

## Past Earth Network - Call for Feasibility Studies

The Past Earth Network (PEN) is an EPSRC funded network which facilitates communication between climate science, modelling and statistics. The aim of the network is to explore how palaeoclimate data and models can be used, in conjunction with statistical methods, to assess and improve the quality of climate forecasts. Most work in the network is done in four working groups:

- Quantification of error and uncertainty of *data*.
- Quantification of uncertainty in complex *models*.
- Methodologies which enable robust *data-model comparison*.
- *Forecasting* and future climate projections.

We are inviting proposals for feasibility studies in the areas of the four working groups.

Proposals should follow the guidance given below and should be submitted via email to the network coordinator Edward Yorke ([staey@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:staey@leeds.ac.uk)). The deadline for applications is **Friday, 30 September 2016**. Decisions will be announced on Tuesday 1st November at the latest.

### Eligibility and Funding Rules

Every member of the Past Earth Network is eligible to submit proposals. Please see the PEN web page [1] for information how to join the network.

[1] <http://pastearth.net/>

The principal investigator (PI) for each proposal must be eligible to receive EPSRC funding. This means that the PI must be staff or a PhD student at an eligible UK institution (see [2] for criteria).

[2] <https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/fundingguide/eligibility/organisations>

Funding from this call can be used to pay consumables, travel & subsistence, and equipment costs directly incurred by the study. Indirect costs, estates costs and infrastructure costs cannot be claimed. Salaries follow rules set by the EPSRC and can only be paid to staff or PhD students at eligible UK institutions [2]. Funding awarded by this call cannot be used to contribute towards the salaries of PEN steering committee members. Any questions regarding proposed costs or eligibility should be directed to Edward Yorke ([staey@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:staey@leeds.ac.uk)) as early as possible.

Each proposal must be assigned to one or more of the working groups. The total budget available for each of the four working groups is £25,000.

Studies are funded for a maximum of 6 months after the agreed starting date. Studies must finish before 31 December 2017.

### Assessment Criteria

Proposals will be ranked by a panel of the Working Group Leaders and Steering Committee members. Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. How well the proposal aligns with the goals of the network and the chosen working group(s).
2. Scientific quality of the project, including the appropriate use of statistical methodology.

3. How well the project furthers interactions between the different scientific areas of the network.
4. How relevant any outputs of the proposed project are to the network, and how likely it is that these outputs are achieved.

The proposals for each working group will be ranked according to these criteria and the top proposals for each group (up to the budget limit) will be funded.

### **Guidance for Proposals**

Proposals should be written according to the following guidelines.

- Proposals should be at at most two pages long, and should be submitted in PDF format.
- Proposals should consist of the following parts:
  - a statement of which working group(s) the proposal is for (data, models, data-model comparison, or forecasting)
  - a description of the proposed project
  - an itemised list of the funding items requested, including amounts and a short justification
  - a description of how the proposal addresses the assessment criteria, including a list of the expected project outputs
  - the proposed starting date and duration for the project
- A wide variety of different project types is possible under this call, and we welcome creative submissions as long as the assessment criteria are met. Some ideas for different projects:
  - Feasibility studies may aim to analysis or generate new data or model output.
  - Proposals may aim to undertake initial research on a topic relevant to the network.
  - Proposals may aim to bring together researchers from different disciplines covered by the network.
  - Proposals may aim to identify scientific challenges which then could be addressed in follow-up studies.
  - Proposals could aim to identify and promote best procedural practice for confronting earth simulations with data.
  - Proposals could do the ground work to develop a full research proposal, which then would be submitted to NERC, EPSRC or the EU at a later stage.
  - Proposals could aim to make the work of the network more accessible to end users and stakeholders.

Please direct any questions to the network coordinator Edward Yorke ([staey@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:staey@leeds.ac.uk)).

**Version history**

June 30 2016: Call document published.

July 01 2016: Corrected the date of the deadline.

July 07 2016: Added version history, clarified rules regarding steering committee member funding and salary payments.