



## Stage 2: Invited Full Application

We invite 40 Research Project proposals to the full application stage, spread across the 4 thematic areas, and up to 10 full applications for the 4 Applied Working Group awards, ensuring a **40% success rate**.

Those invited to submit a full application at the end of March 2022 will be asked to give more detail in most sections of the outline proposal and to provide additional sections/documents (e.g. a lay summary, letters of support from the host institution(s) and/or any collaborators).

If you are invited to submit a full application, you may receive advice and support via two routes, as appropriate:

1. [Durham Research Methods Centre \(DRMC\)](#) fellows will work with all Research Project applicants (where appropriate) to ensure awareness, and incorporation, of cutting-edge methods for your proposed research.
  - To avoid any conflicts of interest or coercion, should an applicant ask a DRMC fellow to join their Research Project, the DRMC fellow may do so as a collaborator and co-author (subject to clear authorship criteria) only. They may not be costed into the grant other than their expenses to meet with the applicant, once, to assist with analysis.
2. The grant scheme's Research Communications Manager, [Bella Reichard](#), will work with Applied Working Group applicants to ensure awareness, and incorporation, of the most appropriate communication methods in your proposal.
3. **Mentors** from the executive committee of the Cultural Evolution Society, and a select pool of others, may work with applicants in framing their ideas and writing their full proposal to ensure the scheme meets the objectives of funding the best research and not only those who have the background or experience to write persuasive proposals.
  - To avoid any conflicts of interest or coercion, where applicants wish to invite mentors to join their Research Project/Applied Working Group, mentors may do so as collaborators and co-authors (subject to clear authorship criteria) but may receive only expenses required to meet with the applicant once, at their institution or in the field.

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[ces.transformationfund@durham.ac.uk](mailto:ces.transformationfund@durham.ac.uk)

Submission will be by 17th June 2022. A final decision on all awards will be made by 31st July 2022, with funded awards expected to commence between December 2022 and January 2023.

### The Review Process

The full proposals of 40 Research Project and up to 10 Applied Working Group applications will receive reviews by 3 independent, paid reviewers including two topic specialists and one non-topic specialist (gender, career-stage, geographically diverse) assigned by the funding scheme lead with advice from the CES executive.

Reviewers, drawn from the 300+ members of CES, will be assigned 3–5 applications to review. The review panel for each application will be different to that which reviewed the outline application (to ensure blind review) and not include individuals who have themselves applied to that specific call.

Selection will be weighted as:

- 20% Track-record in cultural evolution and/or in their related discipline as appropriate for career stage, and strength of team if appropriate.
- 40% Quality (including data management plans), novelty and potential of proposal, plus relevance to Research Project theme(s)/Applied Working Group call.
- 20% Feasibility & ethics, plus appreciation of risks and mitigation strategies.
- 20% Impact on the field and/or society.

An overall ranking of applications for each Research Project thematic area / Applied Working Group call will be produced. Richard McElreath will apply a [Bayesian model](#) that provides a statistical solution to the “hierarchical rater problem” ensuring fairness in funding decisions when each candidate is not reviewed by the same panel of reviewers and each individual reviewer varies in how generous or harsh they are in use of the categorical rating scale. Where there are close ties amongst top-ranked applications, meeting of diversity criteria will inform funding decisions. This ensures we will fund top-quality research alongside achieving associated grant aims. Final funding decisions will be ratified by the independent Advisory Board.

Where appropriate, successful Research Project applicants will be funded to attend a co-produced Capacity Building Training Course in cultural evolution research, taught by [Durham Research Methods Centre](#) fellows. We anticipate holding these courses by mid-2023 in Ethiopia, Thailand, and Colombia.

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