

Coordinated by:



In partnership with:



# Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries

A CEPR / DFID Research Initiative

**EXPLORATORY RESEARCH GRANT BUDGET GUIDELINES**

**2017-2020**

## Contents

1. General Rules.....	2
2. Category: Data Acquisition/Field Work.....	2
3. Category: Travel .....	3
4. Category: Research Stipend .....	4
5. Category: Research Assistance.....	4
6. Category: Other .....	5
7. Non-eligible costs.....	5
8. Value for Money.....	5

Applicants for Exploratory Grants are required to submit a detailed budget together with their project proposal. The Exploratory Grant budget template is available on the [PEDL website](#).

## 1. General Rules

- The examples in the budget justification template are for guidance only. Item descriptions and justifications should be specifically tailored to your project and the examples given should be deleted from the final budget version.
- Please ensure you only fill in those categories that are relevant to your project.
- No administrative charges or institutional overheads may be included in the budget. This includes management and administration costs; costs of office space, including rent, depreciation of buildings, equipment, electricity, water, gas, maintenance, insurance; communication costs such as postage, and network connection charges; and any costs for an audit of project expenditure that your institution may be required to carry out to comply with its own auditing regulations.
- All expenditure should be listed in GB Pound Sterling (£). When you submit your financial reports, you will be required to use the exchange rate of the day the cost was incurred, i.e. the date on your receipts. Therefore, if an item requires a currency conversion, please apply the appropriate rate based on data obtainable from [www.oanda.com/currency/converter](http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter).
- All costs must be broken down (i.e. per day/month, per item). Details can be included in the 'Justification' section, as well as in the budget narrative section of the proposal.
- Unless specified in the call you are applying for, budgets should be in the range of £15,000 - £35,000.
- Applicants are advised to be mindful when preparing their budget of how to demonstrate value for money. Some brief guidance on this issue is provided below.
- No additional funds will be made available to grantees to cover currency exchange losses over the course of the grant.
- When submitting financial reports, grantees will be required to submit all documents and receipts proving expenditure. Any costs found to be ineligible will be rejected.
- CEPR reserve the right to request changes to or seek further clarification of the project budget after the grantee's proposal has been accepted by the PEDL Scientific Committee.

## 2. Category: Data Acquisition/Field Work

The items included in this category should relate only to expenditure that is directly linked to the scientific process of data acquisition.

Eligible costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data purchase</li> <li>• Survey running costs (e.g. materials, communication tools, etc.) - survey costs should be justified and the method of selecting the firm conducting the survey should be described in the 'Justification' section of the budget. CEPR reserves the right to request copies of any institutional policy on procurement of any such services</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data entry</li> <li>• Data analysis tools (e.g. software)</li> <li>• Salaries for field staff</li> <li>• Subscription costs for databases</li> </ul>
Non-eligible costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs should not be included in this category even if the expenditure is incurred while collecting data. These items should instead be listed under the 'Travel' section.</li> <li>• Equipment costs (e.g. phones, laptops, etc.) should not be charged to this category.</li> <li>• Salaries for PI and Co-Is and Research Assistants should be listed under the respective Research Stipend and Research Assistance categories.</li> </ul>

### 3. Category: Travel

This category should contain all items that relate to travel, accommodation and meals. These can be linked to different parts of the project and should be split accordingly (e.g. travel to the field location, travel to conferences and workshops, etc.). Applicants should actively seek value for money where it is practical and feasible, or if appropriate, the lowest price. All travel, accommodation and subsistence claims must be supported by receipts and/or tickets.

Eligible costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel (e.g. flights, trains, taxis, car rental, fuel)</li> <li>• Meals and accommodation</li> </ul>
Non-eligible costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please see below</li> </ul>

Please note that CEPR will only reimburse economy class flights and second class train travel. CEPR requests that participants electing to travel by train must take advantage of early booking fares where this is cheaper than purchasing tickets near to departure. Where travel by public transport is impossible or impractical, applicants may request funding for travelling by car. Note that funding is limited to renting costs of the vehicle, expenses for fuel and parking.

Expenses should be recorded including the start and end points of the journey (addresses or landmarks) and the number of miles travelled. Miles can be reimbursed at 45p per mile up to 10,000 miles. Above 10,000 miles are reimbursed at 25p a mile. More information on mileage allowance can be found [here](#).

When overnight accommodation is required it is expected that applicants will obtain accommodation at the most economical rate available. Applicants may claim the cost of meals when it is necessary for them to stay in overnight accommodation provided they are of a reasonable cost.

Please note that the prices entered for accommodation and subsistence should not exceed reasonable values. [Here](#) is a guide on what such reasonable values are in each country.

#### 4. Category: Research Stipend

This category should include research stipends to be paid directly to the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigators (Co-I). The daily rate and number of days to be charged for the research stipend must be supplied for each researcher.

Eligible costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily rate for the Principal Investigator's research stipend</li> <li>• Daily rate for the Co-Investigator's research stipend</li> </ul>
Non-eligible costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fees paid to Research Assistants and support staff</li> <li>• Expenses for the PI and Co-I (i.e. travel, meals, etc.)</li> <li>• Recruitment costs</li> </ul>

#### 5. Category: Research Assistance

This category relates to the costs incurred for employing Research Assistants and academic support staff. The daily rate for each Research Assistant and the number of days to be spent on the project must be supplied.

Eligible costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily rate for Research Assistants and support staff</li> </ul>
Non-eligible costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Principal Investigator's research stipend</li> <li>• The Co-Investigator's research stipend</li> <li>• Costs for field staff</li> <li>• Recruitment costs</li> </ul>

For both Research Stipend and Research Assistance categories only actual hours/days worked by the personnel exclusively on the project may be charged. If the person does not work exclusively on the project, is working part-time or working only part of the year on the project, a *prorata* calculation must be made based on the hours/days worked on the project.

Research stipend and assistance costs should be recorded through timesheets for all employees working on the project. Once declared, the personnel costs cannot be adjusted/changed due to a re-calculation of the daily rate.

## 6. Category: Other

This category should contain all project-related costs that do not fit into the other categories. They must be clearly defined and described.

Eligible costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equipment (e.g. notebooks, online storage, support software) – laptop and tablet costs are limited to £500.</li><li>• Dissemination activities (including venue hire, catering, speakers' honoraria (where applicable), travel and accommodation of participants (when absolutely necessary), conference fees)</li><li>• Publication costs (including printing workshop/conference materials, costs related to the publication of research results, costs associated with open access of outputs)</li></ul>
Non-eligible costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indirect costs (overheads, institutional fees etc.)</li><li>• Contingency costs</li></ul>

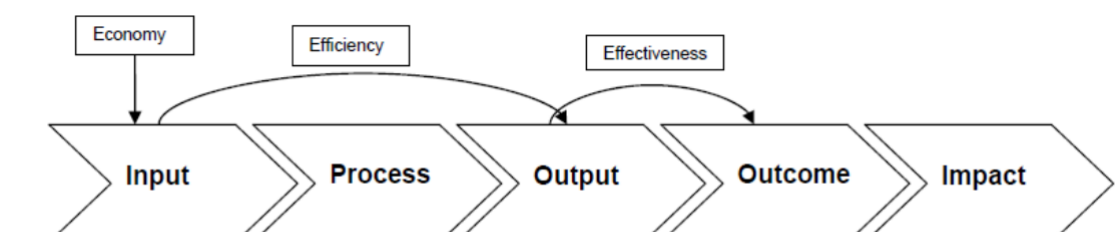
## 7. Non-eligible costs

The following costs cannot be reimbursed by PEDL:

- Administrative charges or institutional overheads. Please see above for more information
- Any identifiable indirect taxes
- Interest owed
- Provisions for potential future losses
- Exchange losses
- Excessive expenditure
- Transaction fees
- Recruitment costs

## 8. Value for Money

Value for money (VFM) in this programme means that we maximise the impact of each pound spent to improve poor people's lives. VFM does not simply mean minimising the cost of the project but also involves making judgements about the results we expect to achieve. In this regard, the 3Es framework may be helpful:



- **Economy** Does the proposal plan to buy inputs of the appropriate quality at the right price? (i.e. cost-minimisation)
- **Efficiency:** How well does the proposal plan to convert inputs into outputs? (i.e. is the value of the final research output high relative to the cost)
- **Effectiveness:** How well are the outputs from an intervention achieving the desired policy outcome and, ultimately, poverty reduction? (i.e. is the value of the final outcome high relative to the cost)

The VFM of proposals will be assessed on these three criteria. It is important to note that while the research output is substantially under the control of the research team, it is recognised that the

policy outcome and its ultimate impact on poverty reduction are subject to many other factors. Nevertheless, evaluators will assess the quality and credibility of the policy impact plan to judge whether the project is likely to be effective in the sense of achieving policy change.

If you have any queries when completing your Exploratory Grants budget, please contact [pedl@cepr.org](mailto:pedl@cepr.org).