



CEDIL Call for Proposals

FAQs

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Preface

The table below sets out the most popular questions we have received via email and during the CEDIL supplier engagement events. If your question is not answered here, please feel free to email us at cedil.commissioning@opml.co.uk.

Note, we intend to update this document regularly throughout the period that the call is open and we will also endeavour to respond directly to questions that are emailed to us.

1. Applicant eligibility

1.1 Can an organisation or individual submit or be included in more than one application?

There is no limit to the number of proposals which an organisation can submit, or in which an individual may be involved. However, organisations and individuals must have the capacity to deliver projects if all are selected for funding. In other words, individuals should not overcommit their available time on multiple projects. Moreover, all projects must be viable independently, and not be dependent on another project also being successful.

1.2 Can a member of the target intervention team also serve as an investigator on the project?

A member of the target intervention team may be included as an investigator on the project, as long as this does not generate a conflict of interest.

1.3 Will a proposal be considered for funding if the same organisation is responsible for the intervention and the evaluation?

It is fine to submit a proposal for an evaluation of an intervention by the same organisation, provided that:

- Measures are put in place to mitigate any potential conflicts of interest or ethical issues
- The CEDIL funds are only used for the evaluation of the intervention (and not for its implementation)

1.4 Are organisations in the CEDIL Directorate consortium, or members of its Intellectual Leadership Team, eligible to submit project proposals?

Yes, subject to the conflict of interest rules and process which have been applied to the development of the programmes of work. ILT members were required to declare whether they wished to be eligible to apply for funds, and those members declaring an interest have been excluded from the design of the programmes of work. Members of the ILT and CEDIL consortium will not be preferred for funding, and will be subjected to the same external review process as any other projects.

Core members of the Research Directorate are ineligible for CEDIL programme funding, as are any individuals employed by Oxford Policy Management.

1.5 *Are there any restrictions on the lead applicant's location or organisation type?*

Organisations applying for CEDIL funding must be legal entities. They can be located in any country. Individuals may not apply.

2. Eligible geographical areas

2.1 *Will projects based in countries not included on the list of priority countries be considered for funding?*

Organisations anywhere in the world may submit applications, but the focus of the research and evaluation activity must be on at least one of the countries on the priority list.

3. Eligible interventions

3.1 *Do proposals have to address current DFID funded programmes or policy areas, or can they be associated with non-DFID projects?*

Relevance to DFID's priority thematic areas is an important assessment criterion, though this does not require working on DFID programmes. A programme supported by another organisation which focusses on a DFID priority thematic area is eligible. We expect that the portfolio of studies resulting from the commissioning process will include a mix of studies focussing on both DFID and non-DFID funded programmes. For proposals that do not focus on a specific intervention (such as middle range theory exploratory projects or projects under programme of work 3) the focus should still be on a DFID priority thematic area.

4. Southern partnership requirement

4.1 What sufficiently constitutes a 'southern partnership'?

We do not have a specific definition for 'southern partnerships.' Rather, we assert that there are numerous reasons why substantial contribution for southern researchers and evaluators will be essential for projects to deliver the strategic objectives of CEDIL. These include:

- More in-depth understanding of the complexities of interventions and the contexts in which they are implemented
- Greater visibility, access and credibility with southern policy-makers and other stakeholders
- Enhanced opportunities for partnerships to build evaluation capacity in countries where this is currently under-developed

5. Programmes of work

5.1 My project idea is relevant to more than one Programme of Work? Can I submit it to multiple Programmes of Work?

No. We recognise that there is overlap across our programmes of work, but you should submit your proposal only to the programme to which it is most relevant.

5.2 How much funding is allocated to each Programme of Work?

We expect the majority of funds to be allocated to Programmes of Work 1 and 2, as these allow for much larger projects than programme of work 3. However, funds will be allocated according to the quality of the submissions received under each programme, with some consideration of achieving a balanced portfolio. At this point, we have no information to judge whether any of the programmes of work will be more competitive than others.

6. Matchmaking process

6.1 *How can we enter the matchmaking process and how will it work?*

If you would like to be entered into the matchmaking process, you will need to submit an expression of interest under the call for large projects and select the option 'Team proposal (matchmaking)' under 'Application route' in the application form.

In your expression of interest, you will be required to outline the methodology to be developed/tested and the team to deliver the research. If your expression of interest is shortlisted, it will then enter the matchmaking process.

The match making process will consist of a

a number of workshops - each workshop focussing on a different thematic area - in which funding applicants and programme funders will be brought together to identify a suitable match for their proposal/programme. Once proposals and programmes have been paired up, the funding applicants will develop a full proposal based on the programme they have paired up with. The matchmaking process will likely take place in June 2019.

6.2 *Do I have to go through the matchmaking process to evaluate a DFID funded programme?*

No, if you have an established relationship with a DFID funded programme and are able to submit a project proposal to evaluate it without going through the matchmaking process, you are encouraged to do so.

6.3 *Will a proposal be considered for funding if the same organisation is responsible for the intervention and the evaluation?*

You may submit a proposal for an evaluation of an intervention by the same organisation, provided that:

- The CEDIL funds are to be used only for the evaluation of the intervention (and not for its implementation)
- Any potential conflicts of interests, caused by the fact that it is the same organisation implementing and evaluating the intervention, can be managed.

7. Budgeting rules

7.1 Why does CEDIL provide different levels of overhead/indirect costs to organisations in different locations?

CEDIL funds represent UK taxpayer money allocated for Official Development Assistance (ODA). Our indirect cost policies reflect this. For UK research organisations we fund at 80% of Full Economic Costs (FEC) as this reflects normal practice for government funded research projects in the UK. For other organisations in high income countries, we expect some indirect support from the institutions conducting our projects. For not-for-profit research organisations in low and middle income countries, we aim to meet the full costs of research, including indirect costs, as this is an eligible expenditure of ODA funds.

7.2 Can CEDIL funds be used to support PhD or Master's students?

Studentships are not eligible costs for CEDIL projects. If you wish to employ a currently enrolled PhD or Master's student on a part-time basis, this is allowed, but we will require a letter of support from the student's supervisor confirming that this will not adversely affect their studies.

8. CEDIL's future growth

8.1 Will there be further opportunities for funding under CEDIL?

Our aim is to allocate CEDIL's full research funds during this funding round. However, if we do not receive sufficient high-quality proposals, we reserve the right to allocate remaining funds in a future competition. Also, the CEDIL Directorate will be working to secure additional funding for CEDIL to increase the duration and scope of its work. If these efforts are successful, we will announce further funding opportunities in the future.

8.2 Will CEDIL consider supporting projects that are sequential across multiple competitions, or is this a one-off funding opportunity?

At present, CEDIL has funds for one commissioning round. However, it is the Centre's intention to secure additional funding in the future which will allow it to commission both new studies and the continuation of studies commissioned in the first round. CEDIL will, therefore, consider projects that will lead to further work, although such projects must have the potential to produce valuable findings with the funding provided in this first commissioning round.