

Additional guidance notes in response to queries

Additional guidance for applications to the Champions call.

1. Funds will be Directly Incurred, not Directly Allocated.
2. Finance will come via Leeds University.
3. Contracts will be collaboration agreements with Leeds (as for the Net Zero DRI scoping study); details may vary, but they will not be separate UKRI awards.
4. NERC administering the NetDRIVE grant on behalf of UKRI.
5. The “breakdown of resources” section in applications from academic institutions using FEC costing should follow a “Justification of resources” format
6. Word limit excludes references.
7. We are aiming for champions to start on September 1st 2025. End is expected to be 31st March 2028, and cannot be any later than this.
8. Existing role response: should conform to 500 words
9. Topics in the question on themes: On the [theme definition page](#) there is a list of topics under each theme: please select from this list, or add extra if you think there is a gap. The champions may span more than one theme to accommodate applications from people whose existing role does not fall neatly into our categories. Single theme champions are more than welcome.
10. Open process, we do not expect restricted IPR.
11. Ongoing major national activities with overlapping aims: the role of the champion is to link to these activities, acting as an advocate both for NetDRIVE and NetDRIVE outputs into the ongoing project, and as an advocate for the ongoing projects into NetDRIVE.
12. We expect the majority of costs to be on champion salary. For travel, see item 13 below. Small items of additional spending may be eligible if justified. As this is only a 20% role, we expect the basic IT equipment needed to fulfil an academic role to be covered by host institution.
13. Travel costs generally need to be included in champion budget. The champions will work together to make best use of travel, with champions taking on a regional role to attend meetings within an easy travel distance and reduce the need for long journeys and overnight stays.
 - a. Costs for meetings hosted by the core team will be paid for out of the central budget: including the annual Network meeting, champion team building event.
 - b. Costs for attending NetDRIVE focus meetings to represent the core team and assist in running the meeting will be met out of the meeting budget.