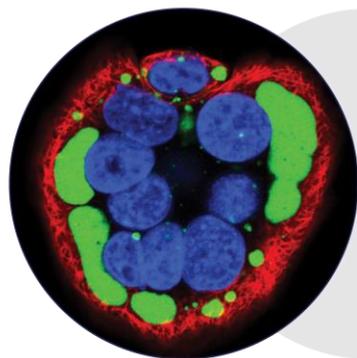


Interdisciplinary Research Hubs - Practicalities



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Global Challenges Research Fund

29th September 2017

Interdisciplinary Research Hubs Overview



Call for challenge-led and impact-focused GCRF Interdisciplinary Research Hubs:

- Established and led by eligible UK research organisations
- 12-15 Hubs (depending on quality)
- £8M - 20M, 5 years

Assessment process:

Intention to Submit	29 th September 2017
Outline proposal deadline	9 th November 2017
Full proposal deadline	May 2018
Decisions	November 2018
Hubs start	December 2018

Intractable 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



Hub characteristics

GCRF Interdisciplinary Research Hubs

Key characteristics

- ❑ Generate excellent and novel research
 - ❑ Translate research into measurable development impacts
 - ❑ Deliver a broad range of scalable impacts
 - ❑ A sustainable programme with a legacy beyond the initial investment
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- ❑ Shared values and goals
 - ❑ Strong research and operational leadership
 - ❑ Appropriate and effective monitoring and evaluation
 - ❑ Ability to learn and adapt



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

Eligibility

*Call text updated

PI/Hub Director

- Employed by lead organisation
- Term of employment extending beyond duration of Hub

Lead research organisation

- Organisation eligible to receive RCUK funding
- UK Public Sector Research Establishment *contact RCUK*
(pamela.hicks@rcuk.ac.uk) prior to submission

Research partner organisation

- UK or international research organisation e.g. higher education organisations, public labs, non-profit research intensive organisations
- Must demonstrate:
 - Ability to deliver research (capacity & capability)
 - Governance and Control
 - Financial stability
- Staff are eligible as Co-Investigators

Project partner

- Any organisation not meeting the minimum criteria for Research Partner organisations.

Sub-contracts

- Only to be used for the procurement of goods and services.

Funding available

*Call text updated

Research Partner Organisations

RO location	Direct costs	Indirect costs
UK	Current fEC policy (80% direct and indirect)	
Developed countries, Chile, Uruguay, Antigua and Barbuda, Seychelles	Up to 50% eligible costs	None
DAC list countries	Up to 100% eligible costs	Up to 30% of eligible direct costs

- For multi-campus universities, costs will be awarded based on where the campus is legally registered.
- For multinational organisations, costs will be awarded dependant on the location of the Headquarters.

Funding available (continued)

Project partners

- Up to 1 FTE per organisation (across whole award)
- Maximum of 10% total Hub award (100% fEC)
- Up to 100% of requested costs awarded

Sub-contracts

- Costs awarded based on the location of the country managing the sub-contract

Not eligible

- Capital expenditure or infrastructure
- Costs for Government departments and business (outside sub-contracts)
- Fees/stipends for Masters and PhD students

How to apply

Naming convention

- GCRF 'X' Hub
 - 'X' = description of challenge ≤ 5 words
 - Comprehensible to the intelligent lay person

Cannot contain:

- Acronyms
- Jargon
- Technical terms
- Names of people or organisations

Intention to Submit

- Mandatory for applicants wishing to submit an outline application.
- Short online survey:
 - PI details, title, primary challenge area, approximate total fEC
- Deadline: 29th September

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/O3I1I/

Outline proposals

Submissions must be via Je-S (JeSHelp@rcuk.ac.uk)

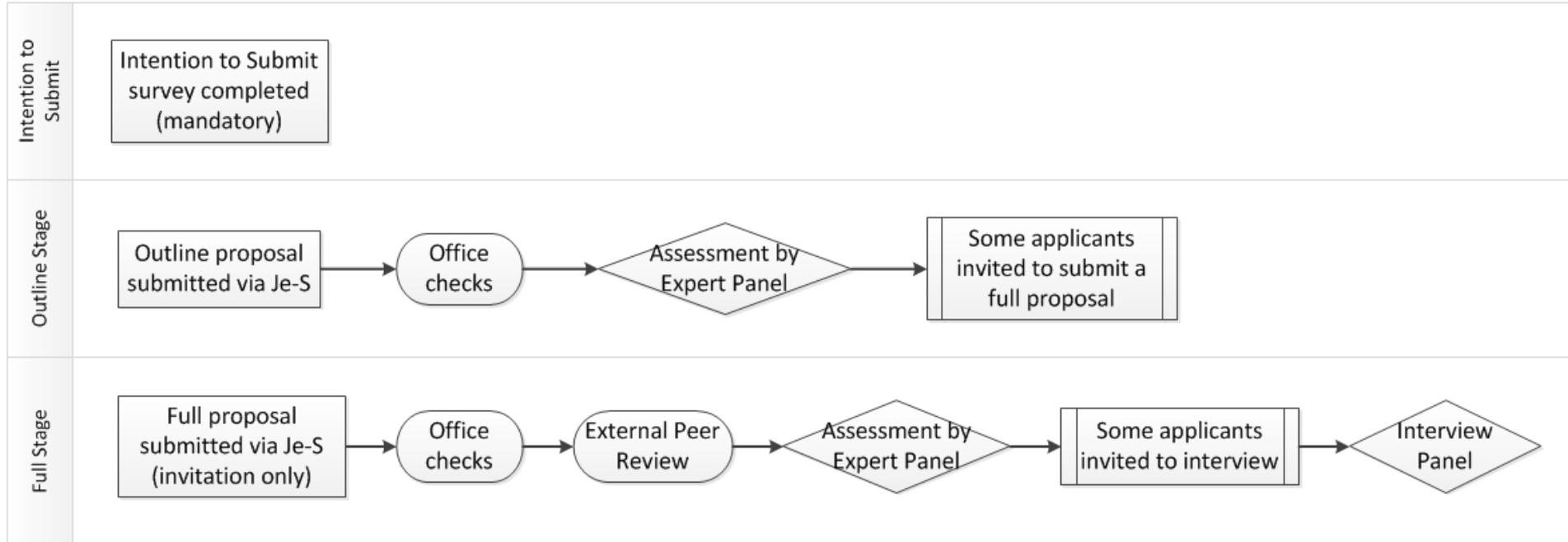
In addition to the Je-S Outline Proposal applicants must include:

- Case for Support
 - Section 1. Proposal details (max 5 pages)
 - Section 2. ODA compliance statement (1 page)
 - Section 3. Organisational commitment
- CV for PI/Hub Director

Deadline: 9th November, 16:00

Assessment process

Overview of Peer Review Process



Expert Panels

All panels will be constructed to meet the following principles:

Interdisciplinary	Representation of a broad range of disciplines and inclusion of individuals with a track record of interdisciplinary working
International	Academic and non-academic representation from DAC list countries
Impact	Inclusion of user communities and others with the ability to assess the likelihood of impact

Outline stage assessment criteria

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

Full stage assessment criteria

- 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

Key dates

Call for outline proposals opens	14 th July 2017
Intention to Submit survey opens	14 th July 2017
Intention to Submit survey closes	29 th September 2017
Call for outline proposals closes	9 th November 2017
Outline proposal assessment panel	January 2018
Outline proposal outcomes announced	January/February 2018
Call for full applications opens (invite only)	January/February 2018
Call for proposals closes	May 2018
Full proposal sift panel	September 2018
Full proposal interview panel	October 2018
Full proposal outcomes announced	November 2018
Successful awards start	1 st December 2018

Hints and tips

Collective Fund: Call 1 versus Call 2

Call 1	Call 2
Primary focus on capacity and capability building, with supporting activities including research	Primary focus on core research programme with supporting activities including capacity and capability building
Focus on a significant development challenge	Requirement to consider a broader/more complex challenge and the interactions (+ve/-ve) with other development challenges
Interdisciplinary approaches strongly encouraged	Interdisciplinary approaches a key requirement, with particular focus on novel disciplinary combinations, perspectives and approaches

- In addition, Hubs are required to act as a key focal point within the global research landscape.

Lessons learned from previous GCRF activities

- These are not just standard grants with overseas partners
- Proposals need to be ODA challenge-led/solution-focused
- Applicants need to demonstrate an understanding of the context (societal, cultural, political, historical, economic etc.)
- In-country partners need to be appropriate, involved in the scoping and delivery of the research and add value
- Support adaptability and resilience by focusing on key competencies/expertise required rather than specific work streams and staff
- Be clear and realistic about the potential impact
 - Directly associated with this grant
 - What are the benefits beyond the lifetime of the grant?
- Learn from others!

Is it Official Development Assistance?

GCRF is based on the broad OECD ODA definition.

1. Which **country/ countries on the DAC list** will directly benefit from this proposal and are these countries likely to continue to be ODA eligible for the duration of the research?
2. How is your proposal directly and **primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?**
3. 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?

Is it Official Development Assistance?

Applicants should:

- Seek to investigate a **specific problem** or seek a **specific outcome** which will have an impact on a developing country or countries on the DAC list;
- Provide evidence as to **why this is a problem** for the developing country or countries;
- **Address the issue** identified effectively and efficiently;
- Use the **strengths of the UK** to address the issue, working **in collaboration** with others as appropriate;
- Demonstrate that the research is of an **internationally excellent** standard;
- Identify **appropriate pathways to impact** to ensure that the developing country benefits from the research.

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