



CMM International Fund for Global Advancement of Medical Mycology - Round 1

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Do all project co-applicants and collaborators need to be CMM-FAILSAFE Network members?

A: Yes, all applicants and collaborators need to be a CMM-FAILSAFE Network member. Members are featured in a global capacity-building directory to connect easily with potential partners from academia and industry, fostering valuable collaborations. Additional benefits include priority invitations to events and training, eligibility for project funding, and updates through e-newsletters. Plus, members can receive travel support. Membership is free, please click [here](#) to become a member.

Can I apply for membership at the same time as submitting a funding application?

A: Yes, the Network can process both applications in parallel.

Is it compulsory to have an Exeter's MRC CMM collaborator within the application?

A: Yes, there does need to be a Principal Investigator (PI) or Independently Funded Early Career Fellow (ECF) of the MRC Centre for Medical Mycology as collaborator listed in the application.

Is it compulsory to have a CMM International Units PI as a collaborator/co-applicant within the application?

A: Yes, there does need to be a PI from at least one of the CMM International Units who is based in the region (to date, [CMM AFRICA](#) and [CMM LATAM](#)).

How can I find who the MRC CMM collaborator and the CMM International Units PI are and how to approach/contact them?

A: To find a collaborator in Exeter, please visit:

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/medicalmycology/people/>.

To find a collaborator in the CMM Africa Unit, please visit:

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/medicalmycology/internationalunits/cmm-africa-unit/>

To find a collaborator in the CMM LATAM Unit, please visit: <https://cmm-latam.com/about-us/> (check: CMM LATAM Unit members)

You can also contact us by email if you need any advice or are uncertain of the MRC CMM or Unit's member you are looking for.

Do applicants and co-applicants have to be based at different institutions?

A: Yes, at least one of the co-applicants must be based at a different institution. Applications where all applicants are based at the same institution will not be accepted. Collaborative **proposals involving applicants based in multiple countries** are encouraged.

Can an investigator or an institution be a co-applicant on multiple applications?

A: An individual can apply as lead applicant in one application but can be included as a co-applicant or collaborator on multiple applications. An institution can be the lead applicant institution on multiple applications (i.e. more than 2), provided that the lead investigator on each application is different, the substantive content of the application is different, and the team composition is different.

Can I apply if I previously have been awarded a FAILSAFE grant?

A: Yes, you can. This funding call is aligned with FAILSAFE principles for building global capacity but is a distinct standalone funding scheme.

Do you have institutions/organisations I can contact for collaborations on my project?

A: Yes, please join the CMM-FAILSAFE Network and you will gain access to the network directory which can help put you in touch with relevant organisations and institutions that you can approach. Here is the link: <https://cmm-failsafe.com/become-a-member/>.

Can I submit the forms in my own language?

A: No, please complete all forms in English.

What do I do if I don't have all the forms completed but need to submit before the deadline?

A: Please ensure all documentation is fully completed before submission. If, for any reason, you are unable to do so, kindly reach out to the CMM Admin team at mrccmm@exeter.ac.uk as soon as possible (before the deadline), and we will be able to offer advice and guidance.

Do I need to have all the research governance requirements for the project already in place at the application stage (e.g. collaboration agreements, intellectual property (IP) considerations, animal licences, etc.)?

A: No, but applicants are strongly advised to do so since any required research governance must be in place before the project can start. We are happy to provide a template collaboration agreement for use. Please contact the team on mrccmm@exeter.ac.uk if you would like this. **Tip:** Describe who owns the background and the foreground IP that is in the proposal and how foreground IP will be shared between applicants.

Is collaboration from industrial partners allowed?

A: Yes. Industrial collaborations are encouraged, especially where the industrial partner is able to provide match funding, or a clear route to translation of the research.

Are Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and/or Independently funded Early Career Fellows (ECFs) eligible to apply?

A: ECRs is a blanket term to describe all researchers, pre- and post-doctorate, while ECFs indicate researchers who already have substantial funding to independently develop their own research lines. ECFs are eligible to apply as lead applicants. We absolutely encourage ECRs to apply as co-applicants. This is due to the follow-on funding request.

Can the Lead applicant be from a low-middle income country?

A: Yes. The lead applicant can be from anywhere around the globe. The requirement is to have at least one collaborator in the MRC CMM in Exeter and at least one member of one of the CMM International Units, as detailed above.

Can I use the funding to fund Master's and PhD students?

A: Yes, as long as it fits within the project's timeline and delivers results intended. For accessing FAPESP-funded scholarships/fellowships (CMM LATAM Unit-specific), please note you may apply to fund a PhD student (some restrictions will apply, e.g. needs to be based in the Sao Paulo State in Brazil, see separate guidelines on these). Funding to employ research technicians to assist on your project is also allowed. You will need to ensure that such funding is at all times permitted by, and in compliance with, your Institution's internal policies, regulations and procedures.

Is the inclusion of investigator/applicant supervision time/costs allowable?

A: Unfortunately, no. Principal Investigator's time for those holding permanent positions will not be funded. However, funding to employ research technicians/staff to assist on your project is allowed (see question above).

For academic institutions based in the UK, we will award funding at 100% direct costs only. For all other institutions, projects will be funded at 100% fEC. Any costs requested for staff time will need to be justified within the application.

For the collaborators based in the MRC CMM at Exeter, we will allow research/consumables/travel costs only.

What can this funding be used for? Can it be to do a surveillance project or translational science, to gather pilot data, to establish a lab, to build a team or to develop an e-learn course?

A: This fund aims to support excellent, internationally collaborative research and development, having high potential and a robust pathway to build capacity via significant onward funding. This means we are looking for a strong scientific proposal with clear strategies for future impact, growth and funding. This funding does not support research outside the CMM International Units' remit (so make sure you checked the guidelines of the call).

How much information is required in Section B Question 12 of the Application Form regarding the 20% contribution to FEC for UK institutions?

A: The information needs to show that the UK institution (if applicable) is aware of the need to meet the remaining 20% of the fEC funding so that the direct costs required to deliver the project are provided to the lead applicant. This only applies to UK higher education institutions who are costing their requests for funding on an fEC basis.

Should the budget be broken down equally between all applicants in the proposal?

A: No, however proposal budgets should ensure that all partners are adequately resourced to deliver their respective contributions to the research project.

Applicants should also ensure that they provide details in the application form of any matched funding or in-kind contributions provided in support of the project from other sources.

Do I need to complete the Due Diligence Questionnaire?

A: Yes, this is a mandatory part of the application process when the Lead Applicant is not based in a Higher Education Institution (HEI) or government body in the UK, EU, USA or Canada. Your application for the CMM International Fund (Section B of the [Application form](#)) cannot be accepted without this supporting document, and funding cannot be awarded without the appropriate due diligence approval from the University of Exeter.

It is not a requirement, however, for submitting a project proposal to the FAPESP-funded scholarships/fellowships (Section C of the [Application form](#)).

Is it mandatory to cover one research theme, one pillar/mycosis (and one subtheme, if applicable) or could it be one or another?

A: It is a requirement to cover both, at least one research theme plus one pillar/mycosis (and one subtheme if applying within the CMM LATAM Unit remit). This means that if an application is submitted with a CMM LATAM Unit collaborator within the research theme “Biomarkers and Diagnostics” but the pillar/mycosis it is studying is Aspergillosis (which is not within the remit), the project won’t be eligible for this first round. Future rounds and funding calls might have different remits.

Will I be notified if my application is deemed ineligible?

A: Yes, applications submitted by the submission deadline will undergo a screening process to ensure compliance with the eligibility criteria and that all the required supporting documents requested have been provided. An email acknowledging receipt of your application and

whether has been deemed ineligible will be sent by the CMM Admin Team to the email address provided within 30 to 60 working days of receipt.

Will I receive feedback on my proposal?

A: All eligible applications submitted by the deadline will be put forward for peer review. If your application is unsuccessful, anonymised feedback may be provided (if this reaches the panel peer review stage), upon request, to support you in improving your application in future rounds of funding.

Is reporting of outcomes (i.e. publications, awards, partnerships, tools & methods, etc.) to the CMM Admin Team mandatory?

A: Yes. Awardees to the CMM International Fund for Global Advancement of Medical Mycology are required to submit reports at the project mid and end points (e.g. 12 and 24 months for a 24-month project) – a reporting template will be supplied. These mandatory reports must be submitted to the CMM Admin Team as per the dates specified in the contract agreement.

What does % FTE requested mean?

A: % FTE means the full-time equivalent. It is how we will measure time each person spends on a project. So, for example, I work full time so my FTE is 1.0 (or 100% FTE). My colleague works 2 days a week, so this equates to 0.4 FTE or 40% FTE (i.e., 1 day = 0.2 FTE or 20% FTE).

Do the 2-page CVs need to be in a specific narrative format, or can they be in a traditional CV format?

A: CV's can be in any format but need to be clear and logical.

Do you have any recommendations for preparing the application?

A: Please refer to the Application Guidelines document's subheading 2: '**Remit of the call and Assessment criteria**', to ensure your application competitively addresses the evaluation criteria that will be used when scoring the application by the peer review panel.

Help the reviewers to help you by making your application as clear as possible. Include clear statements of how the proposed work addresses the aims of the CMM International Units and, in particular, include and develop clearly your plans for follow-on funding (how you plan to

obtain further funding to continue/develop the research established within this project and where you intend to apply for funding (i.e., which funders/grants and timeline). State the gap in knowledge/capability that the project aims to address. Make clear references to supporting data for your concept/candidate (e.g. prior publications that demonstrate efficacy) or include supporting data in the proposal. Use consistent terminology throughout your application. If there are other innovations in that space (in the pipeline or in the market) identify them and describe why your proposed work remains necessary. Ask a trusted colleague to proof-read your proposal before submission.

For FAPESP-funded scholarship/fellowship project proposals, you **MUST** contact the CMM LATAM director and/or local coordinators first by emailing cmm-latam@usp.br. There are some FAPESP-specific requirements to be addressed prior to submission and the CMM LATAM Unit team will happily be able to advise.

Can the CMM LATAM Unit member be from outside of São Paulo?

A: Yes, the PI member of the CMM LATAM Unit could be from outside of São Paulo when applying to the CMM International Fund. However, for the FAPESP-funded scholarship/fellowship it **MUST** have one PI based in São Paulo.

Can the same person be the lead applicant on the CMM International Fund and the FAPESP-funded scholarship/fellowship?

A: Definitely. There is only one application form to facilitate the process application. Those eligible and willing can apply for BOTH funding streams at the same time.

Is it mandatory to suggest a PhD candidate at the time of the application?

A: No, we have offered the option for those who have a PhD candidate in mind to suggest their name at the time of the application to speed up the process, but it is **NOT** mandatory. Be aware that if suggesting a PhD candidate after the project is awarded, the applicant **MUST** submit the supporting documents of the candidate to the CMM LATAM Unit team for FAPESP approval prior to the PhD candidate starting.

Who do I speak to if I need support with my application or have any questions?

A: Please contact the CMM teams on mrccmm@exeter.ac.uk, or cmm-latam@usp.br for CMM LATAM specific questions, and a member of the team will be happy to help. The CMM admin team will run a webinar in early December to summarise the call and answer any questions that potential applicants may have. Refer to the website <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/medicalmycology/internationalunits/funding/> for more details.