**HEFCE GCRF internal competition**

Call specification and guidance for applicants

**Introduction**

BU has received [block grant funding from HEFCE](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/rsrch/funding/gcrf/) to undertake research as part of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). This is a £1.5 billion fund that forms part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment. It is likely this annual funding allocation will continue through to 2020/21.[[1]](#footnote-1) At BU this funding will be allocated via an open competition. The aim is to support a diverse portfolio of research activities with the common feature that they all in some way address the challenges defined for developing countries in the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs) (the SDGs).

**Purpose of funding**

The UK’s ODA commitment is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD) and GCRF allocations must be spent according to ODA principles. These state that only research directly and primarily of benefit to the problems of developing countries may be counted as ODA. Activity funded through GCRF must promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective, any benefit to the UK or other developed countries must be the secondary consideration.

Activities must also comply with ODA guidelines by working with, and supporting development within, countries and territories on the [Development Assistance Committee’s (DAC) list of ODA recipients](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm). Universities should endeavour to create equitable partnerships between researchers, practitioners and policy-makers in both developed and developing countries through GCRF-funded activities.

Examples of how the funds can be used include:

* **Capacity and capability building -** GCRF allocations can be used sustainably to strengthen capacity for research and innovation in the UK and developing countries by supporting excellent research and researchers to address challenges faced by developing countries. Activities should build on the strengths of the UK HEI and can involve:
  + Establishing or enhancing equitable and sustainable partnerships with researchers and other organisations in developing countries. HEIs are encouraged to develop partnerships with a diverse range of DAC list countries – including across a diversity of geographical locations – and particularly to collaborate with the lowest- and lower-income countries on the DAC list while remaining sympathetic to economic geographies.
  + Growing people-based capacity and capability to undertake ODA-eligible research across career stages in the UK and developing countries, to enable the best research to address challenges faced by developing countries.
  + Investing in people capacity to support the delivery of ODA-eligible research, outcomes and impacts in the UK and developing countries.
  + Increasing the engagement of the UK research community with international development challenges, particularly by enhancing expertise and focusing this expertise on the challenges faced by developing countries.
* **Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research activity** - GCRF allocations can be used to facilitate mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research activity that sustainably promotes the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Interdisciplinary activity and collaboration may be within the UK or with global organisations, or may involve sustainable partnerships with organisations in developing countries. HEIs are encouraged to establish equitable partnerships with collaborators in developing countries.
* **Generating impact from research both within and beyond the sector** – GCRF allocations can be used to translate research into sustainable social and economic impact that promotes economic development and welfare in developing countries.
* **Rapid response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need** - GCRF allocations can be used to respond rapidly to emergencies in developing countries that urgently require research, for example disease outbreaks or natural disasters, as long as that research promotes the economic development and welfare of developing countries.
* **Pump-priming activities to underpin GCRF and Newton Fund bids to other funders, including relationship building** -GCRF allocations may be used to enable pump-priming that will lay the ground for future ODA activity to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Funding may be used in this way to facilitate:
  + Networking meetings and other events to develop sustainable strategies and partnerships for future activities.
  + Small pump-priming projects to generate preliminary data for future applications.
  + ODA-compliant research activity on a HEI’s overseas campuses as well as its UK campuses.

It is expected that the outcomes of pump-priming activities will inform more substantive research into and impact on the welfare and economic needs of developing countries. Using GCRF allocations to provide staff time or any other resources to assist in the development of bids to other funders (for GCRF or non-GCRF awards) will notbe considered ODA-eligible activity.

Any activity which is eligible can be applied for, and we envisage funding projects and activity across a spectrum of size and scope**.** This can range from dialogue meetings and events, secondments, additional activity on existing funded projects or fact finding research projects, which may lead into larger GCRF/Newton bids.

**Eligibility**

Applications are welcome from academic and research staff from any faculty or department at BU. For staff on fixed-term contracts, their existing employment contract must outlast the duration of the project.

All activity must be ODA eligible.

**Funding available**

BU received c. £100k in 2017-18 for GCRF activities. It is anticipated BU will receive a similar amount each year until 2020-21.

We anticipate funding projects from a minimum of £5k with no upper limit, but bear in mind the total grant to BU is £100k per year. Projects can start after March 2018 and must be concluded by July 2021. Projects should last for at least three months.

**Application process**

To apply, colleagues must complete the proposal form (annex 1). The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 28 February 2018. Successful applicants will receive notification by 7 March 2018. Completed application forms should be sent to Julie Northam, Head of RKEO ([jnortham@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:jnortham@bournemouth.ac.uk)). A full economic costing is not necessary. If you require costs for directly incurred staff then please contact your Faculty Funding Development Officer.

**Timeline**

Call opens 12 February 2018

Deadline 28 February 2018

Decisions announced 7 March 2018

Projects start From mid-March 2018

**Assessment criteria**

Applications will be considered and scored by a panel of academic staff.[[2]](#footnote-2) Relevant RKEO colleagues will also be invited to the panel meeting to contribute to discussions from a policy and eligibility perspective. The academic panel will give each application a score out of 20, based on how well they score against the criteria outlined below. These are equally weighted with each criterion carrying a total possible score of 5. Applications will then be ranked with funding awarded to the highest ranked.

* **Problem and solution focussed (scored out of 5):** GCRF research is aimed first and foremost at addressing global sustainable development challenges, and is intended to transform the lives of the maximum number of poor people. The starting point for research proposals should therefore be a significant problem or development challenge. Applications will be assessed as to whether they are ODA compliant, i.e. whether the proposed project directly relates to addressing the challenges of economic development and welfare faced by developing countries on the DAC list, and whether the scope of work is likely to result in tangible solutions.
* **Research excellence (scored out of 5):** Activity should be underpinned by excellent research. An underlying assumption behind the GCRF is that new perspectives, not constrained by traditional methodologies or disciplinary silos, are needed to address these challenges. Consideration will be given as to how the projects plan to bring together new research communities and learning alliances to address the problem and why this approach will bring new and valuable insights, contributing to a step change to existing knowledge and approaches.
* **Impact (scored out of 5):** The GCRF aims to make a real contribution to improved social welfare, economic development, and environmental sustainability, and redresses inequalities. Activity should have a high likelihood of positive impact. Proposals should therefore contain robust indicators as to how this will be demonstrated. The potential impact will be considered against the funds requested, i.e. whether the potential impact warrants the funds requested and offers value for money.
* **Partnerships (scored out of 5):** Activity should promote strong, enduring and equitable partnerships between academic communities in the UK and in the Global South. Proposals should include plans for how these partnerships will be developed and nurtured both during and beyond the period of funding.

**ANNEX 1: Application form for internal GCRF funding**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| BU_CoreLogo_portrait_colour | | **BU Global Challenges Research Fund –  Internal competition**  **Application form** | | | |  |
| **LEAD FACULTY & UOA** | | | | | | |
| **FHSS** | **FMC** | | **FoM** | **FST** | **Other** | |
| **UOA** |  | | | | | |
| **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR** |  | | | | | |
| **CO-INVESTIGATOR(S)** |  | | | | | |
| **TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED BY YEAR** | **2017-18**  £ | | **2018-19**  £ | **2019-20**  £ | **2020-21**  £ | |

|  |
| --- |
| **1. PROPOSED PROJECT** |
| **Project Title** |
|  |
| **DAC nations involved or benefitting from project** |
|  |
| **Partner(s) Details** |
|  |
| **UN Sustainable Development Goal(s) addressed** |
|  |
| **Type of activity** |
| Select from the following options (you may select more than one):   * Capacity and capability building * Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research * Generating impact from research * Rapid response to emergencies with an urgent research need * Pump-priming |
| **Project Summary** *[Max: 500 words. Please state clearly what the aims, rationale, methods, outcomes of the project are. Demonstrate clearly how the proposed research will address the needs of the DAC country/countries identified. Explain how the methodology will bring together new research communities and learning alliances to address the problem and why this will bring new and valuable insights. Explain how this research will build long-term partnerships with DAC nations.]* |
|  |
| **Benefits to DAC nations** *[Max: 200 words.]* |
|  |
| **Primary outputs and impacts (for DAC nations)** *[Max: 200 words. Describe the primary intended outputs and impacts. Include dates for milestones and deliverables.]* |
|  |
| **Secondary outputs and impacts (for developed nations)** *[Max: 200 words. Describe the secondary intended outputs and impacts. Include dates for milestones and deliverables.]* |
|  |
| **Research Ethics, Health & Safety Considerations** *[Max 200 words. Please state clearly all Research Ethics / Health & Safety considerations in relation to this project]* |
|  |
| **Breakdown of funding requested** *[Please state clearly all proposed expenditure by academic year using the table in Section 3.]* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2. SIGNATURES** | |
| **Signature of Principal Investigator** |  |
| **Signature of DDRPP/ Nominee** |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Budget plan** (for spending from March 2018 – 31st July 2021)  *Note – projects are not expected to last the full duration* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Proposed expenditure** | | **Plan**  Q3  Mar – Apr 2018  *(2 months)* | **Plan**  Q4  May – Jul 2018 | **Plan**  Q1  Aug – Oct 2018 | **Plan**  Q2  Nov 2018 – Jan 2019 | **Plan**  Q3  Feb - April 2019 | **Plan**  Q4  May – July  2019 | **Plan**  Q1  Aug – Oct 2019 | **Plan**  Q2  Nov 2019- Jan 2020 | **Plan**  Q3  Feb – April 2020 | **Plan**  Q4  May – July 2020 | **Plan**  Q1  Aug – Oct 2020 | **Plan**  Q2  Nov 2020- Jan 2021 | **Plan**  Q3  Feb – April 2021 | **Plan**  Q4  May – July 2021 |
| **Directly incurred staff** (i.e. contracted specifically for project) | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Non-staff**  Potential headings could include:  Travel  Accommodation and subsistence  Conference fees  Venue hire  Printed material  Equipment  Consumables | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total anticipated expenditure** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Subject to confirmation from Research England in summer 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Panel members may submit applications to the call but will not be involved in the discussion or scoring of their their applications. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)