

## Research Cultures in Southeast Asia - opinion research

### Supplier Q&A

#	Question	Answer
1.	<p><b>Budget</b></p> <p>What is the maximum budget for this research?</p> <p>Does Wellcome have an ideal budget range proposals should stay within?</p> <p>Can the budget cover logistics costs for a physical meeting/focus group to convene partners from ASEAN member states?</p> <p>Can the budget cover fees for staff running the interview, focus group, and those involved in the project? Is there any guideline for the fee rate?</p> <p>Which cost categories are included and excluded from the project budget for this RFP? Examples are travel costs, dissemination and/or publications costs, and equipment (such as online survey software).</p>	<p>Wellcome will be guided by the supplier as to what a reasonable budget for this activity is, as we do not want to limit ambition or innovation. Proposals are in part assessed on value for money and as such we would expect to see a detailed budget breakdown (for example on time and resources) to allow Wellcome to feedback as needed with the awarded supplier.</p> <p>Suppliers can include all associated costs to convene meetings, focus groups, interviews etc. Suppliers should also include fees for staff to run these events/meetings if required. All costs required to carry out the project, including staff time, travel, accommodation (if required), software, publications costs, etc., should be requested within the proposal.</p> <p>Fee rates - Proposals are in part assessed on value for money and as such we would expect to see a detailed budget breakdown for staffing to allow this to be evaluated.</p> <p>The budget should detail all costs required to deliver the proposed RFP specification. Please ensure all costs are justified. Travel costs may be included but will subject to being agreed in advance and subject to satisfactory confirmation/ receipts.</p>
2.	<p>How is Southeast Asia defined in the context of this work? Are there clearly defined countries Wellcome trust intends this work is about?</p>	<p>We have defined Southeast Asia as consisting of: Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore Timor-Leste (East Timor) and Brunei Darussalam. Ideally, we would like the supplier to look at how the research cultures vary across all the countries within Southeast Asia and provide us with an overview.</p>

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3.	<p>When we speak about research culture in Southeast Asia do we mean:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Culture of research physically conducted in Southeast Asia by anyone?</li> <li>Culture amongst Southeast Asian researchers regardless of where they do research.</li> <li>The research culture of ethnically Southeast Asian researchers physically doing research focused on Southeast Asia.</li> <li>The culture amongst researchers doing any research but are affiliated with a research/academic institution physically situated in Southeast Asia.</li> </ol>	<p>We would like the chosen supplier to look at the research cultures within Southeast Asia experienced by anybody working in research within Southeast Asia. Linked to this we would be interested in a supplier comparing how the perceived research culture varies between international and local researchers. We would also be open to the supplier including individuals who have worked in research in Southeast Asia but who now work in research abroad (see answer to question 18).</p>
4.	<p>The RfP states" The sample should include: Researchers in universities and institutes (including those funded through and run in partnership with UK institutions but excluding NGOs). Could we clarify if this means" excluding researchers that work with NGOs" and/or excluding researchers that work with UK funded NGOs only?</p>	<p>When we use the acronym NGO we are referring to non-governmental organisations (sorry this was not outlined in the RfP). The requirement for their exclusion in the study is open to review. We previously excluded NGOs as we don't commonly fund NGOs in Southeast Asia. If NGOs are included in the sample, care would need to be taken to ensure that they would be eligible to apply for Wellcome funding. To apply for Wellcome funding organisations must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be a not-for-profit organisation</li> <li>- be able to sign up to our grant conditions</li> <li>- have a mission statement that's broadly in line with Wellcome's.</li> </ul> <p>This can be a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- higher education institution</li> <li>- research institute</li> <li>- non-academic healthcare organisation.</li> </ul> <p>We do not make awards to other charities whose sole intention is to redistribute funds.</p>
5.	<p>Does the Wellcome trust have a working or institutional definition of NGO, as this could be defined in different ways in the different parts of the region?</p>	<p>We define an NGO as a group that is organised on a local, national or international level to address issues in support of the public good. Many of these would not fulfil Wellcome funding requirements (see the answer to question 4). We are open to those who would fulfil our funding requirements being included in the study.</p>
6.	<p>Could we confirm that Wellcome expects the outputs of this work to be completed between December 2024 and January 2025?</p>	<p>Yes, we hope that chosen supplier completes the work by January 2025.</p>

#	Question	Answer
7.	How do you define 'research community'? Academic only or broader than that?	This study should focus on researchers working in universities or government-funded, private, and externally funded institutions. Their organisations should fulfill the requirements for them to apply for Wellcome grant funding (see question 4) to be in the remit of this study.
8.	To what extent do you expect that the successful supplier will require thematic expertise in Wellcome's areas of investment/grant-giving?	The supplier does not need to have thematic expertise in Wellcome's areas of grant giving. The team and leadership of this project should include individuals from and with lived experience of Southeast Asia, particularly in a research context.
9.	Eligibility - Would like to know if there are preferences for firms based in the UK or Southeast Asia?	The team and leadership of this project should include individuals from and with lived experience of Southeast Asia, particularly in a research context, and across several countries. This does not preclude teams which include members who are not from the region, but most members must either be from or have long-term and demonstrable experience of regional research environments and cultures. We are open to applications from firms based anywhere in the world. It is worth noting when assessing applications, we look at the potential carbon impact of proposals.
10.	The SE Asia region is very diverse. To what extent is the expectation of the project to generate a rigorous, larger scale foundation of data or a more focused qualitative evidence-based overview from which to understand the current research culture in SE Asia?	We would like the project to produce an overview from which to understand the current research cultures in Southeast Asia. This project could be explored in various ways, including a literature review, virtual focus groups, interviews and/or an extensive online survey of academic researchers. However, we are open to other approaches to achieve a similarly robust result.
11.	There are specificities and peculiarities to the research culture in different disciplines in SE Asia. What level of comparative analysis is desired (if at all) with the other studies undertaken by Wellcome (e.g. Reimagine Research Study in the UK and the more recent study in Africa)?	If the supplier is interested, we would be open to the supplier carrying out this analysis, but it is not required. Please note, that this should only be a small part of the project, if it is included.
12.	<p><b>Wellcome funded institutions</b></p> <p>To what extent should we include Wellcome-funded institutes e.g. MORU and OUCRU in our exercise? Are there already internal works going on?</p> <p>We understand that Wellcome has two major health programmes in Southeast Asia (OUCRU and MORU). Given Wellcome's global priorities, are there specific sectors and sub-sectors for research which should be prioritised in the study?</p>	<p>We would like researchers from both MORU and OUCRU to be included in the project. This work should be separate from any work that may be taking place at these institutions. Please note that UK-funded institutes should be considered separately from local institutions to determine if there are differences in the perceived research culture. Additionally, findings should not be attributed to any specific organisation. We would like organisations to be considered as a collective. For example, the supplier may therefore want to look at UK funded institutes on a per country basis or as a wider collective.</p> <p>We do not require the supplier to prioritise any specific sectors for research.</p>

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	Is the study expected to also cover not-for-profit and private sector research providers?	We would like the supplier to investigate how the research culture varies in different settings, such as government-funded, private, and externally funded institutions.
13.	<p>If we are keen to focus on early- and mid-career researchers. Is Wellcome interested in a project that only involves early- and mid-career researchers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do we have to include the researchers at all stages of the career development?</li> <li>Do you have a minimum number of countries to be included in the study?</li> </ul>	<p>Suppliers are required to ensure the inclusion of researchers at all career stages in the study.</p> <p>We would like the study to include researchers from all the countries in Southeast Asia. However, this can be done via a range of mechanisms, e.g., questionnaires, and online focus groups. Suppliers should clearly outline their chosen approach in their proposal.</p>
14.	Drawing insights from Wellcome's earlier research culture studies conducted in the UK and African countries, are there any lessons learned or areas for improvement that you would like to highlight in this study on SEA Research Culture?	The supplier who conducted the African research culture study experienced notable delays in obtaining ethical approval for their study, surpassing their initial timeline. Additionally, they encountered significantly lower engagement with their survey than anticipated.
15.	<p><i>An approach which enabled 'deep-dives' into issues affecting motivation and opportunity through informal immersion and participant observation highlighted important issues which would not have been aired using other forms of enquiry.</i></p> <p>How flexible is this study to including case studies and 'deep dives' to inform survey design and/or as standalone components of the research study?</p>	We would be open to this approach. However, we would not expect that case studies or deep dives are linked to any specific organisation.
16.	Other than Thailand and Vietnam, how many other SE Asian countries does Wellcome envisage including in the study? Are there specific criteria that would need to be considered when selecting the participating countries or is Wellcome expecting the proposer to suggest criteria in their RFP response?	Please see question 2. The supplier may choose to focus on specific countries but the study should, to some extent, investigate the research cultures across all of Southeast Asia.
17.	<p>Related to Question 16, the RFP notes that the research aims to deepen understanding about research culture in Southeast Asia in different settings. Given that there is considerable contextual diversity in SE Asia, is it possible to submit alternative approaches to embracing this diversity and with differentiated budgets for these different scenarios?</p> <p>Does Wellcome have a budget ceiling for this study?</p>	<p>Yes, we would be open to this.</p> <p>See Question 1 in relation to the budget</p>

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18.	Can this study include the views of those living outside SE Asia and also the views of foreigners working in research in SE Asia?	<p>This study could include the views of those living outside Southeast Asia but these should be individuals who have carried out research in Southeast Asia but now carry out research abroad. The outcomes from these individuals should be analysed separately to the views of those who are currently working in Southeast Asia.</p> <p>The study should include the views of foreigners working in Southeast Asia. We would be interested in a supplier comparing how the perceived research culture varies between international and local researchers.</p>
19.	<p>How is a researcher's country defined, by their nationality or working institution or what else?</p> <p>Could SEA researchers currently living/studying abroad be reached for in-depth interviews and focus group discussions?</p>	<p>The team and leadership of this project should include individuals from and with lived experience of Southeast Asia, particularly in a research context, and across several countries. This does not preclude teams which include members who are not from the region, but most members must either be from or have long-term and demonstrable experience of regional research environments and cultures.</p> <p>A researcher's country can be defined in different ways depending on the context and purpose. It can be based on their nationality, the country where they are affiliated with a research institution or organisation, or the country where they primarily conduct their research. In this study, we are open to the supplier defining how they will classify a research subjects country.</p> <p>See the answer to question 18.</p>
20.	As we understand, the timeline for the assignment is 6 months. Please confirm our understanding and specify the maximum allowance months for it since contract signing.	See the answer to question 6.
21.	<p>From the TOR, we see the emphasis on studying research culture in different settings and propose studying academic output types.</p> <p>However, could you confirm if other forms of research products, such as patents, an application, etc. must also be studied?</p>	This project could be explored in various ways, including a literature review, virtual focus groups, interviews and/or an extensive online survey of academic researchers. However, we are open to other approaches to achieve a similarly robust result. Research outputs/products could be studied as part of this project e.g. for a literature review, but we do not see their inclusion as a central part of the project.
22.	Regarding the RFP specification – scope of requirements / approach (page 3 of 9), are there particular institutions/settings that Wellcome is thinking about already for inclusion in this study (government-funded, private, and externally funded)?	No – we are open to the supplier choosing who they interact with. However, we would expect the supplier to interact with a range of government-funded, private, and externally funded (including UK-funded) institutions.

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23.	<p>Regarding the RFP specification – approach and sample (page 3 of 9), is it Wellcome’s intention to have a particular sample size or weighting with academic research institutions versus for-profit or government funded non-academic institutions? It would be helpful to understand Wellcome’s definition of an academic researcher to gauge sampling and research methods.</p> <p>It would also be helpful to understand whether this would include researchers working in the three core areas of Wellcome’s remit, as we recognize research culture may also differ across research themes even within institutions.</p>	<p>The study should be limited to institutions that are able to receive funding from Wellcome (see the answer to question 4). We would classify an academic researcher as an individual who conducts research within an academic or educational institution, such as a university or research institute. They typically hold a position as a faculty member, postdoctoral researcher, graduate student, or research staff within the academic institution.</p> <p>This is an interesting suggestion and something we would be interested in the supplier looking at if they feel that this is feasible within the timeframe available. Please note there are four core areas of Wellcomes remit – <a href="#">Discovery Research</a>, <a href="#">Mental Health</a>, <a href="#">Climate and Health</a> and <a href="#">Infectious disease</a>.</p>
24.	<p>Approach and sample (page 3 of 9) does Wellcome envision any particular sample size across the 11 countries or is this up to the research team?</p>	<p>This is up to the research team.</p>
25.	<p>Is there an ideal lead organization location?</p>	<p>No</p>