Global Challenges Research Fund an overview

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Associate Director for International Development
Research Councils UK
To cover

- GCRF Strategy
- ODA compliance
- Growing capability call
- Interdisciplinary research hubs
- Other opportunities
GCRF Strategy
Background to GCRF

- Address global challenges through disciplinary and interdisciplinary research
- Strengthening capability for research and innovation, within developing countries and the UK
- Agile response to emergencies and opportunities

Cutting edge research which addresses the problems faced by developing countries
Global Context

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development
UK Aid Strategy

- Strengthening global peace, security and governance
- Strengthening resilience and response to crises
- Promoting global prosperity
- Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world’s most vulnerable
Equitable access to sustainable development
to create new knowledge and drive innovation that helps to ensure that everyone across the globe can prosper through access to health, food, water, education, energy etc.

Sustainable economies and societies
to identify new responses to the challenges arising from changes in population, technology, consumption and pressure on the environment

Human rights, good governance and social justice
to understand how to strengthen the institutions that underpin peaceful societies, good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law.
GCRF: Investment Criteria

- **Official Development Assistance (ODA) compliance**
  meeting OECD guidelines

- **Research Excellence**
  new approaches not constrained by traditional methodologies or disciplinary silos

- **Impact: Problem and Solution Focused**
  substantial impact on improved social welfare, economic development, and environmental sustainability

- **Equitable Partnerships and Building Capacity**
  strong and enduring partnerships between UK and developing-country researchers to enhance the research and innovation capacity of both

- **Agile Response to Emergencies**
  building research evidence to support humanitarian and policy responses to disasters, crises and emergencies.
Official Development Assistance
Countries on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) DAC list are eligible for ODA funding.

Every GCRF proposal must make it clear that its primary purpose is to promote the economic development and welfare of a developing country or countries.
ODA Compliance
OECD DAC Country List
Countries of Focus on RCUK GCRF Funded Projects
GCRF Collective Call 1

Growing capability to meet the challenges faced by developing countries
Growing Research Capability

Strategic programmes to grow research capability to meet the challenges faced by developing countries

- Strengthen research capacity and capability, building skills across career stages in both the UK and developing countries.
- Build strong and enduring relationships between UK research organisations and research organisations and other partners in developing countries.
- Deliver research outcomes with the potential for significant impact on the welfare and economic development of developing countries.
- Increase the engagement of the UK research community with international development challenges.
Growing Research Capability
Competition

- Prioritisation within organisations
  Institutional quota: 2

- 188 full proposals (~£1 Bn demand)

- 60 assessment interviews

- 37 projects identified for funding
  - ~£225M commitment via councils
  - 69 partner countries
  - most co-funded by multiple research councils
Countries of Focus detailed on The successful GCRF Growing Research Capability Projects
Growing capability to meet the needs of developing countries
Alignment with GCRF Strategic themes
Growing research capability to meet the challenges faced by developing countries
GCRF Collective Call 2

Interdisciplinary research hubs to address intractable challenges faced by developing countries
Intractable development challenges

Multi-dimensional and complex challenges which:
• Cut across- SDGs
• Are resistant to change
• Are prone to fragmented responses
• Cannot be solved by a single organisation, sector or discipline

Tackling these challenges will require:
• Capacity to think across, between and within SDGs
• Clear understanding of how different disciplines can contribute
• An awareness of underlying factors and contexts
Call for challenge-led and impact-focused GCRF Interdisciplinary Research Hubs:

- 12-15 Hubs (depending on quality)
- Each Hub: £8M - £20M, 5 years duration

Assessment process:

- 29 September 2017 Intention to Submit
- 9th November 2017 Outline proposal deadline
- May 2018 Full proposal deadline
- November 2018 Decisions
- December 2018 Hubs start
GCRF Interdisciplinary Research Hubs
Key characteristics

- Generate excellent and novel research
- Translate research into measurable development impacts
- Deliver a broad range of scalable impacts
- Develop a sustainable programme with a legacy beyond the initial investment

- Excellent research capacity
- Capacity to think across, between, within Sustainable Development Goals
- Assemble new knowledge and insights across different research communities
- Strategically build on previous investments

- Challenge and impact focused
- Interdisciplinary research excellence

- Organisation and leadership
- Global Partnerships

- Shared values and goals
- Strong research and operational leadership
- Appropriate and effective monitoring and evaluation
- Ability to learn and adapt

- Co-development with international partners
- Substantial, genuine and meaningful collaboration/engagement
- Full consideration of relevant developing country context
Assessment criteria

Outline proposals
- Fit to call
- Research excellence
- Research team and interdisciplinary partnerships
- Likelihood of impact

Full proposals
- Strategic rationale
- Research excellence
- Capability and interdisciplinary research team
- Capacity building and international partnerships
- Likelihood and pathways to impact
- Leadership and management
- Organisation, monitoring and evaluation
- Ethics
- Value for money
Other opportunities
## Current opportunities: Research Council led activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call title</th>
<th>Lead RC</th>
<th>Closing date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antimicrobial Resistance in a Global Context – A Cross-Council call in partnership with the Department of Health</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>11th July 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation Follow-on Call: Enabling innovation in the UK and developing countries</td>
<td>NERC</td>
<td>12th July 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>STFC Global Challenge Research Fund Foundation Awards</td>
<td>STFC</td>
<td>5th Sept 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional &quot;pump-priming&quot; awards to develop new opportunities in Global Mental Health Research</td>
<td>MRC</td>
<td>14th Sept 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional &quot;pump-priming&quot; awards to develop new opportunities in Global Nutrition and Health Research</td>
<td>MRC</td>
<td>14th Sept 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resilient and sustainable energy networks for developing countries</td>
<td>EPSRC</td>
<td>21st Sept 2017</td>
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**Strategic Advisory Group**

**Recruiting new members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Sir Mike Aaronson</td>
<td>University of Surrey (Chair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Sir Charles Godfray</td>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Sir Andy Haines</td>
<td>London School of Hygiene &amp; Trop. Med.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Richard Jones</td>
<td>University of Sheffield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Helen Sang</td>
<td>University of Edinburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof James Stirling</td>
<td>Imperial College London</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Jeff Waage</td>
<td>London International Development Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Sir Alan Wilson</td>
<td>University College London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Alan Winters</td>
<td>University of Sussex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Katrina Brown</td>
<td>University of Exeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Jess Camburn</td>
<td>ELRHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Barbara Evans</td>
<td>University of Leeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Simon Trace</td>
<td>International Development Consultant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Jim Watson</td>
<td>UK Energy Research Centre</td>
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Particularly those with experience of developing country contexts
Current opportunities: Global Engagement Events

Regional events to showcase opportunities, promote interdisciplinary approaches and support networking:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Colombia (Bogota)</td>
<td>4th - 6th July 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>India (Delhi)</td>
<td>7th - 9th November 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa (Pretoria)</td>
<td>5th - 6th December 2017</td>
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Open for applications via smart survey:
- deadline 27th July, decisions in early August
- academia, industry, policy and third sector
- a range of disciplines, organisations and career stages
- travel, accommodation and any visa costs will be covered

Queries to gcrf@rcuk.ac.uk
The Newton Fund uses science and innovation partnerships to **promote economic development and social welfare of partner countries**. It does this through collaboration with partner countries and working with 15 UK delivery partners.

The Newton Fund is also part of the UK's official development assistance (ODA).

The Newton Fund was launched in 2014 and now has a total UK investment of £735 million to 2021, with partner countries providing matched resources within the fund.
Questions?

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www.rcuk.ac.uk/gcrf
Twitter: #gcrf