

# The Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative: building competitive and resilient economies and societies through responsible AI

## English Webinar for potential applicants 17 July 2019

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The image displays a collection of logos for various research organizations. At the top left is the logo for CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research) and IRSC (Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada), featuring a green leaf design. To its right is the logo for NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) and CRSNG (Conseil de la recherche en sciences naturelles et en génie), featuring a red maple leaf. Further right is the logo for SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) and CRSH (Conseil de la recherche en sciences humaines), featuring a colorful horizontal bar. Below these are the logos for the Arts & Humanities Research Council, EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), and the UK Research and Innovation logo. At the bottom are the logos for the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC), both associated with UK Research and Innovation.



# Webinar's key aim

- ▶ Please consult ESRC's [website](#) and SSHRC's [website](#) and read the call specification and guidance documents carefully and thoroughly!
- ▶ Today's webinar **extracts and summarises the key information from the call specification and guidance documents and discusses the practicalities of the application process.**
- ▶ The webinar is intended to sit alongside the call documents (see ESRC and SSHRC's website), and **we cannot emphasise enough** the importance of familiarising yourselves with all the call documents in the process of producing your proposals.



# Presentation Outline

- ▶ Background information
- ▶ Objectives of the call
- ▶ What do we mean by ‘interdisciplinary’
- ▶ Eligibility
- ▶ How to apply
- ▶ Key requirements
- ▶ Assessment/selection criteria
- ▶ Assessment/evaluation process
- ▶ Next steps
- ▶ Questions & Answers session



# Background information

- ▶ the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), and the Medical Research Council (MRC) together with the three Canadian federal research funding agencies: the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR); the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC); and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) decided to make **up to £8.2 million** in funding available for the Canada-UK AI Initiative on building competitive and resilient economies and societies **through responsible AI**.
- ▶ The funding initiative was launched on 21 June 2019.



# Background information

- ▶ There is a significant need for interdisciplinary collaboration in AI research.
- ▶ The Canada-UK AI Initiative aims to foster interdisciplinary collaboration in AI research across social sciences and humanities; health and biomedical sciences; and natural sciences and engineering including computational and/or mathematical sciences – thus **interdisciplinary collaboration** lies at the heart of the AI initiative!
- ▶ Key aim: building competitive, resilient and healthy economies and societies through responsible AI.



# Objectives of the call

- I. Support innovative and **cutting-edge interdisciplinary AI research** that encourages the exploration of new interdisciplinary research methodologies, approaches and tools that cuts across **at least two** of the following research domains:
  - social sciences and humanities;
  - health and biomedical sciences; and
  - natural sciences and engineering (including computational and/or mathematical sciences).



# Objectives of the call

2. Promote the development of **Responsible AI** through research that includes considerations of social-cultural variables (gender, racialised identity, socio-economic status, ability, etc.), biological variables (sex) and sustainable development in the research design, to ensure that the benefits of AI technologies and tools are shared broadly across society, to mitigate against potential harms, and to enhance the trustworthiness of AI.



# Objectives of the call

3. Enhance existing and establish **new partnerships** between researchers in Canada and the UK in the area of AI research.
  
4. Enable the **creation and uptake of research outputs/outcomes with key stakeholders** (i.e. policy makers, decision-makers) in both Canada and the UK.
  
5. **Enhance capacity for development of AI** and/or its responsible applications through sharing of infrastructure and data, and joint training of early career researchers and trainees.





# What do we mean by 'interdisciplinary'?

- ▶ **Interdisciplinary dimension of project and team is at the heart of the AI initiative!**
- ▶ **Each proposal needs to incorporate a minimum of two of the following three research domains**
  - social sciences and humanities;
  - health and biomedical sciences; and
  - natural sciences and engineering (including computational and/or mathematical sciences).
- **ensure interdisciplinarity at the project level!**



# What do we mean by ‘interdisciplinary’?

- ▶ The UK PI and the Canadian PI must **represent different research domains**. The application must clearly indicate which domain they represent and what their project will focus on to ensure interdisciplinary.
- ▶ In addition to the minimum eligibility requirement for the PIs, interdisciplinarity among other team members is also strongly encouraged.
- ▶ Please note interdisciplinarity of the approach and contribution to knowledge across different research domains is an essential selection/assessment criterion of the call.



# Eligibility – Principal Investigators

- Canadian PI must be appointed at an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution at time of proposal submission
- UK PI must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for UKRI funding by the time the grant starts
- Only one application per PI

# Eligibility – Co- Investigators

- PI can be named as Co-I on several proposals
- No international on non –academic participants can be Co-Is
- International participants/partners: can be named as project partners or collaborators (not eligible to receive funds from UK or Canada)
- Non-academic participants/partners (business, third sector, or government): can be named as project partners or collaborators (not eligible to receive funds from UK or Canada)

# How to apply

- ▶ Step 1: Intention to Submit (deadline 19<sup>th</sup> August)
- ▶ Step 2: Self-registration in Je-S (**register as early as possible!**)
- ▶ Step 3: Create a Je-S account
- ▶ Step 4: Create your proposal in Je-S
- ▶ Step 5: PI submits proposal in Je-S
- ▶ Step 6: Organisation's 'submitter' submits proposal (deadline 12<sup>th</sup> September)

# Key requirements

- ▶ Je-S application mandatory attachments (see checklist in Je-S Guidance)
- ▶ Canadian Tri-Agency National Financial Form
- ▶ Project Participant Form
- ▶ Terms and Conditions for Applying for Canadian Tri-Agency Funds (submit to SSHRC by email)
- ▶ Health / Biomedical research: see Ethics Addendum

# Assessment/selection criteria

## ▶ Excellence

- Relevance to aims and objectives of the call
- Originality
- Interdisciplinarity
- Appropriateness of the theoretical approach or framework and methods proposed
- Capacity-building
- Potential for meaningful impact
- Value for money

# Assessment/selection criteria (cont)

## ▶ **Feasibility**

- Appropriateness of the proposed timeline
- Quality, genuine collaboration
- Appropriateness and expertise of the team
- Appropriateness of the Data Management Plan
- Appropriateness of the proposed costs

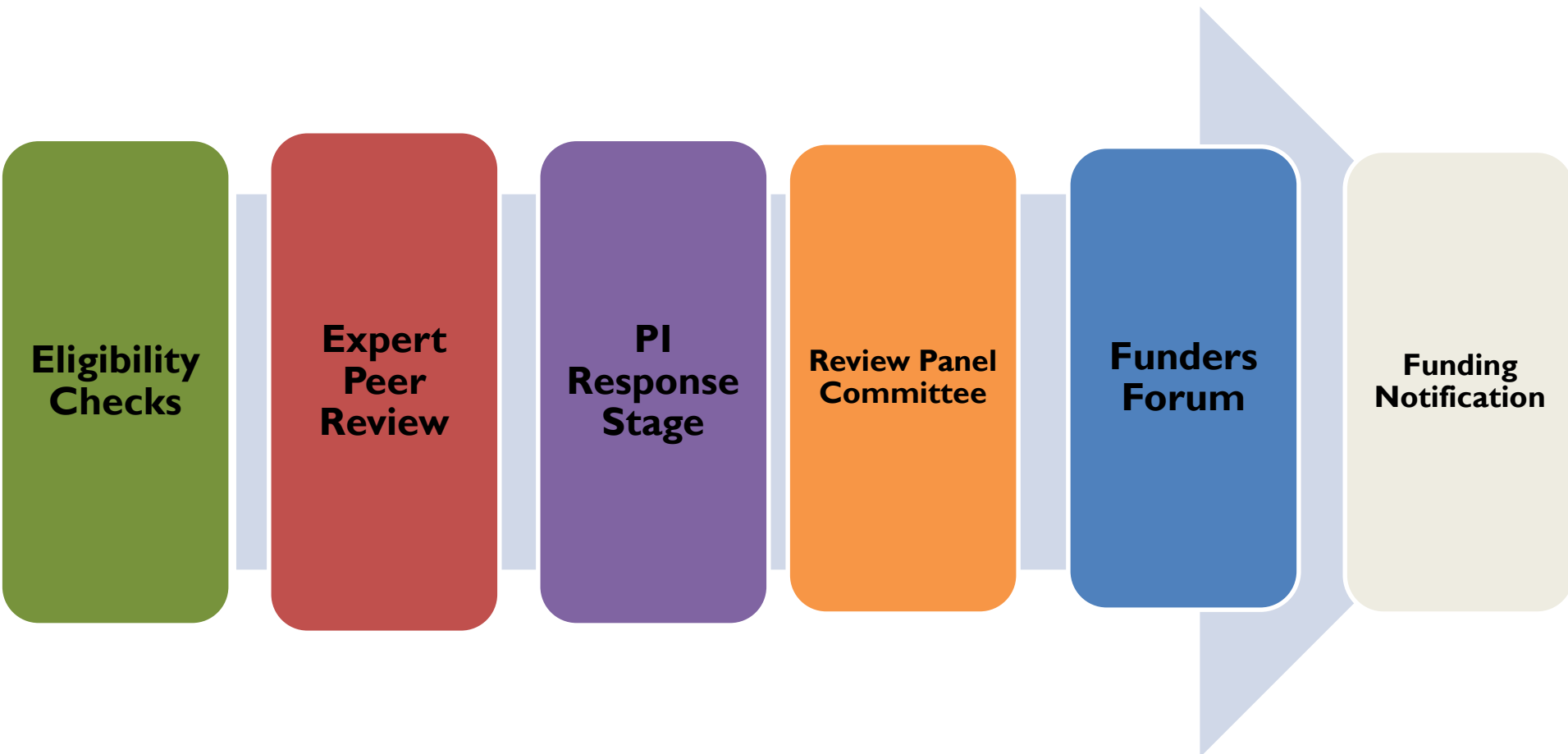


# Assessment/selection criteria (cont)

## ▶ **Capability**

- Quality, quantity and significance of past experience and published and/or creative outputs of the applicants and team members, relative to their role in the project and to the stage of their career
- Quality and quantity of past contributions to the training and mentoring of trainees, postdoctoral researchers, and other highly qualified personnel relative to the stage in their career

# Assessment/evaluation process



# Timelines

<b>Compulsory Intention to Submit Deadline</b>	<b>19 August 2019 (23:00 BST/18:00 EST)</b>
<b>Full Application Deadline</b>	<b>12 September 2019 (16:00 BST/11:00 EST)</b>
<b>Eligibility Checks and external peer review</b>	<b>16 September – 18 October 2019</b>
<b>PI response to external reviews</b>	<b>21 October – 28 October 2019</b>
<b>Panel</b>	<b>w/c 2 December 2019</b>
<b>Funders Forum Meeting</b>	<b>w/c 2 December 2019</b>
<b>Funding Decision Announcements</b>	<b>w/c 6 January 2020</b>
<b>Funding Start Date</b>	<b>1 February 2020</b>

- ▶ **For further information please consult ESRC's and SSHRC's websites**
- ▶ **Any questions and comments, please contact us**  
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Economic and Social Research Council

ESRC is part of UK Research and Innovation



# Questions & Answers Session