THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FUNDING; OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND PARTNERSHIPS

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• **Universities UK International (UUKi)** is the international arm of the membership body **Universities UK (UUK)**

• UUKi receives funding from UUK, GuildHE, Research England, HEFCW and other government departments (for specific areas of work)

• UUKi’s purpose is **to enable UK universities to flourish internationally** through our ability to represent them and act in their collective interests.
Programme delivery: Scholarship scheme management; TNE; UKIERI; Outward Student Mobility; SPHEIR; Rutherford Fund; Newton Fund

Promoting UK higher education abroad: including coordination of delegations, networking opportunities in the UK; representing the UK to other HE sectors, governments and (in defined circumstances) students

Services to higher education institutions: Convening thematic and regional networks; information funding bulletins; disseminating opportunities; expert-led seminars; briefings; advice and guidance to UK HEIs.

Policy influence: Lobbying on European higher education and research; influencing UK policy to support UK HE internationally; Influencing policies in priority countries: e.g. eligibility lists, recognition agreements.

Representing the UK Sector: in negotiations with UK and other governments or agencies; informing the work of other UK bodies (e.g. British Council, BEIS and DIT)
2015 UK AID STRATEGY announced a new cross-government approach to aid, including the commitment to spending 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) as Official Development Assistance (ODA) - enshrined into law.

2016 -21 SPENDING REVIEW SAW A SIGNIFICANT REDISTRIBUTION OF AID SPEND ACROSS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS:

- ODA spending by other departments scaled up rapidly, from £1.7b in 2015 to a projected £4b in 2020
- In 2015, 14% of aid budget spent by government departments other than the Department for International Development (DFID)
- By 2020, more than 25% of UK aid will be spent by departments outside of DFID
- DHSC (Department of Health and Social Care) and BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) ODA budgets significantly increased, primarily for research activities
Figure 1: rising ODA R&D spending: 2016-2021*

* Based on UKCDS estimates from published forecasts or figures provided by members
** DH managed Ross Fund spending. Minority (estimated at <20%) is for purposes other than research, surveillance or innovation
See text box for explanation of the different funds.
NEWTON FUND OVERVIEW

“Part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget, the Newton Fund builds scientific and innovation partnerships with 18 partner countries to support their economic development and social welfare, and to develop their research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth.”

• Total UK gov funding- £735 million 2014-2021

• Focus is on the development of bilateral partnerships

• Underpinned by Government to Government relationship – top down approach

• Matched resources from partner countries

• Each partnership is unique, but includes a mix of joint research programmes, innovation programmes, fellowships, mobility grants and other programmes to address the partner country’s development challenges
NEWTON FUND ACTIVITIES

✓ **PEOPLE:** increasing capacity for science and innovation in partner countries
  - British Council Researcher Links Travel grants and Workshop grants
  - British Council PhD placement calls
  - National academies' fellowships & mobility grants (RS, BA, AMS, RAEng)

✓ **RESEARCH:** collaborative research programmes on development topics
  - Research Council and UKRI calls for collaborative research
  - British Council Institutional Links calls

✓ **TRANSLATION:** creating collaborative solutions to development challenges and strengthening innovation systems
  - Innovate UK ‘research and innovation bridges’
  - RAEng Industry-Academia partnerships programme
  - Met Office CSSP programme
GLOBAL CHALLENGES RESEARCH FUND (GCRF)

OVERVIEW

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

DELIVERY PARTNERS

• UKRI
• British Academy
• Academy of Medical Sciences
• Royal Academy of Engineering
• Royal Society
• Research England
• UK Space Agency

FUNDING

£1.5billion funding (2016-2021)
NEWTON & GCRF; COMPARE & CONTRAST

The Newton Fund and the Global Challenges Research Fund share the same primary objective: to promote economic development and social welfare of developing countries

But using two different approaches...

• Central to the Newton Fund strategy is that it is based upon equal partnership with the selected newton partner countries, each of which provides matched resources. Working bilaterally to tackle a specific challenge facing the partner country.

• The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) strategy aims to ensure that UK research takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries, GCRF provides funding for programmes to address widespread global issues, in multiple countries, with no matched funding requirement.
OTHER ODA FUNDS- THE HEALTH SCENE

THE ROSS FUND, which aims to develop, test and deliver a range of new products to help combat the world’s most serious diseases in developing countries. A £1 billion fund managed by DFID and the Department for Health from 2016-2020.

THE FLEMING FUND, part of the Ross Fund, and aims to tackle the growing problem of drug-resistant infection in developing countries. A £265 million fund managed by the Department of Health and the Wellcome trust.

GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH, applied global health research commissioned through the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) to improve health in LMIC countries along 3 different strands: research programmes (in partnership with other funders), faculty, and infrastructure. A £430 million fund managed by the Department of Health.
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Challenges:

- Short time frames for calls...often with no advanced warning
- Working in new or unfamiliar administrative territory
- Complexity and diversity of the many different funding streams

Opportunities:

- New partners: working with new countries and new collaborators
- Dedicated funding to seed new partnerships: mobility grants to facilitate new connections
- Increased cross-disciplinary working: thematic or challenge groups formed within institutions, drawing on expertise from across the institution and non-usual ODA suspects
1. **Newton Funding Bulletin:** Produced every **2-3 weeks** to keep sector informed about new Newton Fund calls from all delivery partners, and reminders when deadlines approach. Sign up [here](#).

2. ‘**Gateway to International Opportunities**’: webpage to signpost UK academic & research support staff to **open calls for int’l research collaboration and mobility.** Link [here](#).

3. **International Research Development Network:** (formerly **Newton Fund Network**) created to enable communication, discussion and dissemination of opportunities for international research collaboration to UK Universities. **350+ members** representing **100+ UK institutions**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEADLINE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DETAILS OF CALL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 April 2018</td>
<td>12am UK time</td>
<td>CHINA - Development through the Creative Economy in China (AHRC)</td>
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<td>2 May 2018</td>
<td>4pm UK time</td>
<td>SOUTH AFRICA - Joint Initiative on Mental Health (MRC, ESRC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 May 2018</td>
<td>4pm UK time</td>
<td>MEXICO - Collaborative Research - Smart Cities (ESRC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 May 2018</td>
<td>4pm UK time</td>
<td>KENYA - Joint Partnership on Non-Communicable Diseases (MRC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 June 2018</td>
<td>4pm UK time</td>
<td>New! PERU - PHILIPPINES - SOUTH AFRICA - Researcher Links Travel Grants (British Council)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 June 2018</td>
<td>4pm UK time</td>
<td>New! BRAZIL - CHINA - INDIA - JORDAN - PERU - Researcher Links Workshop Grants (British Council)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 June 2018</td>
<td>4pm UK time</td>
<td>New! INDONESIA - PERU - PHILIPPINES - THAILAND - Institutional Links - with Mexico, Turkey and Vietnam expected to join call 16 April (British Council)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 June 2018</td>
<td>4pm UK time</td>
<td>New! CHINA - UK AMR Partnership Hubs (MRC)</td>
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APPLICATIONS ON A ROLLING BASIS

TURKEY - Fellowships for UK Researchers (British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, Royal Society)
Gateway to international opportunities

UUKI ‘Gateway to international opportunities’ is a regularly updated depository of funding opportunities for international research collaboration and knowledge exchange, aimed at UK-based researchers/institutions.

How to use the Gateway:
Entries can be sorted alphabetically by scheme, call, theme and region and chronologically by deadline. To see the details of a specific opportunity, please click on the link under the "Call" column (you will be redirected to the call’s webpage).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme/Fund</th>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Related themes</th>
<th>Short description</th>
<th>Region/Country</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adolescent health in LMICs</td>
<td>Third call for research to improve adolescent health in LMIC settings</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>The MRC, in partnership with other UK research funders, has announced a third call to fund research grants to improve adolescent health in low and middle income countries (LMICs). Originally launched in 2015, this programme now represents a partnership between all four funders and aims to fund world-class and cutting-edge research which addresses the specific health needs of adolescents.</td>
<td>LMIC</td>
<td>18-Sep-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHRC-Smithsonian Fellowships in Digital Scholarship</td>
<td>AHRC-Smithsonian Fellowships in Digital Scholarship</td>
<td>Digital scholarship; cultural heritage</td>
<td>The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) of the United Kingdom and the Smithsonian Institution in the United States are supporting a new joint fellowship programme in digital scholarship. The fellowships will be research-based and enable eligible scholars from UK institutions to undertake research at the Smithsonian, and for eligible scholars from US institutions to undertake research at leading museums and cultural/heritage institutions in the UK.</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>26-Jul-2018</td>
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<td>BIRAX</td>
<td>BIRAX Ageing</td>
<td></td>
<td>BIRAX (the Britain Israel Research and Academic Exchange Partnership) is a multi-million initiative of the British Council and the British Embassy in Israel investing in world-leading research jointly undertaken by scientists in Britain and Israel. This year BIRAX has turned its attention to Ageing research. Ageing was chosen by the UK-Israel Science Council as the new priority for being one of the world’s greatest challenges.</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>15-Oct-2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Challenges Research Fund</td>
<td>GCRF Research Councils calls</td>
<td>Multiple disciplines</td>
<td>Link to all open GCRF calls led by one or more of the UK’s Research Councils (AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, STFC) or UKRI.</td>
<td>LMIC</td>
<td></td>
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THANK YOU

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