



THE BLOOMSBURY SET®
Science | Economics | Technology

Knowledge Exchange Funding Call

Understanding people, business and culture in combating infectious disease and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Making connections with the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS)

Guidance for applicants

The Bloomsbury SET (Science, Economics, Technology) is a £5-million Knowledge Exchange programme funded by Research England's Connecting Capability Fund <https://bloomsburyset.org.uk/>. This programme brings together four partner Colleges of the University of London (RVC, LSHTM, LSE and SOAS), along with the London International Development Centre (LIDC), in order to accelerate the delivery of innovative scientific and technical solutions to help safeguard global health.

Our aim is to secure major human and health benefits, by facilitating innovation and enhancing productivity within business whilst also helping to shape public health policies and practices.

Gaining a better understanding of the complex interrelationships between human, animal and ecological health is becoming increasingly vital in our connected world. Our capability to monitor and respond to challenges posed by infectious disease outbreaks requires innovative thinking and greater cooperation amongst different disciplines. Thus, a truly interdisciplinary project should consider not just the science but also the social and political acceptability of public health responses to emerging and endemic infectious diseases.

I. Funding Call Overview:

- This call aims to bring new perspectives on global human and animal health challenges with emphasis on mobilising the knowledge and expertise of AHSS researchers to provide solutions to these challenges. It will be delivered through two separate Strands.
- We will fund **Knowledge Exchange** projects, not new research.
- This call is open to researchers based at SOAS, LSE, LSHTM and RVC. The Lead Applicant must be based at one of these Colleges. We welcome collaborations between the Colleges and encourage participation from relevant external stakeholders.
- This is a competitive process with limited funding. Please read the guidance carefully to ensure your application meets the aims of the call, and only includes eligible activities.



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2. Format:

The call will consist of two separate Strands:

Strand 1: AHSS enhancement fund for existing Bloomsbury SET portfolio

Applications to this Strand should enhance and further develop the ideas within a specific existing Bloomsbury SET Project Grant¹ or Innovation Fellowship². We are looking to bring the unique perspective of AHSS researchers to these activities, and hence increase their impact.

The intention is to connect capabilities across disciplines to encourage an interdisciplinary approach within the Bloomsbury SET community and with relevant external stakeholders.

The Bloomsbury SET's Knowledge Exchange Officer will support connections and development of new ideas for funding applications. If you are an existing Bloomsbury SET grant-holder and would like to find out more, please contact Adélia de Paula to discuss: apaula@rvc.ac.uk.

Strand 2: Novel AHSS approaches to infectious diseases and AMR

Applications to this Strand should support projects that will be led by the perspectives of AHSS research to addressing the challenges of infectious diseases and AMR.

Projects will be expected to shed light on social, cultural, economic, business and political factors that can help us better understand those challenges; and design and deliver better strategies to solve them.

These include (but are not limited to): evaluation of practices, socio-anthropological frameworks to improve health/environmental interventions, technology uptake, vaccine acceptability, policy and regulatory constraints, market delivery, working with NGOs, communication of risks, and so on.

For Strand 2 only, potential applicants **must attend** a virtual sandpit event planned for **4th June 2020**, to drive lateral thinking and opportunities for new connections.

Applicants should read the guidelines fully and should contact their local Bloomsbury SET contact for more information.

SOAS: Jessica Pavlos - jp61@soas.ac.uk
LSE: Dr Aygen Kurt-Dickson- A.S.Kurt-Dickson@lse.ac.uk
LSHTM: Dr Alexandra Anderson alexandra.anderson@lshtm.ac.uk
RVC: Dr Emma Tomlinson – etomlinson@rvc.ac.uk

All successful awards should expect to provide a case study/discussion piece on lessons learned at the end of their funding period that can be included on the Bloomsbury SET website.

¹ Project Grants <https://bloomsburyset.org.uk/awards/grant-successes/>

² Innovation Fellowship <https://bloomsburyset.org.uk/awards/innovation-fellowships/>



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3. Scope

The Bloomsbury SET is seeking proposals for Knowledge Exchange activities that will examine the social, economic and political acceptability of current and potential public health responses to emerging infectious diseases and outbreaks. All activities must meet the broader remit of the Bloomsbury SET (www.bloomsburyset.org.uk) in addressing challenges of tackling infectious disease, or antimicrobial resistance.

Applications may include but are not limited to:

- The evaluation of effectiveness of health/environmental interventions and socio-anthropological frameworks for improvement;
- Health-systems financing (domestic and global), understanding the behaviour of individuals, health care providers, public and private organizations and governments in decision-making;
- Wider issues associated with the implementation and governance of new medical interventions (ethical, policy and governance matters);
- Infectious diseases politics (barriers and drivers): history and socio-economic context and key cultural issues, and how these relate to wider prevention or treatment within various regions;
- Social and cultural contexts of infectious disease prevention and care: mental health, stigma, discrimination and adherence to treatment;
- Health inequalities as a challenge for Global Health Security, for instance, gender, sexuality, age, religion and socio-economic status in relation to infectious disease management;
- The role of food security: nutrition with agriculture/livelihood programmes addressing zoonotic diseases or infections in livestock;
- Innovation and business models in Global Health;
- The economics associated with the development of new products, market assessment, scaling-up phases considering product sustainability and stability and adoption;
- Public and private investments on antibiotic/vaccine research and development, and issues related to incentivization;
- Constraints due to regulation of medicinal products;
- The social acceptability of new technology such as a diagnostic tool or vaccine in different contexts;
- Ethical and legal implications of technological interventions and/or human-animal studies in infectious diseases;
- Mathematical modelling/disease modelling related to disease spread and forecasting, including social aspects of disease and economic implications.

3.1. Possible activities

Types of activity may include, but are not limited to:

- Networking to facilitate partnership development and aimed at mapping, understanding and engaging with key potential users/beneficiaries (public, private, civil society) of outputs;
- Creation of new toolkits or implementation strategies to benefit external partners in implementing new policies or interventions;



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- Assessment of market or regulatory challenges to support uptake of new technologies and tools;
- Undertaking market research and purchasing appropriate expert advice in relation to business development
- Attracting new sources of income to support Knowledge Exchange activities in the area of infectious disease or AMR, e.g. market research and purchase of expert advice;
- The implementation of demand-led, outward-facing events or activities, joint initiatives with partners and stakeholders with the potential to enhance the change or benefit generated by ongoing or completed research – e.g. developing a policy brief for an external user, providing training to local organisations, working with key partners to translate and implement key research findings;
- Evaluation of the potential of new processes, products and services and their associated business models in transforming the lives of people and economies;
- Mobility and staff exchange³, e.g. industrial placements, artists- and entrepreneurs in residence, staff exchanges between businesses, labs, government offices or charities;
- Developing new or enhanced Continuous Professional Development (CPD) offerings and short courses for external clients;
- Analysis of existing data sets, using AI and/or mathematical modelling to better understand social factors that contribute to the spread of disease and/or AMR, and inform decision support tools.

3.2. Possible outputs

We encourage applicants to be creative in terms of suitable outputs, but some examples of what we might expect to see include:

- Policy briefings to inform Government, or publications for a non-academic audience;
- Decision support tools aimed at stakeholders (health professionals, farmers, community leaders, governments);
- Production of case studies that could be used as a teaching resource, promotional materials or to be sent to funders;
- New short courses or training modules for practitioners working in infectious disease, global health or zoonotic diseases;
- Digital technology (audio, video, online) and communication tools, including informal learning resources, exhibitions at festivals, games, educational programmes;
- A business plan to address market potential and demand with understanding of the end-user insights and consumer needs and the route to commercialisation;
- A framework for implementation and execution for a potential prototype phase, including a stakeholder engagement plan;
- Promoting wider stakeholder engagement across various communities, e.g. NGOs, government regulators and other end-users.

³ We are working under regularly changing circumstances. Please ensure that the proposed activity can be delivered even with likely social restrictions. We encourage applications on novel ways to deliver Knowledge Exchange.



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4. Key information

4.1. Who can apply?

The Principal or Lead Applicant must be based on one of the Bloomsbury SET Colleges (SOAS, LSE, LSHTM and RVC). We particularly welcome collaborations between one or more Colleges and relevant external stakeholders. You may be involved in more than one application.

All applicants are encouraged to discuss their plans with the Bloomsbury SET College contacts before submitting the proposal (names at end of document).

Strand 1	Strand 2
The Lead Applicant must identify as working in an AHSS field and be based at one of the Colleges listed above	The Lead Applicant must identify as working in an AHSS field and be based at one of the Colleges listed above
Projects must have clear link to existing Bloomsbury SET Project Grants ⁴ and Innovation Fellowships ⁵ , and the original PI must be listed in the new application as a Co-investigator	Project must have a clear link to perspectives of AHSS research to addressing the challenges of infectious diseases and AMR
There is no maximum number of co-investigators but all must have a clear role in the new application	There is no maximum number of co-investigators but all must have a clear role in the new application
Projects must have a clear link to the original award and be exploring new areas	Potential Lead Applicants must attend the virtual Sandpit on 4th June 2020
For Bloomsbury SET Projects that have an AHSS focus, enhancement awards can still be applied for, but must be led by a new collaborator(s) from a different discipline to complementing the expertise of the existing group. Co-investigators from the original Bloomsbury SET award cannot be identified as the Lead Applicant on the enhancement proposal	

⁴ Project Grants <https://bloomsburysset.org.uk/awards/grant-successes/>

⁵ Innovation Fellowship <https://bloomsburysset.org.uk/awards/innovation-fellowships/>



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4.2. Funding:

- The expected maximum for a funding request is £20,000 for Directly Incurred costs only, which should be approved be discussed with your finance office at the earliest. The Bloomsbury SET will allocate an additional 20% of the funded value for indirect costs on successful awards, i.e. the total award value will be up to £24,000.
- The Lead Applicant may request their salary, only where this is a Directly Incurred cost.
- The Bloomsbury SET will consider requests to fund projects with direct costs in excess of £20,000 **in exceptional cases only**. This should be discussed with your College contact at the earliest opportunity (names at end of document).
- Funds can be used for the approved project only and must be supported by evidence of expenditure. There will be no carry-over of unspent funds.
- The Bloomsbury SET will not support Ph.D. studentships or student placements.

4.3. Duration of projects:

Up to 9 months from August 2020, with all projects ending on or before **30th April 2021**.

4.4. Eligible costs:

Directly Incurred Costs only. E.g

- temporary research staff, or project-specific assistance;
- travel and subsistence;
- costs associated with holding events, external stakeholder engagement, websites, or the development of resources (printed publications, audio/video, exhibitions);
- purchase of equipment necessary to conduct project activity;
- expert advice/consultancy related to partnership formation or impact generation (only in limited circumstances, please discuss with your local Bloomsbury SET contact).

5. How to apply:

Potential applicants for either Strand should approach their local Bloomsbury SET contact (see below for details) to discuss their ideas.

For Strand 2 call, applicants **must** attend a virtual sandpit event on **4th June 2020** to make connections and develop proposals.

For both strands: completed applications and associated documents should be emailed as a single PDF document to bloomsburyset@rvc.ac.uk by 24th June 2020 (4pm).



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6. Assessment criteria:

Projects will be externally reviewed. All projects must demonstrate:

- a clear link to the remit of The Bloomsbury SET programme, the aim of which is to lead to major human health benefits, as well as improvements in animal health, welfare, and productivity, and improved biosecurity and food safety, by connecting capabilities to combat the threat from infectious disease and AMR;
- clearly defined aims and objectives, along with measurable outcomes and expected impact;
- to have considered sustainable and/or mutually beneficial relationships with key stakeholders and partners, where appropriate – e.g. NGOs, governments, social entrepreneurs and other civil society or community-based groups, business and industrial actors;
- feasibility of the proposed timeline and budget; value for money;
- potential to sustain partnerships or links beyond the life of the project;
- additionality (evidence that this activity would not happen without the funding and could not be funded via other sources);

This is a competitive process with limited funding. Please read the guidance carefully to ensure your application meets the aims of the call, and only includes eligible activities.

All sections of the application form should be completed in full by the Lead Applicant.

Applicants are strongly advised to discuss their proposal with their local Bloomsbury SET College contact at an early stage for advice on administration, local requirements, costs etc.

COLLEGE CONTACTS

SOAS: Jessica Pavlos - jp61@soas.ac.uk
LSE: Dr Aygen Kurt-Dickson- A.S.Kurt-Dickson@lse.ac.uk
LSHTM: Dr Alexandra Anderson alexandra.anderson@lshtm.ac.uk
RVC: Dr Emma Tomlinson – etomlinson@rvc.ac.uk

General programme enquiries: bloomsburyset@rvc.ac.uk

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