

**MARINE CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE (MCCS) PROGRAMME
FIRST GRANT CALL
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

Please note that the FAQs will be updated periodically. Please refer to the [MCCS programme 1st Grant Call website](#) and [IGMS website](#) for the latest version of the FAQs.

1. GENERAL

1.1 Will there be subsequent grant calls launched under the MCCS programme? When will they be launched? (16 December 2021)

There will be one or more subsequent grant calls launched under the MCCS programme, such as for projects under H2 Community-driven Climate Resilience Planning. More information will be released at a later date.

1.2 Will the MCCS Programme Office organise networking meetings to foster collaboration among the MCCS research community? (27 January 2022)

MCCS Programme Office will organise networking sessions after the close of the MCCS 1st Grant Call as part of our objectives to strengthen collaboration among the marine science and climate research community in Singapore.

It is hoped that this will further facilitate partnerships for subsequent grant call(s).

1.3 Will the proposal submission be considered for potential funding support if member(s) of the project team is not registered in the IGMS system by their Institution(s) within the proposal submission deadline? (27 January 2022)

The proposal may still be considered but the team member who was not successfully registered under IGMS may not be considered as part of the project team in the evaluation process.

Applicants are strongly advised to avoid submitting their application at the last minute in case of technical issues with the IGMS website.

1.4 How focused must our research be? Does it need to be only one focus area? Can we have multiple focus areas within our research? (27 January 2022)

Please refer to the specific grant call topic of interest for possible research areas to focus on.

Detailed information on each Call Topic can be found in Annex B of the Grant Call Info Sheet.

1.5 What is the definition of “novelty” in the MCCS grant call? (27 January 2022)

Novel research avoids duplication of past research.

Novelty is not a criterion for eligibility but will be assessed as part of the proposal evaluation process.

1.6 How many projects will be awarded under each Call Topic, and how will the budget for each Call Topic be distributed between the awarded projects? (5 February 2022)

Multiple projects may be awarded under a Call Topic if the projects complement one another in addressing the Call Topic through different angles/components.

The stipulated budget for each Call Topic is a budget ceiling, and will encompass the collective budget of all awarded projects under the Call Topic.

Please also note that all proposals submitted for the MCCS 1st Grant Call will be evaluated based on value for money in relation to deliverables expected (amongst other criteria).

1.7 Will government agencies and other institutions share the data required to carry out the research for MCCS projects? (5 February 2022)

As part of the "Data Requirements" section of the Full Proposal Template (Form A), applicants should clearly identify the source of essential data required for the proposed project during proposal submission and whether they know it is available.

While the MCCS Programme Office may help to facilitate data sharing between agencies and other institutions where appropriate and relevant, please note that access to data is ultimately subject to permission from the respective data owners.

1.8 If a proposal spans two different Call Topics, how should applicants design and submit the proposals, including designing the budget? (5 February 2022)

Proposals should be crafted in response to what is asked for in each relevant Call Topics. In this situation, please submit two different applications (including budgets) for each of the relevant Call Topics.

1.9 Will the recording or slides of the research community briefing be shared? (5 February 2022)

The recording for the grant call briefing session will not be available. However, the briefing slides can be found on the [MCCS 1st Grant Call website](#), as well as on [IGMS](#) under the “Related Documents” section of the various MCCS Grant Call Topics. Q&As will be updated as part of the Grant Call FAQs on the MCCS 1st Grant Call website and on IGMS.

1.10 Will MCCS Programme Office be organising any events for smaller IHLs and independent research groups to meet? (5 February 2022)

While research groups are expected to collaborate among themselves where needed, the MCCS Programme Office will look to organise discussion sessions among research teams to facilitate more collaboration, after the first grant call has closed.

Please also refer to Question 1.2. for a related query on networking meetings.

1.11 Is the MCCS 1st Grant Call seeking only natural science-based, or will social science-based proposals be also considered? (5 February 2022)

The MCCS Grant Call is problem-specific and open to all relevant approaches.

Topics specific to social sciences under the Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning Horizontal were not included in the first Grant Call but will be included in subsequent calls.

1.12 Will previous research projects (e.g., from the Marine Science R&D Programme (MSRDP) and other government agency-funded projects) with positive research outcomes be given priority to develop further under the MCCS programme? (5 February 2022)

Proposals that leverage on good outcomes of past research will often be more compelling than proposals that start from scratch. However, each proposal will be assessed accordingly through the evaluation criteria, including those that are completely novel.

1.13 Will NParks facilitate the application for permits and provide support for projects to be undertaken at test-bedding sites? (5 February 2022)

NParks has identified potential test-bedding sites, which are listed in the grant Call Topics, where application for permits can be expedited. For other test-bedding sites identified in project proposals, NParks will facilitate the process, for example, to reach out to the owner agencies of the particular area to get the necessary permissions/permits/no objections to proceed with the pilots. However, the granting of permits is determined by the relevant agency responsible for the site at its own discretion.

Agencies at their discretion, may also provide on-site support to facilitate the project activities at their agency-managed test-bedding sites.

Any sites that are critical for project success should be identified specifically in the proposal submission stage.

1.14 Should proposals address all questions, objectives and deliverables articulated in a Call Topic, or can the proposals address part of them? (5 February 2022)

The Call Topics are multi-disciplinary in nature. We strongly encourage researchers in project teams to collaborate with other researchers of different fields/expertise to address the research questions, objectives and deliverables articulated in the Call Topics.

The questions, objectives and deliverables listed in the grant Call Topics were identified to address gaps in climate change-related research under the Programme's 3 Verticals and 2 Horizontals. However, project teams may identify additional questions, objectives and deliverables that would also address the Call Topics.

Proposals that address only part of the research questions, objectives and deliverables articulated in a Call Topic will still be considered and evaluated accordingly.

1.15 Can the project team propose a research topic outside of the six Call Topics for the MCCS 1st Grant Call? (5 February 2022)

No, as the six Call Topics have been conceptualised in consultation with the MCCS Technical Directors and participating government agencies, to address priority knowledge gaps and R&D needs under the Programme.

Nonetheless, project teams are welcome to propose additional novel ideas (i.e., additional project objectives and deliverables), which are deemed by the project team as relevant and important to addressing the Call Topics, as part of their proposals.

The MCCS Programme Office will look to organise discussion sessions among research teams to facilitate more collaboration, after the first grant call has closed. These sessions will also serve as platforms for research teams to propose topics that may be considered in subsequent grant calls.

1.16 As "modelling" is a common deliverable across multiple projects, will MCCS suggest for the collaboration of teams after reviewing the proposals when the grant call closes? (5 February 2022)

The MCCS Programme Office will look to mediate and facilitate discussions during the project evaluation and scrubbing stage, to maximise synergies across projects and minimise duplicative works. This is also subject to the agreement of the various project teams involved.

1.17 Can proposals on monitoring methods/ technologies that validate, benefit and impact multiple Call Topics be submitted for this grant call? (5 February 2022)

For the MCCS 1st Grant Call, such proposals will only be considered insofar as they are relevant and part of a larger proposal to address one of the 6 Call Topics. This is because the current grant call itself does not call for any proposals that are purely specific to monitoring methods.

Moving forward, the MCCS Programme Office may consider scoping this into subsequent grant calls, if deemed necessary and relevant to the Programme's objectives.

2. USING IGMS

2.1 I am a local PI with access to CorpPass. How do I register an account on IGMS? (16 December 2021)

(1) Go to the URL: <https://researchgrant.gov.sg/eservices/account/login>

(2) Click on "Login for PI / ORE / DOR"



(3) Enter CorpPass login credentials

(4) For first time login, user will be directed to IGMS registration page.

(5) Fill in all necessary details.

(6) Click on "**Retrieve**" button to receive an activation code (the code is valid for 10 minutes and will be sent to the e-mail registered)

(7) Key in the activation code and click on “Next” to complete the registration

Registration

Please input your name, email address, and password to create an account, your password should have an alphanumeric character and no 2 consecutive character should be identical. Your password cannot be the same as your email address.

Identification type

2 Identification No.

Name

E-mail ID

Activation code Retrieve

3

2.2 Does a Co-I need to register for an IGMS account? (16 December 2021)

The Lead Principal Investigator (Lead PI) will submit the online application in IGMS but he/she will need to add the relevant Co-I(s) as research team member in IGMS. All Co-I(s) must be registered in IGMS before they can be added as a research team member.

2.3 Is the proposal, budget and capability indicators templates available on IGMS for download? Is there any specific format for CV to be submitted? (16 December 2021)

To download the Full Proposal, Budget and Capability Indicator templates, applicants will need to click “Apply” and login to IGMS, under the “Research Details” tab, look for “Research proposal” section to download the templates from “Please click here”.

The instruction to prepare CV can be found under the “Research Team, Collaborators, Referees” tab, at the “Research team” section, click “Add” to download the document from “Please click here”.

2.4 Must the Lead PI in the Host Institution submit the grant application? Can any other member of the project team submit the grant application? (27 January 2022)

No, the grant application is to be completed and submitted in IGMS by the Lead PI and endorsed (also in IGMS) by the Director of Research (or equivalent) from the Lead PI's Host Institution.

2.5 The direct cost is fixed at 100% and the indirect cost (IRC) is fixed at 30% on IGMS. In the IGMS system, these funding support percentages are applied to all budgets by default, even the budgets of private sector Lead PI/Co-I who are (i) not eligible for 100% support for direct costs and are (ii) not eligible for support for indirect costs.

Due to these default settings, the private sector Lead PI's/Co-I's budget indicated in IGMS will be higher than that in the Budget Template (Form B). Will this disqualify our application? (15 February 2022)

We are aware of this IGMS system constraint, and applications will not be penalised for this. However, the correct figures should be reflected in the Budget Template (Form B) uploaded. The information in the Budget Template (Form B) shall be the one taken into consideration.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 It was mentioned in the Grant Call Info Sheet that Lead PIs must have a minimum of 9 months employment with the Host Institution, starting 3 months from the closing date of the Grant Call. Are Research Fellows (in IHLs), who meet this eligibility requirement, allowed to apply as Lead PIs? (19 January 2022)

Yes, Research Fellows, who meet the eligibility requirements of the Lead PI, are allowed to apply as Lead PIs. Similar to other Lead PIs, they must be endorsed by their institutions.

3.2 Are researchers from industry companies and overseas organisations eligible to apply as Co-Is? (19 January 2022)

Researchers from both locally-based and overseas public research institutes and private sector entities, including industry companies, are eligible to apply as Co-Is.

3.3 Can a Lead PI submit proposals for more than one Call Topic? (19 January 2022)

Yes, a Lead PI may submit proposals for more than one Call Topic in the grant call.

3.4 Can Co-Is and Collaborators from IHLs be Research Fellows, or must they be tenure track faculty members in the IHLs? (27 January 2022)

Yes, Research Fellows can be listed as Co-Is/ Collaborators as long as endorsed by their institutions.

3.5 What are the eligibility requirements for the Lead PI? (27 January 2022)

The eligibility requirements for the Lead PI are:

- (1) Have a minimum of 9 months employment with the Host Institution, starting 3 months from the closing date of the Grant Call;
- (2) Must be based in Singapore; and
- (3) Not be debarred from submitting new grant applications for national grants.

3.6 Can government agency staff contribute towards the preparation of, or be eligible to be Co-Is or Collaborators in a submitted proposal? (27 January 2022)

Government agencies should not be involved in the preparation of any proposal.

Should the Lead PI wish to involve an agency that is not already listed as Lead/Member Agency, please state your intention in your proposal submission. If your proposal is

shortlisted, MCCS Programme Office will facilitate the process to check if the agency is agreeable to be involved and to onboard them accordingly.

3.7 What are the eligibility requirements for private sector entities to be the Lead PI? (27 January 2022)

Please refer to Section 4. Eligibility of the Grant Call info sheet for the general eligibility requirements, as well as the additional private sector entities requirements to be a Lead PI.

Please also refer to Question 3.5. for a related query on the general eligibility requirements to be a Lead PI.

3.8 Where can the criteria to qualify for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Large Local Enterprises (LLEs) be found? (27 January 2022)

The criteria for SMEs and LLEs qualification can be found in Annex D of the Grant Call info sheet.

3.9 Can international researchers serve as Co-I on the projects? (5 February 2022)

The Lead PI, who is responsible for coordinating and organising the project team, can include international researchers in the proposals as either Co-I or Collaborators, as per his/her discretion.

Please note both Co-Is and Collaborators from overseas organisations (i.e., entities that are not Singapore-based) are not permitted to receive, directly or indirectly, any part of the funding, whether in cash or in the form of assets acquired. (Exception: Travel expenses for overseas-based Co-Is and Collaborators to come over to Singapore, which should be identified and budgeted for upfront in the Other Operating Expenses vote to be incurred by the Host Institution.)

Please refer to Question 4.3. for a related query on the eligibility of overseas organisations to receive funding support from the grant.

4. FUNDING SUPPORT

4.1 Will proposals need to adhere to the Terms and Conditions for Competitive Grants? (16 December 2021)

Yes. An awarded project will be bound to the prevailing Terms and Conditions (i.e., at the time of award) until project completion. However, applicants are to note that the Terms and Conditions may be subject to revisions, in accordance with the latest NRF guidelines.

4.2 What is the mechanism for fund disbursement? (16 December 2021)

Fund disbursement will be via reimbursement, on a quarterly basis.

4.3 Are overseas organisations eligible for any funding from the grant? (19 January 2022)

Overseas organisations are not permitted to receive, directly or indirectly, any part of the funding, whether in cash or in the form of assets acquired or otherwise, using the funding.

The exception is for travel expenses of the overseas-based Co-Is and Collaborators to come over to Singapore for the research work, which should be identified and budgeted for upfront in the Other Operating Expenses (OOE) vote to be incurred by the Host Institution.

4.4 Can the funding be used for transporting samples collected in Singapore to an overseas-based Co-I (i.e., overseas institution), and for conducting lab analysis in the overseas institution? (19 January 2022)

The costs required could be funded if it is justified that the analysis can only be done in the overseas institution.

4.5 Can polytechnics hire project/research staff (under EOM – Manpower) under MCCS projects? (19 January 2022)

Polytechnics are statutory boards under the Ministry of Education. As with all statutory boards, polytechnic staff are considered public officers and hence, their EOM cannot be funded via National Research funds under the MCCS programme.

Please also refer to the List of Non-Fundable Direct Costs from the "MCCS_Guidelines for the Management of Research Grants" for other types of staff not supported by the funding.

4.6 Regarding funding support for indirect costs, a total funding support of 30% of the total qualifying approved direct costs (i.e., Total direct costs less exceptional items) will be allowed for Singapore-based public RIs.

Of the 5 direct cost item categories (Manpower, Equipment, Other Operating Expenses, Overseas Travel, and Research Scholarship), which can be used to calculate indirect cost? (19 January 2022)

Only Research Scholarship is considered exceptional and thus cannot be used to calculate indirect costs. Please refer to "MCCS_Guidelines for the Management of Research Grants" for more details on the definition of indirect costs, and the MCCS Programme Office's position on managing indirect cost funding.

4.7 Are research scholarships fundable under the MCCS programme, as part of the overall budget for a given project? (19 January 2022)

Yes. For more information, please refer to "MCCS_Guidelines for the Management of Research Grants".

4.8 Can outsourced manpower services / research services be budgeted for under a proposal? (19 January 2022)

In general, yes, with appropriate justifications. This should be budgeted under Other Operating Expenditure (OOE).

4.9 Can the salaries of Lead PI and Co-Is (and Collaborators) be funded under a project? (27 January 2022)

No, the salaries of Lead PI and Co-Is (and Collaborators) are considered as non-fundable direct costs, and should not be included under EOM budget.

Please also refer to the List of Non-Fundable Direct Costs from the "MCCS_Guidelines for the Management of Research Grants" for other types of staff not supported by the funding.

4.10 How will funding be allocated in the following scenario?

A project team with (1) a Lead PI from a Singapore-based public RI (e.g., Singapore-based public IHLs and A*STAR RIs), (2) a Co-I from a non-Singapore private sector entity based in Singapore, and (3) another Co-I from a non-Singapore private sector entity not based in Singapore (i.e., overseas organisation). (27 January 2022)

Funding for this project scenario will be allocated as follows:

For (1), i.e., Lead PI from a Singapore-based public RI –

- 100% of the approved qualifying direct costs from the Lead PI's respective component of the project.

For (2), i.e., Co-I from a non-Singapore private sector entity based in Singapore –

- 30% of the approved qualifying direct costs from the Co-I's respective component of the project.

For (3), i.e., Co-I from a non-Singapore private sector entity not based in Singapore –

- A non-Singapore private sector entity not based in Singapore (i.e., overseas organisation) will not receive any funding support.

All of the funding will be awarded through the Host Institution of the Lead PI.

4.11 Can subcontracting services be budgeted for under a proposal? (27 January 2022)

Subcontracting out the whole or substantial part of the research work is not permitted. In general, most of the funding should go to work done by the researchers explicitly listed in the proposal.

Where allowed, subcontracting services are to be budgeted under Other Operating Expenditure (OOE).

Work to be done under subcontracting services and the costs required should be clearly indicated in the proposal submission (i.e., in the Full Proposal and Budget Templates). The proposal will be evaluated accordingly during the proposal evaluation process.

4.12 Does the stipulated budget for the Call Topics include or exclude any co-funding component that is required from Singapore-based private sector entities? (27 January 2022)

The stipulated budget for each Call Topic applies to the fundable costs of a project, and excludes any co-funding component that is required from Singapore-based private sector entities.

4.13 Under the “Overseas Travel” budget category, who can overseas travel be budgeted for? (27 January 2022)

It is possible for travel to be budgeted for the Lead PI, Co-I(s), research personnel (e.g., Research Assistants, Research Associates and Research Fellows) and students funded under the Research Scholarship budget category.

4.14 Do the tiered funding support levels (%) apply to subcontractors engaged to carry out non-substantial parts of the research work under subcontracting services under Other Operating Expenditure (OOE)? (27 January 2022)

No, as the subcontractor is not considered a part of the project team.

Please refer to Question 4.11. for a related query on subcontracting services.

4.15 Does a private sector entity Lead PI and Co-I involved in an MCCA project have to co-fund the project? (27 January 2022)

Please refer to Section 5. Funding Support and Annex D of the Grant Call info sheet for more information on funding support and the definitions of the different types of private sector entities respectively.

4.16 Can the Host Institution that receives the funding for an awarded project subsequently disburse the funding to local Collaborators, and/or Co-Is and Collaborators from overseas organisations, for the project? (5 February 2022)

In accordance with the relevant prevailing NR Fund guidelines:

- (1) Collaborators are not permitted to receive, directly or indirectly, any part of the funding, whether in cash or in the form of assets acquired or otherwise, using the funding.
- (2) Overseas organisations (in the capacity of Co-Is and Collaborators) are also not permitted to receive, directly or indirectly, any part of the funding, whether in cash or in the form of assets acquired or otherwise, using the funding. The exception is for travel expenses for overseas-based Co-Is and Collaborators to come over to Singapore, which should be identified and budgeted for upfront in the Other Operating Expenses vote to be incurred by the Host Institution.

4.17 What is the funding support criteria for Singapore-based private sector entities? (5 February 2022)

In accordance with the relevant prevailing NR Fund guidelines, Singapore-based private sector entities will qualify for tiered funding support of up to 70% of the approved qualifying direct costs of a project. Specifically,

- (1) 30% for all non-Singapore entities (including non-Singapore not-for-profits);
- (2) 50% for Singapore Large Local Enterprises; and
- (3) 70% for Singapore Small Medium Enterprises, start-ups and not-for-profits.

Please refer to Annex D of the Grant Call info sheet for the definitions of the different private sector entity types.

4.18 What are the items that can be budgeted for under the travel expenses for overseas-based Co-Is and Collaborators to come over to Singapore? (5 February 2022)

Subject to approval, short-term travel expenses for overseas-based Co-Is and Collaborators to come over to Singapore can be budgeted for. Any such requirements should also be in line with the travel policy of the Lead PI's Host Institution.

4.19 Can the funding be used to purchase equipment for the project? (5 February 2022)

Yes, the funding can be used to purchase Equipment, which are supportable direct costs. However, in accordance with the prevailing NR Fund guidelines, please note that:

- (1) The purchase of Equipment should be justified (e.g., Equipment is currently be unavailable in the Host Institution).
- (2) There is a requirement to share Equipment purchased using NR Funds with other researchers in Singapore.

Please refer to the Grant Call info sheet, as well as “MCCS_Guidelines for Management of Research Grants”, for further guidelines on Equipment.

- 4.20 It is noted that government agencies are not permitted to receive any of the funding. Can project teams procure services from government agency labs for their projects? (5 February 2022)**

Yes, project teams can procure services required for the research from government agency labs, which should be budgeted for in the proposal.

5. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

- 5.1 It was mentioned in the Grant Call info sheet that a copy of the application should also be sent by email to the MCCS Programme Office. Is this a required step to be done after the application in IGMS has been successfully endorsed by the Director of Research (also in IGMS)? If yes, must this step be done by 16 February 2022, before 2pm, or can this step be done after the deadline? (24 December 2021)**

Please note that the application will only be considered valid if the submission is completed in IGMS, including endorsement by the Director of Research (also in IGMS) by the submission deadline (16 February 2022, 2:00pm, Singapore time).

A copy of the application should be sent via email to the MCCS Programme Office after this.

- 5.2 In the naming convention for softcopy attachments, where can the Topic Code be found? (24 December 2021)**

The Topic Codes refer to (e.g., MCCS_V1_2021-1_T1, MCCS_V2_2021-1_T2, etc.). These can be found in Annex B of the Grant Call Info Sheet, which provides the detailed information on each Call Topic.

- 5.3 Should the endorsement signatory required in the Full Proposal template (Form A) and Budget template (Form B) be from the same individual? (19 January 2022)**

Yes, both the Full Proposal template (Form A) and Budget template (Form B) requires endorsement signatory of the Director of Research (i.e., DOR/research director) from the Host Institution.

- 5.4 For A*STAR research institutes (RIs), can the proposals be signed and endorsed by the respective RI's equivalents of the Head of Department and Director of Research, or should it be done at the whole of A*STAR-level? (19 January 2022)**

The proposals from A*STAR RIs can be signed and endorsed by the equivalents of the Head of Department and Director of Research in the respective RI's management.

5.5 Must the Full Proposal Template (Form A) and Budget Template (Form B) be submitted in Microsoft Word and Excel format respectively? (19 January 2022)

Yes, the Full Proposal Template (Form A) and Budget Template (Form B) should be submitted in Microsoft Word and Excel format respectively. This should be done via IGMS. Please refer [here](#) for assistance in adding signatures into the documents.

5.6 Can an Institution's Research Office submit the consolidated copies of the applications for all of the Institution's Lead PIs via email to the MCCS Programme Office, or should the Lead PIs submit their respective copy of the application via email to the MCCS Programme Office individually? (27 January 2022)

The Institution's Research Office can submit the copies of the individual applications for all of the Institution's Lead PIs via email to the MCCS Programme Office. Please send a zipped folder with each copy of the application in a separate sub-folder.

5.7 Is endorsement signatory on the Full Proposal Template (Form A) and Budget Template (Form B) necessary before submitting it on IGMS? (4 February 2022)

Yes. It is necessary for the Full Proposal Template (Form A) and Budget Template (Form B) to be endorsed before submission on IGMS. E-signature is acceptable.

5A. FULL PROPOSAL TEMPLATE (FORM A)

5A.1. Is there a template or page limit for the CVs? (24 December 2021)

There is no template or page limit for the CVs. However, the CVs must include the following specific sections:

- (1) Selected publications in the last 5 years that pertains to the proposed project/ programme
- (2) Selected other publications (that Technical Peer Reviewers and the Project Evaluation Panel should note)
- (3) Summary of the most relevant research outcomes from all previous grants (e.g., patents, awards, etc.) [please limit to half a page]

5A.2. For Form A, does the % of time committed on the project refer to the time spent on this project relative to the PI's other projects, or does it refer to the time spent solely on this project (where it should add up as 100% for all the team members in total)? (24 December 2021)

The "% of time committed on the project" in Form A refers to the time that would be spent on the proposed project relative to the PI's total work time.

5A.3. For the Full Proposal Template (Form A) under Section 4, are declarations required only from the Lead PI, HOD and DOR of the Host Institution and not required from Co-PIs and their institutions? (19 January 2022)

Yes, declarations are only required from Lead PI, HOD and DOR of the Host Institution under Section 4 of the Full Proposal Template (Form A). Funds are given only to the Host Institution of the Lead PI, where they will be managed and subsequently redistributed to Co-Is where appropriate.

5A.4. The grant call info sheet and “Full Proposal Template (Form A)” mentions that the proposed reviewer list should not include recent collaborators. What is the definition of “recent” here? (19 January 2022)

Proposed reviewers should not have collaborated with the applicant within the **last two years**.

5A.5. Is section 2.4.1 missing in the Full Proposal Template (Form A)? (27 January 2022)

Thank you for pointing out that Section 2.4.1 is missing in Section 2.4.

The labelling of Section 2.4 starts with 2.4.2 (instead of 2.4.1). Other than this mislabeling, there is no missing information in this section.

5A.6. Is there a limit to the number of Co-Is or Collaborators for a proposal? (27 January 2022)

No, there is no limit. You may add more lines to Section 1 of Full Proposal Template (Form A) where necessary.

5A.7. Where can the instructions for CVs be found? (27 January 2022)

The instructions for CVs are in Annex A (last page) of the Full Proposal Template.

Please also refer to Question 5A.1. for a related query on CVs.

5B. BUDGET TEMPLATE (FORM B)

5B.1. Is signatory on the Budget template necessary before submitting it on IGMS? (16 December 2021)

Yes. It is necessary for Budget Template (Form B) to be endorsed before submission on IGMS. E-signature is acceptable.

5B.2. For Budget Template (Form B), are signatories only required from the Lead PI and DOR from Host Institution only? (19 January 2022)

Yes, signatories are only required from the Lead PI and DOR of the Host Institution.

5B.3. For Form B (Section 3), is it mandatory to complete the section on in-kind contributions? (19 January 2022)

Yes. The section on “In-kind Contributions” in Form B (Section 3) reflects any in-kind contributions made. If none, “N.A.” should be indicated.

5B.4. For the "Detailed Budget Breakdown" in Form B (Section 3), should private sector Lead PIs/Co-Is with tiered funding support levels state the full (100%) project cost, or the reduced amount they are eligible for (e.g., 30%/50%/70%)? (19 January 2022)

Private sector Lead PIs/Co-Is should state the full cost required from their component of the project (i.e., 100% of all allowed direct costs). This should include any project costs that they intend to co-fund, either directly or via in-kind contribution.

Based on this, the funding amount that they are eligible for will be automatically calculated under the “Total Supportable Costs” column of the “Breakdown of Project Costing” section.

5B.5. Can co-funding by private sector entities come in the form of either cash or in kind contributions? (19 January 2022)

Co-funding by private sector entities can come in the form of both in cash and/or in-kind contributions.

In-kind contributions should be listed in Section 1 “Breakdown of Project Costing” in the Budget Template (Form B), with "In-kind contribution" stated under the "Remarks" column of the particular line item(s).

Please ensure that these in-kind contributions qualify as fundable direct project costs (see the List of Non-Fundable Direct Costs from the "MCCS_Guidelines for the Management of Research Grants"), before listing them under Section 1 as a co-funded item.

5B.6. Do cash contributions from private sector entity Lead PIs/Co-Is need to be indicated under the “Remarks” column of the Budget Template (Form B)? (27 January 2022)

Private sector entity Lead PIs/Co-Is are not required to identify their cash contribution in the Budget Template (Form B) during the proposal submission stage.

5B.7. If the Lead PI and Co-Is are from the same institution, should the Co-I’s budget be parked under the Lead PI in the Budget Template (Form B)? (27 January 2022)

Yes, the budget should be indicated by institution in the Budget Template (Form B). The Co-I’s budget for their respective component of the project should be indicated under the Lead PI if they are from the same institution.

(as of 15 February 2022)

5B.8. Can additional endorsement sections be added in the Budget Template (Form B) if endorsement from other parties (e.g., Head of Department of the Lead PI) are required based on the Host Institutions' internal processes? *(15 February 2022)*

The requirement for the endorsement by the Director of Research of the Host Institution is consistent with other similar grants, and additional endorsements should not be inserted into the submitted form.