



# STFC GCRF Foundation Call

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**21 July 2017**

# Timetable

- Call opens 26 July 2017 on Je-S
- Closing date: 4pm on Tuesday 5 September 2017
- Assessment will be by expert panel, mixture of UK and DAC country representation
- Projects start November 2017.

# Eligibility

- Lead Research Organisation (RO) must be eligible to hold RCUK grants; i.e. be an approved UK Higher Education Institution (HEI), Research Council Institute (RCI) or Independent Research Organisation (IRO) eligible for RCUK funding. Full details of approved RCIs and IROs can be found on the RCUK website.
- Lead applicants must be employed within a Research Organisation group previously or currently funded by the STFC core Science Programme (nuclear physics, particle physics & particle astrophysics, astronomy & space science, and accelerators & computing in support of these) or employed within STFC Laboratories/Facilities and must show that the work proposed will develop technologies and expertise directly from this research.
- Proposals for projects must clearly demonstrate that the science, technology and expertise involved originated from the STFC core Science Programme or the STFC national facilities and laboratories.

# Collaborators and other issues

- Appropriate collaborators and/or project partners in one or more LMIC(s) are a mandatory requirement for proposals for larger projects and are encouraged for small projects.
- Collaborators may be academic researchers and/or research users but engagement with end users is particularly welcome.
- Overseas Co-Investigators from research organisations in LMICs may be included on proposals. This includes researchers from all countries on the OECD DAC list. We will also support costs associated with activities conducted in LMICs, e.g. consumables, field work.
- The lead institution and Principal Investigator must be based in the UK.
- Although proposals may be multi-institutional, only one application form should be submitted for each bid.
- all Co-Investigators will need to have a Je-S account before they can be added to the Je-S proposal form; the individual Co-Investigators will also have to activate their account.
- No Capital funding (i.e. equipment >£10k) available.

# Financial Due Diligence

Grants will be subject to additional conditions, including: ODA compliance and transfer of funds to UK and overseas organisations

- Research Organisation responsible for ensuring proper financial management of the grant and accountability for the use of public funds, particularly if funds are transferred to another UK or overseas organisation. The Research Organisation awarded the grant must undertake due diligence checks to ensure that the funding will be appropriately used.
- Research Organisation must confirm before the start of the grant that they have undertaken appropriate due diligence so that any risks are recognised, understood and managed. The RO may be asked to provide evidence that this has been done and may be asked to provide additional information on how the due diligence checks were carried out.
- **The UK lead research organisation must confirm to STFC that it has undertaken suitable due diligence checks before the start of the grant.**

# Assessment

## Quality

- Ambition, adventure and transformative aspects identified.
- Appropriateness of the proposed methodology and science.

## Importance and Impact

- International development importance of the project, in particular LMIC need.
- Secondary benefits to the UK of this research, UK national importance; contribution to STFC's strategy delivery.
- Quality of the impact pathways described to enable project impacts in LMIC(s).
- Understanding/plans for measuring impact in the LMIC context.
- Relevance/ appropriateness of beneficiaries and collaborators proposed.

## Applicants' ability to deliver the proposed project

- Balance of skills of the proposed project team. Appropriateness of international partnerships or ability to develop these.

## Resources and management

- Effectiveness of the proposed planning and management, including risk management strategy.
- Appropriateness of the resources requested, value for money.

# Questions?





# Lessons learned from other Research Councils

**Stephen Loader**

**21st Century Challenges Programme Manager  
Science and Technology Facilities Council**

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# Preparing your Proposal

## Working with ODA countries

- Country/ies **must** be on OECD Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) list.
- Explain why country and region has been chosen, beyond being on the DAC list i.e. actual need or in-country demand for the research and its potential impacts, and that this is a priority for the region.
- Explain the extent to which research within ODA eligible country(s) might be sustainable beyond the project's lifetime and what approaches will drive this.
- Where the research is leading to a potential change to in-country policy or affects local economics, ensure that appropriate partners are involved (e.g. government, local/global businesses) who can ensure a pathway to impact. Where applicable state how the research fits into the particular country's policies and strategic objectives.

# GCRF Preparing your Proposal - Partners

- What is added value of overseas research partners beyond providing local/ODA eligible country expertise eg respective roles, contributions and additional resources.
- How will overseas academics deliver impact on the ground? E.g. what research networks/in-country contacts do they have outside academia. Demonstrate the pathway to impact. Just noting your partner has experience in this area is not sufficient justification.
- For relatively wealthy countries or large businesses demonstrate how the research will benefit target populations, e.g. more jobs, better pay, cheaper food etc.
- Who are the beneficiaries, what track record you or your partners have in delivering impact to these beneficiaries, how this will benefit them, and how this research will benefit the wider population.
- **Co-create solutions rather than imposing what you think is a solution. Partners are more likely to be aware of potential barriers to research uptake in-country.**
- If you can, demonstrate that you have strong existing in-country partnerships with relevant named teams/individuals in organisations that have a track record of delivering. If partnerships are new, explain how they came about and why you selected these partners and how you will build the relationship.

# GCRF Preparing your Proposal -Research (1)

- Research must be high quality expected by the Research Councils.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the societal and cultural context of the research and its likely impacts on the partner country. How will this understanding be addressed by the project? Is help from arts/humanities/social science researchers, and/or local expertise needed to ensure appropriate pathways to impact.
- Be realistic about the outcomes/impact of the research. A compelling proposal is one in which applicants are realistic about their research, identify clear, quantifiable benefits, demonstrate good in-country knowledge, and have thought about the impact of their research.
- If building capacity in the UK or overseas, explain the benefits beyond the lifetime of the grant and how these can be maintained/sustained in future.
- Build on existing work in the country/region. Have been many efforts to address ODA challenges; many applications fall short when they show no appreciation of previous global/local activities in the area.

# GCRF Preparing your Proposal -Research (2)

- Demonstrate that proposed work is practical and feasible (around local constraints).
- Don't be overambitious in the timescales and with the requested resources. The need to build the relationships with overseas partners and the complexity of multidisciplinary and multi-partner projects is not always factored in.
- Don't assume UK timelines work. Regulatory or local permissions, experimental set up time, legal frameworks etc. can all delay projects; manage these risks where possible.
- Track record of addressing this problem in a UK context may not be convincing in an ODA context. Even a small amount of preliminary data or other evidence demonstrating the proposed research is feasible in-country will be beneficial. Assuming it will work potentially demonstrates a lack of knowledge of the in-country issues.
- Justification of Resources appropriate to the scale and complexity of the project.
- Travel to build partnerships is important, justify the frequency, consider virtual meetings and who needs to travel. Where appropriate, provide opportunities for colleagues from ODA countries to train in UK labs or present findings in international conferences.
- **Ask others people with ODA experience:** how they developed the partnerships, issues they had in experimental design and how to derisk them, and how they ensured an effective pathway to impact in-country.

**Good luck in developing your projects**

**Questions?**

