

Word count: 2,500

Question: What will you need to deliver your proposed work and how much will it cost?

##### What the assessors are looking for in your response

##### UK costs

Justify the UK components more costly resources, in particular:

* project staff
* significant travel for field work or collaboration (but not regular travel between collaborating organisations or to conferences)
* any equipment that will cost more than £10,000
* any consumables beyond typical requirements, or that are required in exceptional quantities
* all facilities and infrastructure costs
* all resources that have been costed as ‘Exceptions’

Assessors are not looking for detailed costs or a line-by-line breakdown of all project resources. Overall, they want to be assured that:

* all resources are appropriate
* the project will make optimal use of resources to achieve its outcomes

##### Indian costs

The total cost for all Indian partners (added up) should be entered as one figure under the International co-I role heading.

A breakdown of funding requested from MoES (Rs in Lakh) to cover the Indian component of the application should also be included, split into the following:

* staff
* consumables
* travel and subsistence
* other costs
* equipment

For each heading a total cost should be supplied and a breakdown of how that will be split across the four project years.

Justification for all costs should be provided.

If funding is requested for multiple organisations a separate breakdown should be given for each.

##### Equipment

All items of permanent equipment costing Rs. 50,000 or above or requiring import into India should be detailed separately. Other minor items may be clubbed. Provisions for installation charge, inland transport and insurance should be included within the estimated cost. For each item of equipment, the following should be provided:

* detailed specifications of the equipment proposed
* details of existing equipment in the country and the need for the additional facility
* statement on the capabilities of the PI in using the equipment
* cost estimate (notional quotations)
* for major equipment of cost greater than Rs. 50 lacs, details should be given on how the instrument will be maintained after project completion

#### Section: References

Word count: 1,000

Question: List the references you’ve used to support your application.

##### What the assessors are looking for in your response

Include all references in this section, not in the rest of the application questions.

You should not include any other information in this section.

We advise you not to include hyperlinks, as assessors are not obliged to access the information they lead to or consider it in their assessment of your application.

If linking to web resources, to maintain the information’s integrity, include persistent identifiers (such as digital object identifiers) where possible.

You must not include links to web resources to extend your application.

### Assessment process

We will assess your application using the following process.

#### Panel

An assessment panel comprised of independent external panel members from India and the UK will review your application against the assessment criteria and rank it alongside other applications. Panel members will consist of experts spanning the breadth of the opportunity remit to ensure that due consideration is given to interdisciplinary applications.

The panel will then make a funding recommendation.

NERC and MoES will jointly make the final funding decision.

#### Timescale

We aim to complete the assessment process within four months of receiving your application.

#### Feedback

We will give feedback with the outcome of your application.

### Principles of assessment

We support the [San Francisco declaration on research assessment (DORA)](https://sfdora.org/read/) and recognise the relationship between research assessment and research integrity.

Find out about the [UK Research and Innovation principles of assessment and decision making](https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-principles-of-assessment-and-decision-making/).

We reserve the right to modify the assessment process as needed.

### Assessment criteria

The criteria against which your application will be assessed are:

* Vision
* Approach
* Applicant and team capability to deliver
* Ethics and Responsible Research and innovation
* Resources and cost justification

### Background

Worldwide from 2000 to 2019 [geophysical events accounted for 9% of all disasters but resulted in 59% of all disaster-related deaths](https://www.undrr.org/media/48008), making them by far the deadliest type of disaster.

The vast majority of deaths from geohazards (such as earthquakes and related landslides) occur in low and middle-income countries, where the attendant damage to essential infrastructure, devastation of local economies, and mass displacements of people can have impacts which last decades.

The devastating Gujarat earthquake in 2001 resulted in an official death toll of approximately 20,000 people, with unofficial figures much higher. Around 300,000 buildings, along with roads, bridges and other infrastructure were destroyed, with more than 1 million houses suffering partial damage or destruction.

In January 2023 NERC and MoES held a joint UK-India scoping workshop facilitated by UK Research and Innovation India on ‘De-risking the Risk of Solid Earth Hazards’. The workshop took place in New Delhi, bringing together scientific experts from the UK and India to identify opportunities for a potential joint UKRI-MoES bilateral programme on the topic.

You are advised to refer to the contents of the scoping report when formulating your projects, which was published following the workshop and is available under the supporting links section. This report summarises the discussions held and highlights a number of priority research areas that were identified.

This funding opportunity speaks directly to the UKRI Strategic theme on [Building a Secure and Resilient World](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/our-main-funds-and-areas-of-support/browse-our-areas-of-investment-and-support/building-a-secure-and-resilient-world/), particularly to the sub-themes on Strengthening Resilience in the Natural and Built Environment and Behavioural and Cultural Resilience.

The programme will also address several [NERC Delivery Plan](https://www.ukri.org/publications/nerc-strategic-delivery-plan/) ambitions, including:

* supporting UK environmental scientists to work with local communities internationally to embed science that responds to adaptation to climate change, maintains biodiversity, and supports sustainable development and innovation, and strengthens resilience to responses to environmental emergencies
* co-creating scientific exploration of large-scale, complex interactions within the Earth system
* embedding environmental science within UKRI’s Strategic Themes
* determining the effectiveness and accelerating the adoption of nature-based solutions
* maintaining the UK’s position as a leading nation in international environmental science
* realising the potential of sensing and monitoring technologies, artificial intelligence and digital twinning, autonomous and remote sensing, and high-performance computing to create new information services

### Webinar for potential applicants

We will host an online webinar on 12 July 2023 10:00am UK time. This will provide an opportunity for potential applicants to find out more about the opportunity.

To attend please [register for the webinar](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/understanding-geohazard-processes-across-india-launch-webinar-tickets-643740825137) and submit any questions in advance.

The recording and slides from the webinar will be available shortly afterwards.

### Our commitment to the principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms which deprive a person of their liberty in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain, such as:

* slavery
* servitude
* human trafficking
* forced and compulsory labour

We are committed to the principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and the abolition of modern slavery and human trafficking.