Global Challenge Research Fund Call 2018

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A brief history of GCRF in STFC
1. **START – Synchrotron Techniques for African Research and Technology.** (£3.6m 2017/18 to 2020/21). Diamond Light Source-led project to create a UK-Africa programme of world class research in two areas: developing and characterising novel energy materials (catalysts and photovoltaics); and protein structure determination. Working with South Africa, Lesotho, Ethiopia and Egypt.

2. **CERN Summer Studentships.** Sponsoring graduate level summer studentships from Africa, Asia and Latin America to experience CERN life, working on ATLAS and CMS. Will continue in 2018.

3. **China-UK SKA Programme.** Joint training programme with the China Scholarship Council (CSC) to support China-UK SKA Programmes for PhDs and postdocs. Cambridge, Oxford and Manchester so far, another call likely in 2018.

4. **STFC Foundation GCRF 2017 call.** Successful call run in 2017, 36 applications received, 22 projects awarded.

5. **Innovative, robust and affordable medical linacs for challenging environments.** Supporting workshops and five small follow-on projects to bring together experts in accelerator and medical fields from CERN, STFC labs and UK HEIs with health staff and medical physicists from developing countries to help define radiotherapy technology needs for developing countries.

6. **ODA Institutional awards** Additional funds to spend in 2018 for organisations that currently have STFC GCRF or Newton Fund grants, supporting activities associated with existing ODA compliant STFC projects.
Other GCRF-related calls

• 2016 Exploration and Concepts call – 6 projects funded
  – welcomed projects aimed at scoping ideas that could lead into Official Development Assistance-eligible applications to the Newton Fund or Global Challenge Research Fund

• 2018 Opportunities call – closing 12th June
  – support for pump priming activities that will position STFC community to participate in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary science that aligns with major project funding schemes such as GCRF and ISCF
GCRF 2017 Foundation Award Call

All applications (36)
- Technology Transfer, 14, 39%
- Capacity Development, 17, 47%

Successful proposals (22)
- Technology Transfer, 8, 36%
- Capacity Development, 10, 46%
- Capacity Development/Technology Transfer, 4, 18%
- Technology Transfer, 5, 14%
GCRF 2017 Foundation Award Call

All applications

- Astronomy, 17, 47%
- Particle/Particle Astro Physics, 7, 20%
- Nuclear/ Nuclear Astro physics, 4, 11%
- Other, 8, 22%

Successful proposals

- Astronomy, 13, 59%
- Particle/Particle Astro Physics, 4, 18%
- Nuclear/ Nuclear Astro physics, 2, 9%
- Other, 3, 14%

- Land and atmosphere interactions
- Agriculture, livestock, crops
- Climate and climate change,
- Conservation and biodiversity
- Environmental analysis and borehole logging
- Food
- Geohazards, volcanoes
- Land mine removal
- Water
GCRF 2018 Call

• The Basics
• Additional/new requirements for GCRF: due diligence, funding going to non-UK organisations, ODA summary statement, PI response
• Assessment criteria
• Hints and tips
The Basics
AKA the boring but important bit
Aim of 2018 Call

To support projects that will deliver tangible outcomes and maximise the practical impact of research and innovation to improve the lives and opportunities of the global poor.

If you have ideas for seed corn/exploratory projects please have a look at the Exploration Award Scheme.

https://stfc.ukri.org/funding/research-grants/funding-opportunities/global-challenge-exploration-awards/
Remit and Eligibility

- Remit – application of science/technology/expertise funded by STFC’s core science
  - **Fundamental research** (e.g. consolidated grant, PPRP project) in astronomy, space science, particle physics, particle astrophysics, nuclear physics, computing and accelerators in support of these; or
  - STFC’s laboratories and facilities

- PI eligibility
  - Employed in a research group previously or currently funded by STFC’s fundamental science research programme (see above)
  - Employed within STFC’s laboratories and facilities

- **If in any doubt whatsoever speak to us**
The Basics/1

- Call opens: 18 June 2018
- Call closes: 4pm 11 September *(note this needs to be updated on the website)*
- Scheme: Official Development Assistance
- Call: STFC GCRF 2018

- Previous GCRF funding **not** a requirement for eligibility
  
  https://stfc.ukri.org/funding/research-grants/funding-opportunities/gcrf/
The Basics/2

• No upper limit on funding set but applicants should be mindful of the overall budget of £3m
  – largest project funded through the previous call was c.£0.5m and the larger projects had a lower success rate than smaller ones

• Funding requested should be appropriate to the scale of the project and the impact that will be achieved

• Projects may start on or after 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2019 and must end by 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2021

• Be as realistic as possible when proposing a start date e.g. time needed to recruit staff – this will help us to maximise the use of the budget
The Basics/3

- All UK costs will be supported at 80% fEC in-line with standard Research Council rules
- No single items of equipment over £10k
- Fees and stipends for masters or PhD students not eligible
- Overseas Co-Investigators and Researchers from research organisations based in countries on the OECD list of ODA recipients are eligible to receive funding through the UK lead research organisation
- Overseas costs (salary, travel & subsistence, consumables) are payable at 100%
- Contribution to overseas organisations to 20% of the total direct costs
The Basics/4

• Make sure that you follow the guidance on the required attachments and their lengths
  – Case for support (max 6 pages)
  – ODA statement (max 1 page): plus new requirement for a 50 word statement that concisely encapsulates why the project is ODA compliant
  – Pathways to Impact (max 2 pages)
  – Work plan (max 1 page)
  – CVs (max 2 pages for each investigator)
  – Project partners letters of support (max 2 pages)
  – Data management plan (max 2 pages)

• Je-S proforma: “Summary” and “Impact Summary” will be published on Gateway to Research
Additional/new requirements for GCRF
Due Diligence/1

- Grant Terms and Conditions
  - “The Research Organisation shall ensure that it carries out appropriate due diligence on any third parties used to deliver any part of the work funded by the grant and shall ensure in particular, that activities carried out by such third parties comply with these terms and conditions. The Research Organisation shall provide the Research Council on request with details of expenditure of the Grant by any third party.”

- Research organisations should have policies and processes regarding the transfer of funds to overseas organisations
Due Diligence/2

• Risk-based approach
  – “It is not expected that Research Organisations will carry out the same level of due diligence checks for £2k of funding being distributed as they would for £200k.”

• Due diligence should cover
  – Governance and control
  – Ability to deliver
  – Financial stability

• As a minimum should carry out checks listed in Step One of Guidance for Research Organisations

• Take into account the impact on the lead research organisation should anything occur with the third party organisation versus the cost of taking steps to mitigate the risk
# Risk Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corruption Perception Index</th>
<th>Cost Impact (payments to non-UK partners)</th>
<th>£0</th>
<th>&lt;£100k</th>
<th>£100k - £250k</th>
<th>£250k - £1m</th>
<th>£1m - £5m</th>
<th>&gt;£5m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPI 0 – 40</td>
<td><strong>Negligible</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CPI 41 – 60</td>
<td><strong>Negligible</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPI 61 – 80</td>
<td><strong>Negligible</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPI 81 – 90</td>
<td><strong>Negligible</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPI 91 – 100</td>
<td><strong>Negligible</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
</tr>
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Leading on from Due Diligence……

• The time allocation of non-UK Co-Is must be entered under “Directly Allocated” but should enter the salary rate as zero
• All costs associated with non-UK investigators, whether salary, fieldwork, equipment, indirect costs or travel and subsistence, must be entered under the relevant heading (i.e. Other Costs, Staff or T&S) and marked as exceptions
• All overseas costs must be entered using the following format. In the description box you should enter ‘Organisation: Country: Cost Description’. For example:
  – University of Nairobi: Kenya: 1 x PDRA
  – University of Nairobi: Kenya: 4 x flights
  – University of Nairobi: Kenya: 5 x Workshops including catering and accommodation
ODA summary for reporting to DfID

• ODA statement as in previous call:
  – Which country/countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal?
  – How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?
  – How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list?

• In addition, 50 word description for publication:
  – Which programme it relates to
  – What research the project is addressing
  – Impact to the country/s in question
  – Which country/s are in question
Examples

• GCRF Foundation Award 2017 Award to build a training network in data intensive science in southern Africa in support of capacity building in data intensive science for innovation and economic development.

• ODA Institutional Award. Strengthen collaboration in Nuclear Physics between physicists in the UK, South Africa and other African nations; transfer knowledge and skills between the collaborating parties; provide opportunities for education and training for African nations.

• Exploration and Concept 2016 Award to improve understanding of cadmium accumulation in cocoa and how this is affected by cocoa variety and cultivation practices. This will help farmers in developing countries adopt practices which produce market-acceptable cocoa and sustain local economies in rural communities.
PI Response

- Proposals will be formally reviewed by the Panel
- There will be an opportunity for PIs to respond to these reviews
Assessment Criteria: Make sure that you address them in your application
Assessment Criteria

- Excellence
- Likelihood of scale and impact
- STFC remit ODA Compliance
- Applicants’ ability to deliver the proposal project
- Resources and management
Hints and Tips

- Official Development Assistance compliance
- Challenge-led
- Partnerships
- Help the panel
Official Development Assistance

“ODA is defined as those flows to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients and to multilateral development institutions which are:

• provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and

• each transaction of which:

  a. is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and

  b. is concessional in character and conveys a grant element of at least 25% (discounted at a rate of 10%).”
Problem and solution-focused

GCRF ODA Decision Tree

1. Will the research directly benefit a country or countries on the OECD DAC list?
   - The list can be found at: [www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm)
   - It is fine for research to take place outside of a DAC list country as long as it is primarily relevant to and intended to benefit a country or countries on the list.
   - It is also fine for projects to include a comparative element but the primary motivation must be to benefit a DAC list country or countries.
   - If a country is due to graduate from the list during the course of the project it still counts as eligible for the purposes of GCRF.

2. Is the proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of this country/these countries?
   - Does the proposal respond to evidence of a clear development need within a DAC list country or countries? Is this clearly evidenced?
   - Is addressing this development challenge the main objective of the proposal?
   - Does the proposal provide a credible argument for why the activity proposed is appropriate to addressing that need? It is fine for research to benefit other countries, as long as that is secondary. What matters is the primary motivation for the research: the primary purpose of ODA eligible research must be addressing development challenges in eligible countries.

3. Could the proposal’s outcomes promote the economic development and/or welfare of a country or countries from the DAC list?
   - What would be the likely impact of the proposal be? Are the key beneficiaries located within an ODA eligible country or countries – government, civil society, communities or national business interests?
   - Is the project likely to contribute to the economic development and/or welfare of an ODA eligible country or countries?
   - It is fine for research projects to have secondary impacts outside of countries on the DAC list, but it must be clear that the primary motivation for the project is to benefit countries on the list.

If you have answered ‘Yes’ to all of the above questions then you can proceed with the proposal.
### Equitable Access to Sustainable Development
- secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable marine resources and agriculture
- sustainable health and well being
- inclusive and equitable quality education
- clean air, water and sanitation
- affordable, reliable, sustainable energy

### Sustainable Economies and Societies
- sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
- resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change
- sustainable cities and communities
- sustainable production and consumption of materials and other resources

### Human Rights, Good Governance and Social Justice
- understand and respond effectively to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises
- reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action
- reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities
Partnerships

• Co-development with international partners
• Substantial, genuine and meaningful collaboration between UK and development country researchers, as well as relevant development agencies, NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, industry and other private sector organisations, policy makers
• Appropriate strategy for engagement with users, intermediaries and beneficiaries
• Consideration of the relevant developing country context

Ensure challenge-led not UK/science push
How you can help the Panel to assess your proposal

• Remember that, whilst panel members are experts, it’s unlikely that their expertise will be in your scientific field
  – pitch at intelligent non-experts
  – avoid excessive use of acronyms, abbreviations specific to your field

• If you mention a previous project that your proposal is building upon give the panel enough information to judge what has been achieved
  – describe it’s main successes and outcomes
  – how the new proposal will add value or is different
How you can help the Panel to assess your proposal/2

• Set your proposed solution in the context of the state-of-the-art
  – what are the advantages of your approach
  – why have other approaches not worked

• Good letters of support help to demonstrate that
  – your project was developed in partnership
  – is focused on partner country needs

• Be realistic about the outcomes/impact, and the practicality /feasibility of the proposed work

• If building capacity explain the benefits beyond the lifetime of the grant and these can be sustained in future
Thank you for listening
Good luck in developing your proposal
Questions?