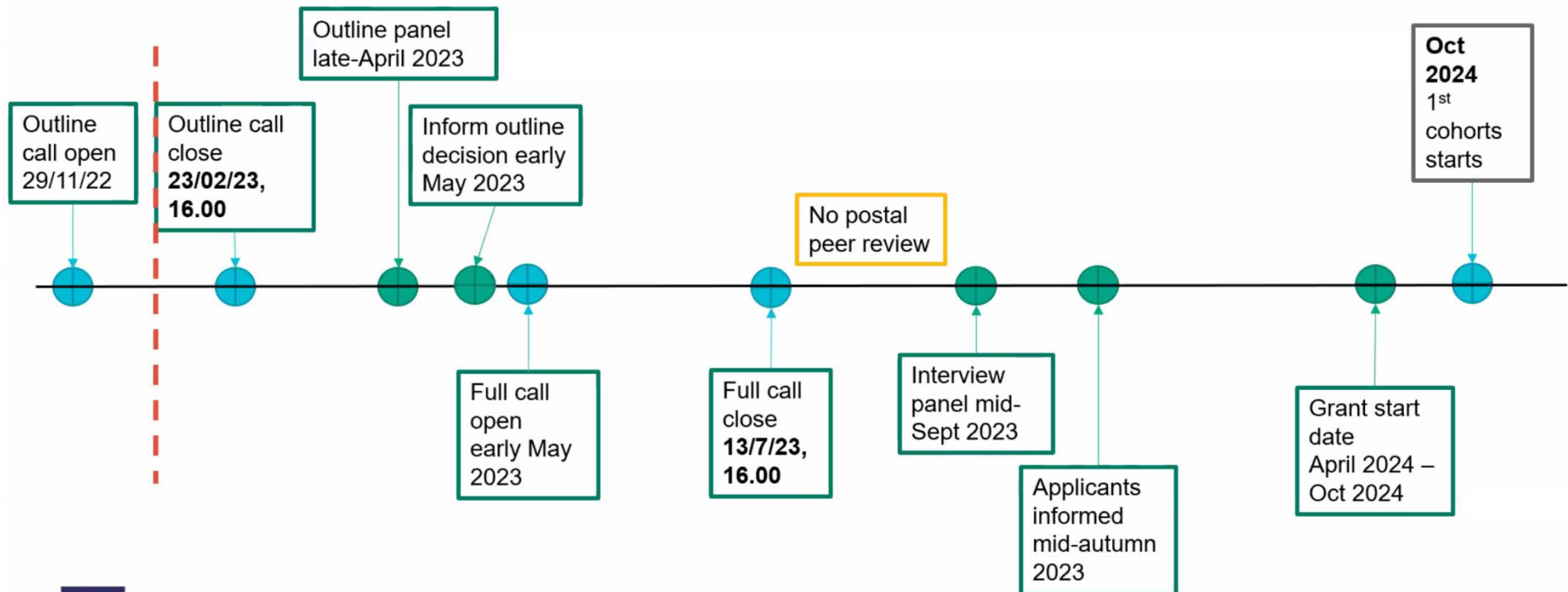# UKRI Centres for Doctoral Training in AI

- Web site:
  https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/ukri-centres-for-doctoral-training-in-artificial-intelligence/

- Total £117M (not yet approved).

- Expect to fund several centres, each with five cohorts doing four-year year PhD.

- First cohort start in 2024.

Outline call open 29/11/22

Outline call close **23/02/23, 16.00**

Outline panel late-April 2023

Inform outline decision early May 2023

Full call open early May 2023

Full call close **13/7/23, 16.00**

No postal peer review

Interview panel mid-Sept 2023

Applicants informed mid-autumn 2023

Grant start date April 2024 – Oct 2024

Oct 2024 1st cohorts starts

UK Research and Innovation

UKRI Centres for Doctoral Training in AI

- Must apply against at least one priority area:
  - Science and Research
  - Research that cannot be done without AI.

Health

- Development and deployment of AI in the **understanding and management of health and disease**
- Using AI to **support health, resilience and wellbeing through life**
- Training may support the use of AI to generate:
  - new cellular, molecular, mechanistic or causal insight
  - understanding of emerging health threats
  - accelerating development of improved health interventions
- expected to be **collaborative and multidisciplinary**, open to clinical trainees and other technical specialists.

UKRI Centres for Doctoral Training in AI

Eligibility

- Applications must be led by eligible UK organisations which already have suitable arrangements in place to award doctoral qualifications and a **track record** of delivering doctoral training.
- Applications are welcomed from both **single and multi-institutional** teams
- The PI must be from the lead organisation and satisfy standard EPSRC eligibility criteria
- PI and co-Is must be from eligible UK organisation - expect no more than **10 named investigators**
- Welcome as Co-Is research technical professionals and professional research and investment strategy managers who are integral to developing the bid

UKRI Centres for Doctoral Training in AI

How to apply – Outline stage

- Deadline: **23 February 2023, 4.00pm**
- One Je-S application per CDT proposal
- **Je-S form**
- **3 page case for support**
  - Use section headings: centre vision, student training experience, centre management and pastoral care
- **Additional information form**
  - not seen by panel, for office use only
- **Optional cover letter**
  - not seen by peer review, way to communicate with UKRI
- No further documents (no letters of support required)
- **No minimum leverage** requirement has been set
  - both cash and in-kind support from non-UKRI sources is strongly expected
- Appropriate user co-creation, contributions and engagement
- No Je-S project partners in outlines
  - give indication of leverage

- No limit on number of universities in bid.
- Must build cohort of students that can work together.
- 300 people on webinar.
- 30 projects will be selected for full proposal.
- About 10 will be funded.
- My feeling:
- Only works if LhARA part of "related" (AI in cancer treatment?) bid.

Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme

- Web: https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/developmental-pathway-funding-scheme/
- Total fund £30M.
- Outline application by 22/3/23.

- Eligible aims:
  - Improve prevention, diagnosis, prognosis or treatment of significant health needs.
  - Develop research tools that increase the efficiency of developing interventions.

- Areas eligible for funding:
  - Medical devices
  - Digital healthcare, app development or artificial intelligence
  - Diagnostics
  - Medical imaging technology
  - Radiotherapy and radiation protocols
  - Interventions that benefit health in low-and-middle income countries.

Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme

- No support for:
  - Fundamental or investigative research not linked to a development plan.
  - Clinical studies where main aim is to investigate disease mechanism.
  - Late-phase clinical trials.
  - Late-phase global health trials.
- Assessment of application:
  - Clinical or medical need: is it significant and does proposal have advantage over competition>

- Assessment of application cont.:
  - Rationale: evidence showing proposed solution will meet targeted need.
  - Deliverability: does team have necessary assets and expertise to deliver the planned work and is proposal good value for money?
  - IP: is their a strategy to facilitate development, clinical uptake or commercialisation?
- Projects with no clear and plausible plan of their proposed route to market or patient benefit after this award are unlikely to be supportable.

Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme

- **My feeling:**
  - ◆ MRC did not foresee projects of the scale of LhARA when setting up this call.
  - ◆ Would be sensible to have a conversation with MRC at the appropriate level before investing lots of time in a LhARA proposal.

- Can we identify individual elements of the LhARA project that could be submitted?
- One candidate ion-acoustic imaging…
- …if applicability to (some) existing proton therapy centres can be demonstrated.