

International Collaboration Funding Scheme

Application Package 2025–26

If you require this document or the form in an alternative, accessible format, then please contact the [SLSA Administrator](#).

Aims and Scope

The International Collaboration Funding Scheme is aimed at supporting SLSA members to undertake international collaborative activities that are specifically targeted 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, e.g. organisation of an initial workshop or lectures/seminar/work-in-progress presentations (in-person or online) which bring 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, e.g. 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 (e.g. 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, i.e. 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 2025–2026

Each award under the scheme is limited to a maximum of £4000.

- The International fund is open to fund any international collaborative activities whether the focus is on the Global North, Global South, or both.
- The International Fund includes earmarked support (thanks to the generous support of *Social and Legal Studies*) for excellent collaborations 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 In reserving support for such collaborations, the SLSA aims to facilitate socio-legal studies in places where there are particular barriers obstructing socio-legal work.

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. Fees are payable through the members' area of the website. Contact the [SLSA Administrator](#) for queries about membership fees.
- If an applicant's fees are due during the period of the funding scheme (between November and end of February) then they will be asked to pay their future fees prior to acceptance of the application.
- The person applying through the [online form](#) will be treated as the 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.
- Applications made under this scheme must be made in partnership with at least one 'international partner', e.g. 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 (i.e. from sources other than the 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 (£s).
- Applications will be considered where there is no access to internal funding (i.e. 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.
- The strictly enforced deadline for applications is **31 October 2025**.
- Decisions will be communicated in early February 2026.
- All applications must be submitted online using the appropriate online forms. These forms are available via the [SLSA Funding Schemes Page](#) and in the

dropdown menu within the members' section. Applications can only be submitted by members with a registered account and who have an [active membership subscription](#).

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- Applicants must upload the International Collaboration Funding Scheme [Institutional Endorsement Form](#) signed by 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 upload a letter of support from the international partner's institution/international partner organisation.
- A voluntary statement disclosing that one or more of the applicants is employed on a precarious (non-permanent) basis or is not currently employed by an HEI may also be included. Including this voluntary disclosure will not impact your chances of being awarded funding but will help the SLSA to target extra funding to precariously employed members.

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 (e.g. 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 (e.g. 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 (e.g. 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 (e.g. timescale, budget, environmental impact, 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 (e.g. 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. However, applications that lack a connection to socio-legal studies will not be funded. Collaboration between two individual academics at a UK and an international

partner institution respectively will be considered only if the aims and objectives as well as impact and legacy plans are clear and the proposed activities result in a benefit beyond the applicants to other socio-legal scholars or the socio-legal community.

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, e.g. 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 publications which stem 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.

Organisation of Awards

Awards will be made by the SLSA Board. If there is any conflict of interest such that a member of the Board feels that they are unable to reach an unbiased decision about an application, they shall withdraw whilst the decision is made about that application. If, in the opinion of the SLSA Board, there are insufficient appropriate applications to justify allocating the full sum available in the fund then the Board will make only such awards as it considers appropriate.

Privacy

The data supplied to the SLSA in the application process will be used solely for the purposes of processing your grant application, informing you of the outcome, and making any relevant payments. The name, institutional affiliation, amount awarded, and project title of successful applicants will be recorded on our [website](#) and in the *Socio-Legal Newsletter*. We will check the SLSA membership database for your current membership status. Our legitimate basis for processing your data under Article 6 of GDPR is the performance of a contract. Any queries or data access requests should be addressed to the [SLSA Administrator](#) in the first instance.

Enquiries

Any enquiries about the scheme and application process should be addressed to the [SLSA Administrator](#).

¹ N Hamadeh et al (2022) [New World Bank country classifications by income level: 2022-2023](#), *World Bank Blogs*, 1 July, accessed 15 June 2025.