



New Zealand – Singapore Joint Research Programmes in Data Science and Future Foods: Pre Call for Proposals FAQs

Will we need to demonstrate how the projects link with one another?

It is not essential, but would be helpful if you indicate how your proposed project might tie into other proposals under the programme.

As a standard question, we will be asking how your proposed research fits into the broader research landscape within New Zealand and internationally. (This is largely in order to demonstrate uniqueness of the particular project as well as synergy through international connections.)

Will there be an opportunity for MBIE to ‘match-make’ several project proposals?

We considered this option but decided that it would be fairest to maintain a one-step contestable process, so no, MBIE will not run a first stage matching process. However, we are always open to the successful PI seeking to add additional researchers to a team once the project is underway.

The workshop summaries outline some specific project ideas – will the CFP be limited to those areas?

No. The purpose of the workshop was to establish *some* connections and common fields of interest that we expect have a high chance of being mutually beneficial to both countries. This was done to help scope the programme and to provide worked examples. We are open to excellent proposals under other areas for which the applicant makes a strong case of mutual interest, shared and complementary expertise and benefit to the New Zealand science system, in alignment with MBIE’s RS&I strategy.

Do the workshop summaries represent comprehensive government policy?

No. MBIE officials facilitated and attended the workshops but the attending researchers provided the substantive input to and in some cases wrote the workshop summaries. This was deliberate, to allow for a free and frank exchange of ideas. We have tried to capture the discussions in a natural way, as they happened, and to convey this as much as possible to those who could not attend.

Can researchers who did not attend the workshop apply?

Yes. It is open to all.

Do the proposals need to be jointly written with Singapore?

Yes. Each proposal should be jointly prepared with collaborators from Singapore. We would anticipate two PIs - one from each country. There will, however, be separate budgets. The New Zealand funding will go to the New Zealand side and Singaporean contributions written into their budget. Apart from this, the proposals should be written as one cohesive team plan. The final proposal will be submitted through MBIE’s IMS portal, but jointly assessed.



Do the two budgets have to match?

No. The New Zealand budget should be up to \$1.2million, but this does not translate easily into the differently structured Singaporean science funding system. What we expect is a rough equivalence of overall contributions, across personnel, in-kind, shared equipment, and other aspects depending on each funding body's budget requirements.

May we also apply for other science funding administered by MBIE and/or the Singaporean system.

Yes, so long as this is noted in the proposal. There may well be other funding sources more suited to a particular research concept. We welcome a rich network of collaborations through multiple platforms.

How will the overall successful programme be managed as a coherent portfolio?

At this stage we expect to support annual workshops for all key participating researchers, alternating between Singapore and New Zealand locations. The mechanisms behind this will be discussed with successful applicants. We also hope to see an organic development of exchange of ideas.