**Horizon 2020 grants in the event of a no-deal Brexit**

**Background**

In the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal at the end of October, the UK will become a third country partner in Horizon 2020 and therefore not eligible to receive funding from the programme. UK applicants can continue to participate and lead on H2020 collaborative bids that allow third country participation but there will be certain funding schemes that we can no longer apply for.

The UK government has announced that they will underwrite the funding for all current live grants and those awarded post-Brexit for the remainder of Horizon 2020 in the event of a no-deal. UKRI will deliver the government’s funding guarantee. RES have already registered all of the University's live grants with UKRI and there is no need for any PI to register their project on the portal.

**How will the underwrite guaranteed be activated for live grants?**

At some point after the 1st of November, we will have to submit applications to UKRI on Je-S for each Horizon 2020 project that we currently hold, based on the date of next expected payment (more details in early November). These applications must included copies of the grant agreement plus financial reconciliation statements (prepared by the Research Accounts team) showing how much money has been spent to the end of October.

RES will set up these applications on Je-S on behalf of grant holders but each PI will have to check and submit the application. Further information will be sent to current grant holders directly.

UKRI will issue award letters for each project (approx. 2 weeks after submission), which RES will accept on behalf of the University, and we will receive funding from UKRI quarterly with the normal Research Council payment runs.

**What does this mean for current grant holders?**

The UKRI funding will come with modified UKRI grant terms and conditions (to be released) but we know that PIs will have to submit all outputs and outcomes on ResearchFish for the duration of the projects and beyond.

For all grants (other than mono-beneficiary ERC and mono-beneficiary MSCA grants), we will still remain signatories to the Horizon 2020 grant agreement and therefore still have to comply with any scientific reporting and other grant obligations.

The UK, as a third country, will no longer be eligible to hold mono-beneficiary ERC and mono-beneficiary MSCA grants and so these will be converted – via the underwrite guarantee – to wholly UKRI grants.

**Please note** – KICs will work slightly differently to standard Horizon 2020 and details are still to be provided. However, it is likely that we won’t have to submit details for each individual KIC project.

**What happens to applications currently under consideration i.e. submitted before 31st October?**

Multi-partner, collaborative projects that have been submitted prior to the 31st October will be assessed as per the normal EU processes. If awarded, the University will then have to sign a grant agreement with the EU and apply for the UK government underwrite via Je-S.
Mono-beneficiary grants to the ERC investigator schemes and MSCA fellowships will no longer be eligible in the event of a no-deal Brexit and it is unclear how the EU will deal with the review and approval of these. The EU may decide that it will no longer continue to assess these bids and, in these cases, applicants will have to submit the bid to UKRI for independent peer review. Further details on this will be released post-Brexit once the EU’s position is known.

**What happens to applications due after the 31st October?**

Most Horizon 2020 calls are accessible to third country applicants and therefore we can apply for them as per normal. If successful, we will then have to apply to UKRI through Je-S and be covered by the Underwrite (information on how this will be delivered will be published by the 24th October).

We will not be able to apply for mono-beneficiary ERC or mono-beneficiary MSCA grants in the event of a no-deal Brexit as they are not open to third countries. The UK Government is currently looking at options for domestic replacements for these schemes.

**What happens if there is a deal or extension?**

If a deal is reached before the end of October or there is an extension to article 50, we will continue to be able to apply for funding and carry on projects as per normal.

**Questions?**

If you have any queries, please get in contact with the EU unit in RES on eu-unit@reading.ac.uk

We will keep you informed when we receive any further information on the Underwrite from UKRI and further information can be found on the UK Government website.