**International Collaboration Funding Scheme 2023–2024**

**Guidance**

**Aims and scope**

The International Collaboration Funding Scheme is aimed at supporting SLSA members to undertake international collaborative activities that are specifically aimed at building connections with socio-legal scholars and socio-legal communities beyond the UK. The funding can be used to initiate and build new connections as well as strengthen existing relationships, with socio-legal scholars or socio-legal communities beyond the UK in order to lay the groundwork for, and develop, new collaborative research initiatives or capacity building activities.

International collaboration can be:

* Collaboration with academics outside the UK – collaboration may take a range of forms and include various activities, eg organisation of an initial workshop or lectures/seminar/work-in-progress presentations (in-person or online) which brings together applicants, international partners, and other international collaborators with the aim of pursuing a grant application for a new research project, or developing a joint publication.
* Collaboration with socio-legal organisations or socio-legal communities outside the UK – collaboration may take a range of forms, eg a secondment with a socio-legal organisation and related activities involving knowledge exchange, or methodological workshops (in-person or online) for building socio-legal research capacity.
* Collaboration with other groups (eg NGOs, civil society groups, or professional bodies) beyond the UK that are pertinent to socio-legal work.

The money under this scheme is to be seen as seed-corn funding, ie something that allows the recipient to lay the groundwork for the proposed international collaboration, and applicants will be welcome and encouraged to seek other sources of funding in addition to the SLSA award to fully realise their proposal. We would support the initiation of new and exploratory collaborations, as well as the significant further development of existing relationships.

**Funds available for 2023–224**

The total fund for this scheme in 2023–24 is £5,000. Each award under the scheme is limited to a maximum of £1000.

In 2023–24, funds under the scheme will be allocated as follows:

* £2000 will be reserved for funding international collaborative activities specifically aimed at involving socio-legal scholars or socio-legal communities located in the Global South. For the purposes of this scheme, ‘Global South’ refers to low and middle-income countries, as categorised by the World Bank in its 2022–23 country classifications by income level.[[1]](#footnote-1) In reserving these funds for such awards, the SLSA aims to facilitate socio-legal studies in places where there are particular barriers obstructing socio-legal work. Any funds remaining after the award decisions will be used for the open call (below).
* £3000 will be open to fund any international collaborative activities whether the focus is on the Global North, Global South, or both.

**Applicant eligibility and application requirements**

* Applications will be considered only from those who are fully paid-up members (or registered as free student members) of the SLSA.
* All applications must identify a lead applicant. The lead applicant will be an SLSA member based at an institution in the UK, and their home institution must be willing to support the application and take payment of grant money. The lead applicant must be a fully paid-up member of the SLSA at the time that the application is submitted. The applicant is advised to check their membership status before submitting an application.
* Applications made under this scheme must be made in partnership with at least one ‘international partner’, eg an individual academic from an institution outside the UK, or an organisation outside the UK. This funding is designed to support international collaboration and applications not involving any international partners will not be accepted.
* Applications for partial or joint funding (ie from sources other than SLSA) will be considered. These sources should be indicated in the application.
* Members of the SLSA Board are excluded from applying for the duration of their tenure on the board.
* The application must be costed in, and any award will be made in, GBP (£). Applications will be considered where there is no access to internal funding (ie within the home institution) for either the SLSA member or international partners, or where available funding is not sufficient to cover the activities needed to meet the aims of the collaboration. Proof of this will need to be submitted alongside the application.
* Applications must be made through the standard form provided on the SLSA website.
* Applications must be accompanied by a letter from an authorised person within the lead applicant’s home institution undertaking to administer any award in accordance with that institution’s approved financial procedures.
* Applicants must also include a letter of support from the international partner’s institution/international partner organisation.

Complete applications must be submitted by email to: admin@slsa.ac.uk by the deadline of **31 October 2023**.

**Eligible costs**

Funding **can** be sought to pay for:

* Travel and accommodation, including for PGR and precariously employed SLSA members who have no access to institutional funds.
* Childcare costs to enable participants and collaborators to attend project events.
* Costs of data bundles to enable participants and collaborators to attend virtually.
* Subscriptions for virtual event platforms.
* Hosting an event at a UK institution.
* Direct costs related to the research (eg content creation) and to support planning for the further development of the proposed collaboration.
* Costs to offset the carbon generated by travel for project activities.

Funding **cannot** be sought to pay for:

* Fees relating to dissemination of research (eg payments for open access).
* Travel and accommodation to undertake activities not directly related to aims and objectives of the application (such as attendance at other/unrelated events, or the subsidising of postgraduate or other course fees).
* Any form of buyout from institutional workloads.

**Criteria**

Applications must demonstrate genuine international collaboration relevant to socio-legal studies that enables new connections with socio-legal scholars or socio-legal communities beyond the UK, and a clear benefit to SLSA members and international partners.

Applications will be judged as per the following criteria:

* Clarity of aims and objectives of the proposed international collaboration and its importance to socio-legal studies.
* Originality and innovativeness of the proposed international collaboration (eg applications that demonstrate work with a new partner or new country, or formation of a new type of collaborative relationship, or new subject matter for or approach to collaboration, or an innovative development in an existing relationship with an international partner).
* Viability of the proposed international collaboration (eg timescale, budget, environmental factors, any risks and mitigation).
* Potential impact and legacy plans for the proposed international collaboration (e.g. whether the activities will bring mutual benefit to both UK and international partners involved in the collaboration; whether the activities will be inclusive and benefit the socio-legal community; what outputs and further activities will result from the collaboration; how any outputs will be disseminated; how the collaboration will be developed and sustained beyond the funding).
* Availability of alternative funding or joint funding (eg applicants should explain briefly why alternative funding has not been sought, or considered appropriate; or whether partial funding will be sought from other sources).

It should not be assumed that successful applications will necessarily meet all the criteria, nor that any standardised weighting will be applied in respect of these criteria.

**Conditions of acceptance**

* All funds will need to be spent, or returned to the SLSA by the end date of the award, usually within 12 months of the award being made.
* In all cases it will be a condition of acceptance that the lead applicant will undertake to submit a final report of collaborative activities for publication in the SLSA Newsletter, **and** contribute a blog post on the substance and impact of the collaboration for publication on the SLSA blog.
* If the above conditions are not fulfilled, eg the lead applicant does not provide a report, then the SLSA will approach the lead applicant’s institution to seek a refund of the award. Furthermore, the lead applicant will be barred from applying for future grants until the conditions are met.
* Recipients will be required to acknowledge the fact of the award in any activities or publication which stems from the award.
* SLSA in its discretion may exclude any specific items of expenditure from the award to a successful applicant. Any such exclusion(s) will be expressly notified to the applicant at the time the award is made.
* Funds will be sent to the lead applicant’s institutional account only (not to personal accounts), to be managed through standard SLSA financial mechanisms.
* SLSA reserves the right to offer funding subject to the fulfilment of further specified conditions.
1. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/new-world-bank-country-classifications-income-level-2022-2023> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)