**Bristol International Research Collaboration Activities (BIRCA) FAQs**

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# Can I apply for funding to cover the salary of someone working in an overseas collaborator organisation?

No, funding through this scheme cannot be used to cover salary costs of overseas collaborators, due to University processes and the logistics and complexities involved in making salary payments to external/international people. The BIRCA scheme also expects the collaborator organisation to make a contribution, either financial or in-kind, in this instance it would be expected that the collaborator organisation would cover their staff costs.

# Are honorary research associates an eligible cost?

Whilst salaries for UoB administrative or ECR staff to support logistics including planning and delivery of the activity are eligible costs, this does not include Honorary Research Associates (HRAs). HRAs are associated with the University in an academic capacity but they are employees of another organisation who pay their salaries. As non-UoB employees they therefore fall outside of the scope of the BIRCA scheme

We do however welcome applications for projects which are also receiving additional sources of funding from elsewhere, so an application could be made to BIRCA for eligible costs in parallel to another application elsewhere to cover the external staff costs including HRAs where applicable.

# Can I apply for travel and subsistence costs for a UK based collaborator?

No, collaborators who are based in the UK would need to seek to cover travel and subsistence costs from their UK institution. In the [BIRCA Call Specification](https://www.bristol.ac.uk/international-research-partnerships/bristol-partnerships/birca.html) document under costs that are not eligible it states that:

* Travel, accommodation and/or subsistence costs for UK academics from institutions other than UoB are not eligible; however, they are welcome to join activities if doing so would be beneficial to the outcomes. In such cases they can be provided with refreshments and meals that are within the core activity itself (e.g. tea and coffee during meetings, or a working lunch), but any other costs such as breakfast/evening meals would need to be at their own expense as would travel and accommodation.

# What counts as a single activity or a set of related activities

An activity which takes place over a day/several days and/or within the same visit would count as a single activity or set of related activities. The activities should not be discrete events that require separate travel for each.

# I have already received one BIRCA award, can I apply again?

Technically yes, provided that your new application fully meets the criteria and requirements of the BIRCA scheme. We would, however, generally expect a BIRCA award to lead onto other, larger scale collaborative activities. A new bid would also need to have its own set of tangible outcomes and outputs, which could build upon but should not replicate your previous award. Funding for this scheme is limited, so the fact you have already received a BIRCA award will also be taken into account by the review panel. Please also note that as per the scheme T&Cs, any individual is only allowed to submit a maximum of one BIRCA application each calendar month, and no more than three per academic year. You are also not permitted to resubmit a previously unsuccessful application, unless you have been explicitly invited to do so by the IRD team.