University of Kent GCRF Partnership Development Fund 2020

(previously the GCRF Partnership, Workshop and Fortuity funds)

CALL FOR STAFF PROJECTS

Introduction

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by ODA recipient countries.

As part of our overall GCRF strategy and in order to facilitate partnerships with colleagues in these countries, we have established a GCRF Partnership Development Fund. The GCRF Partnership Development Fund is supported by UKRI as part of our QR allocation from Research England. It is managed centrally to ensure compliance with Official Development Assistance (ODA) objectives.

The fund has a broad remit and is intended to support:

1. Activity following up on previous partnerships funded via GCRF QR (please note that priority will be given to these projects);
2. Activities that require a last-minute, small pot of funding and demonstrate clear, quantifiable benefits to DAC-list countries;
3. New relationships and collaborative projects.

This fund is a combination of what was previously the GCRF Partnership Fund, Workshop Fund and Fortuity Fund in 2018-19.

Eligibility

The GCRF Partnership Development Fund is open to all academics and Early Career Researchers based at the University. Please note that the fund is not open to postgraduate research students.
ODA Compliance

To be ODA compliant, all activity must directly and primarily benefit the economic and social problems faced by developing countries on the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list. Further guidance on this is available here.

Questions to consider when writing the ODA compliance statement:

- Is the project addressing the economic development and welfare of the country in question?
- Are the countries involved on the DAC List of ODA Recipients (the Development Assistant Committee of the OECD)?
- Is there a development need that my project or activity is addressing?
- What is the evidence of this need?
- How would this project or activity be undertaken in the country?
- What would the impact of my project or activity be, and who would benefit?
- How does my project or activity contribute to sustainable development?
- Would this lead to a reduction in poverty in a developing country?
- What would success for this activity look like?
- How would success or impact be measured?

Funding available

The Kent GCRF Partnership Development Fund for 2019/20 is worth £120,000, and the upper limit per application is £10,000. Please note that value for money will be an assessment criterion.

Key dates

- Call opens: Monday, 14 October 2019
- Call closes: Monday, 18 November 2019 at 5pm*
- Outcome communicated: by Monday, 2 December 2019

*Applicants can request that their proposal be considered before late November as long as they clearly demonstrate the urgency/limited timeframe of the project.

How to apply

All applications must use this form (Word). Applications must be submitted by 5pm on the deadline date, and should be sent as an attachment to Grace Grussenmeyer at globalchallenges@kent.ac.uk. Further guidance on completing the application form is available here.

Assessment process

The applications will be assessed by a panel comprising of the Associate Deans for Research and Innovation, the Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean for Internationalisation, the Director of the Global Challenges Doctoral Centre (GCDC) and members of Research Services.
• The academic members will assess the quality and viability of the partnership;
• Research Services will assess compliance with ODA and GCRF funding rules.

Applications will be ranked using the assessment criteria below, regardless of the amount requested. Those that have been most highly ranked will be funded. If the competition is underspent, a second round will be organised later in the academic year.

**Early and mid-career researchers**

One award has been ring fenced for early or mid-career researchers. This is intended to ensure that colleagues at an earlier stage of their career have the opportunity to develop their research and collaborations, and are not disadvantaged by having a shorter track record.

**Assessment criteria**

The panel will use the following criteria:

• Whether the project is building on work previously funded by GCRF QR (please note that priority will be given to these projects)
• ODA Compliance
• Eligibility of the applicant
• Fit with the aims of the GCRF, namely:
  o To promote challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, including the participation of researchers who may not previously have considered the applicability of their work to development issues;
  o To strengthen capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange in the UK and developing countries through partnership with excellent UK research and researchers;
  o To provide an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.
• Fit with the three specified challenges of the GCRF, namely:
  o Equitable access to sustainable development
  o Sustainable economies and societies
  o Human rights, good governance and social justice
• Alignment with [UN Sustainable Development Goals](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/) appropriate for the ODA nations involved.
• Track record of the applicant and partners, including but not limited to:
  o Evidence of an existing or potential relationship between the partners
  o Evidence of previous successful multi-partner research projects, funded or otherwise. Particular attention will be given to those that included partners beyond the UK.
• How the project will contribute to the Kent Global Challenge Doctoral Centre (GCDC).
• Plausibility of the partnership continuing after the funding.
• Value for money. We suggest that applicants speak with their School Finance Officer regarding financial regulations for organising overseas activities, such as paying VAT for overseas services (‘reverse charge’), as these costs should be taken into account when drafting the project budget.
Award of the grant

The grant will be given in the form of a budgetary adjustment to the applicant’s school. This means that it will be a specified item on the school’s budget, and it will be up to the individual school to manage it. We suggest that applicants speak with their School Finance Officer and School Administration Manager to ensure that support is in place within the School to manage the award.

The funding **must be spent and reported on by 1 June 2020**. Please note that there are no exceptions to this deadline, and the GCRF Officer will contact the award holder and School Finance Officer by the end of April 2019 for an update on expenditure and plan for any unused funds. Underspend will be reallocated to other GCRF schemes at the beginning of June 2020 in order that the funds be used before the end of the financial year (31 July 2020).

**Reporting on the project**

The applicant will be asked to provide a short report on the project **by 1 July 2020**. Please note that award holders who fail to submit a report by the deadline will jeopardise their eligibility to receive future GCRF QR funds.

**Previous GCRF QR recipients**

Previous GCRF QR recipients are listed [here](#).

**Further information**

For specific questions, please contact the Global Challenges Officer, Grace Grussenmeyer: [globalchallenges@kent.ac.uk](mailto:globalchallenges@kent.ac.uk). More information on the GCRF is available [here](#).