

Discover Glasgow Changing Futures (GCF) and the upcoming GCF Collaborative Seed Fund-20260428_113051UTC-Meeting Recording

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Emma Kallblad 0:10

Good afternoon, everyone. Before we start today's webinar, may I remind you that it is being recorded and will be shared on the Glasgow Change in Futures web pages to support applicants. Next slide, please. So welcome. Today we're launching the GCF collaborative seed fund and the aim of this webinar today is to brief you on its purpose so you feel well positioned to understand whether this is a fund that you can apply for to forward your challenge led collaborative research or activity project. To help us today, we have with us the VP for Research, Chris Pearce, who is also the Senior Management Group sponsor for Glasgow Changing Futures. We have the GCF Collaborative Leadership, Jaime Toney, the Academic Lead for Sustainable Futures. Petra Meier, Academic Lead for Healthy Inexorable Futures, and Maria McPhillips, who's the lead for Collaborative Futures. Also on the call, we've got Craig McLenaghan, the GCF project coordinator and lead for our seed funding. And I'm Emma Reid Shellblood. I'm the programme manager.

For Glasgow, changing futures.

Next slide, please.

We're going to start off with an introduction to the vision behind Glasgow Changing Futures. We'll then hear more about the aims of the GCF Collaborative Seed Fund before doing deep dives into the GCF areas so you can understand more about the aspirations

of seed funding in these areas from the Leeds themselves. We'll then look at what comes next, next steps, and then there's an opportunity for questions and answers towards the end. At the bar on the top, you can see a little tab called Q&A. Please, throughout the presentation, can you put in any questions that you have?

There, and then we'll sum them up towards the end of the session.

Thanks. Next slide, please.

Chris, handing over to you.



Chris Pearce 2:26

Thanks, Emma. Hi, everybody. So just a very few words from me on what is Glasgow Changing Futures? Why did we start it? What was the intent behind it? That will obviously help you frame any applications you might be making to this seed funding opportunity.

So the original idea for Glasgow Changing Futures, or GCF, as we call it for short, came from a realisation that, and a recognition that universities nowadays are being asked to do more than simply advance knowledge.

but also to utilise the convening power, the expertise, the connexions that we have to really help drive and address complex societal challenges where our ability to make progress

against those challenges very strongly depends on how well we are working across disciplines, but also across sectors and indeed across borders on an international scale as well. So as universities, we are being asked to think about how we are educating our students,

for the future, but also how our research, although still needs to be world class, is also translating into impact that benefits society. So that's very much the context in which we are now operating very much, not just in the UK, but across the world.

The approach to research is how is it supporting other societal challenges and societal priorities and indeed government challenges and priorities.

So we set out to create an institutional programme that brings disciplines together, bridges across our strong disciplinary structures that we have around shared problems. How do we bring those disciplines together to tackle these shared problems?

And that requires us to build, to not just look at it through an academic lens, but to build partnerships beyond academia with multiple different types of sectors. And but also how it connects, it's not just looked at from a research perspective, but also how it connects research

innovation, education, and of course, our partners to address those societal challenges. And as well as being rooted in the values that we have set out around inclusivity, equity, and indeed partnerships that have real purpose.

So that was the, that was the kind of, that was the scene setting. And as a result, as a response, we have established with the university backing GCF Glasgow Changing Futures. And this is essentially an institutional programme and approach to

to tackle these societal challenges, to create a programme where we can experiment, where we can build capacity around interdisciplinarity, and where we can establish that platform for collaborative challenge led work. Okay, Craig, if you can go on to the next slide.

please. So we fairly early on decided to structure it around these key themes. And of course, we could have structured it in multiple different ways. But this is the approach that we took. So we've got three key themes, two of which are kind of focused themes, and one is a more broad

theme. So the focus, 2 focus themes are sustainable futures and healthy and equitable futures. The former is led by Jaime Toney, the latter by Petra Meier. And then the third theme is collaborative futures and that's led by Maria McPhillips. So sustainable futures is very much aims to enhance our kind of network based partnerships that allow us to understand the complexity of the challenges created by our changing climate and how we're going to collaborate towards meaningful solutions. Healthy and Equitable Futures aims to really mobilise the university's collective strengths to really think differently about the future and shape a future in which everyone can enjoy a long, fulfilled life founded on the basis of good physical and mental health, whether that be locally, nationally or globally. But of course, very much with a view of the university we are and the city in which we're based and the challenges facing that city.

And then the collaborative futures theme is designed to enhance that connectivity, nurture emerging ideas, support a pipeline of challenge led projects and shape interdisciplinary infrastructures for scaling this activity. So this is Collaborative futures therefore then looks broader than those two more focused themes. So that's the way we've decided to structure Glasgow Changing Futures. If we can go to the next slide, please.

So I'm obviously there from a research perspective, but my colleague Rachel Sanderson is very much there in terms of external relations, both locally, nationally and globally. Moira Fischbacher-Smith as Vice Principal Learning and Teaching is leading the new learning and teaching strategy, which is looking at how we We imagine the kind of student, academic student experience, and she's coming from that perspective. Uzma Khan, obviously, as Vice Principal for Innovation and Economic Development, is very much thinking about innovation and economic development. And then Joe Gill, who's one of our other Vice Principals and is head of the College of Arts and Humanities,

is bringing that college perspective to that programme board. So as I said, it's got significant institutional buy-in. If we can go to the next slide, please.

And then Glasgow Changing Futures, while focused on those three themes and within those three things, is providing a kind of coherence to a range of other related activities that are kind of fit within someone one of those three themes. So, for example, we've got here Scotland Beyond Net Zero, which was an initiative were founded by the University of Glasgow in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh to tackle a fair and just transition to net zero. And now we've got 13 Scottish universities that are all financially contributing to that. And we've done seed funding calls. We've created a sustainability toolkit for researchers. The Learn Together is around upskilling staff and students to collaborate equitably and effectively with communities in Glasgow and beyond. We have hosted roundtables on how we work equitably with low and middle income countries.

We've had a focus on Africa, we've had a focus on Central and South America.

Catalyst has been one of the activities run out of the healthy and equitable futures theme, looking and that's in progress and we're going to run another similar event around sustainable futures, very much bringing our communities together and our partners together to think

creatively about those two themes. Curriculum for life is a major pillar of the current and future learning and teaching strategy around how we think differently about upskilling our students for a life beyond the university.

And then U21 that's up there as well, that is an initiative that we are co-leading with about 11 global institutions through the Univas 21 network to think about how we address and reverse biodiversity

loss. And then we're working with other institutions like UCL and Monash, who are also thinking about how they establish these institutional programmes to think about interdisciplinarity and challenge led approaches to work.

And then if we can just move on to the next slide. So that's given you a sense of where we are. It fits very clearly into the direction that the university is wanting to take. Next month, in May, we will be releasing the new university strategy.

which makes it clear that we are looking to do large scale challenge led projects aligned to the university's distinctive strengths, that we are committed to turning our ideas into real world solutions that benefit society and address major societal challenges.

and that our education portfolio will be better aligned to the needs of society. So that's the overarching strategy. And that overarching strategy builds on 2 core strategies, the learning and teaching strategy and the one we've got up here, which is the research strategy, which continues the themes of collaboration, creativity, and cruise.

So it's got, so what we're doing with Glasgow Changing Futures fits very firmly into the strategic direction of the university of the next 10 years. If we can go on to the next slide, please.

So that brings us to what we're here for today, and that is the collaborative seed fund. And we have decided to focus on seed funding and indeed invest in it, really because we feel this is a really good idea of moving beyond the talk and actually start testing out ideas and also to test out these new collaborations that we want to build across the institution and beyond the institution. So it allows us to bring together new interdisciplinary teams, as I said, to test both the strength of the idea

and the way those collaborations will operate. So the seed funding provides us with that way of experimenting, how we're going to learn quickly and how we can refine approaches before pursuing, importantly, follow on funding. And

So that's one reason for doing the seed funding. I suppose the other reason for doing the seed funding is it, I hope, demonstrates to the university community the university's ambitions in this space. It's one thing to say this is what we want to do. I think it's another thing completely to actually put seed funding behind this so that we can explore those teams and those ideas to address major societal challenges through collaboration and through interdisciplinarity.

If we go to the next slide, please.

So, as I've just said, the Glasgow Changing Futures Collaborative Seed Fund is really there to support new teams at the university who combine diverse fields to co-design, co-produce solutions that take, and this is important, a systems and future orientated perspective,

to societal challenges, whether they be local, national or global.

And I hope that for those of you on the call who are listening, going to listen to the recording of this, I hope that therefore sets out the scene about what Glasgow Changing Futures is there to try and achieve and why we have established the seed fund. And I hope that we're going to get

a rich array of projects coming into this so that we can really start to explore some

new and bold ideas and also explore and test out new collaborations. So thanks very much. I think, Emma, I'm going to pass back to you now.



Emma Kallblad 15:32

Great, thank you, Chris. And looping back to those of you who've just joined this webinar, to say that there's a Q&A button on the top menu there that you're welcome to put in questions to as we go along today. Can we move to the next slide, please?

So, GCF is offering seed funds in each of its three areas. Across these three areas, we have core criteria that are shared. These are very much aligned with the vision that Chris has just spoken to. And what these four criteria set out that proposals should demonstrate that they are challenge led, solutions focused and future thinking. They should demonstrate ambitious and purposeful collaboration across institutional boundaries. This often demonstrated by cross-college collaboration.

The application should of course be credible, high quality and a great strategic fit for what GCF is doing. And importantly, show potential for progression and follow on funding. It's also important to clarify here that this funding is to be led by people who are on the staff of Glasgow University already. These can be people who come from the academic side or equally people who come from professional services. Next slide, please, Craig.

In terms of the scope of activity for this particular call, it is primarily supporting research focused activity. However, there is an opportunity to consider other types of application where there is a strong case for their impact.

on the university's ability to address these societal challenges. This is our first year of funding, so whilst GCF very much recognises the role of external partners in addressing challenges, this particular round

whilst welcoming the inclusion of external partners, will not require these for applications to go forward. So this is very much a preliminary round around building internal collaborations across the university. Thanks, Craig. Next slide, please.

We're offering two types of award in this first call, a 5,000 pound award and a 15,000 pound award. The 5,000 pound type of award can be seen as more early stage, more about exploring the potential of developing solutions.

Ideas here might include a series of co-creation workshops with colleagues, for example. The 15k awards are more substantive and might be more towards testing

and developing solutions in real life.

Either of these amounts are better suited to enabling activities rather than staff costs, as you'll be aware.

Thank you, Craig. Next slide, please.

So, we're now going to hand over to the GCF areas and each of the area leads will give you insights into what's driving their particular area and the cause within that.

So, Jaime, handing over to you first and sustainable futures.



Jaime Toney 19:22

All right, thank you, Emma. So welcome, everybody. Just to start out, the purpose of the sustainable futures area is to enable and support solutions and new ways of working that drive transformative change, particularly in response to increased frequency and severity of the impact of climate change and the human use of fossil fuels that have gotten us here. We need to view the current situation as an opportunity and welcome innovation that moves us towards a sustainable future. And here I define sustainability as meeting the social foundations of current and future generations

while living responsibly within a healthy and natural environment. We welcome small but ambitious projects that engage with the complexity of systems change and have a vision that connects doing things differently to solving broader societal challenges. Next slide, please, Craig.

So Sustainable Futures already supports a wide variety of projects and activities and helps make connexions and aligns activities to succeed. All of these recognise that we need to stop contributing to climate and nature degradation and adapt to our changing climate in a way

that's both sustainable and fair. And the portfolio focuses on network-based approaches, really signalling the need for collaboration and partnership to address the complex challenges created by our changing climate, processes that help us to understand and engage with complexity that brings all forms of experience and knowledge to bear, particularly in the co-creation of solutions and giving support, space, and making connexions for new innovative ideas that are coming forward to be able to germinate and succeed. We also are providing insights and development opportunities to emerging and future change makers and creating an environment and culture for future mindsets. Next, please.

So we're really looking for challenge-led projects, as Emma's talked about, projects

that meet the criteria of the overall funding call, but also just to kind of emphasise some of those aspects, demonstrate genuine collaboration in responding to challenges created by

a changing climate, approach challenges with awareness of the interconnections that exist across natural, social, and cultural systems, articulate the relevance of projects in the context of societal needs while considering the longer term outcomes as well.

And so on the kind of right hand side of this slide, I've suggested a range of different aspects that proposals might consider or might include, but this is far from being prescriptive or inclusive of everything that the community and your partners might come up with.

But some of the things that I've included here is, you know, there might be policy issues that are really important to focus on. There might be specific areas, we know food systems or extreme events or climate anxiety. And just re-emphasizing some of the aspects of the overall call around

partnerships. There might be new technology or new methods or new approaches that projects might consider. Place-based projects focusing on how we collaborate and work with communities, participatory approaches, how we link those up to decision making.

The slides will be available afterwards, and I don't want to go through everything, but it is really important that we're thinking about the holistic way in which we're addressing societal challenges. And futures is in here too, because it's really important to think about the different kinds of ways that were coming to the solutions. So scenario planning, which is giving us some insights into what might happen in the future, for example. And really what that futures component is doing is really thinking that we're thinking of solutions that take into account.

longer term outcomes that we're not creating solutions today that future generations will need to mitigate the unintended consequences of in the future. Next slide, please.

And so beyond the seed funding opportunities in this particular call, the sustainable futures area is currently getting ready to deliver a set of sustainable Glasgow dialogues in collaboration with Glasgow City Council.

I've listed the four topic areas that we're going to be working on here, and there will be future funding within GCF to help bring some of those ideas coming out of those dialogues to fruition and to further funding.

In the academic year coming up, keep an eye out for responsive mood funding. So these are smaller awards that can help support internal activities that help deliver on the sustainable futures vision. And then, as Chris mentioned in the opening slides, The Scotland Beyond Net Zero portfolio sits within the sustainable futures area, and it has an annual seed fund, which this year has just closed, but will relaunch early in 2027. And these are awards on the order of 5,000 or 15,000 pounds.

as well. Next, please.

And then just kind of finally from me is as the portfolio of work that we're doing within Sustainable Futures and GCF is developing, we really invite people from across the university to engage with us and help shape what we're doing.

Within the dialogues, this is a process that's going to continue to run for a number of months still. And so there's still opportunities if you connect with any of those areas or are interested in any of them to help shape the solution space, to help develop collaborations with the number of external stakeholders that were either bringing into the university or hosting events with and really keen to hear from you if you think you can connect into some of those topics. Within Scotland Beyond Net Zero, Chris mentioned the research toolkit. It's worth having a look at and you can stay connected to other kinds of opportunities, for example, connecting in with some of the priorities for

Scottish Government or Scottish Parliament, for example, by signing up to the newsletter and checking out the website. And just to say, we've got a small team that's growing. Please feel free to reach out to any of us. We'd love to hear from you what you're doing and help to connect and amplify that.

the work that you're doing. So I will hand over to Petra.



Petra Meier 27:13

Thank you, Jaime. Yes, so over to healthy and equitable futures.

Probably worth a quick definition of what I think of when we talk about health and equitable futures. So a future in which all people have equitable opportunities to live long, healthy and fulfilling lives physically, mentally and socially within a healthy natural environment and with explicit regard to future generations. So it's an encompassing rather than medically defined idea around the future and encompasses what health enables us to do. Good health, good mental, social, physical health.

is an enabler to living good lives. And that's sort of what is in my mind for this. You

may have seen yesterday yet another report on increasing and widening health inequalities in the UK with people living less healthy, less equal lives and it's something we're not going in the right direction and we need to urgently find ways of course correcting so that we're not still in that same position in 20, 30, 50 years time when, you know, 50 years ago, if you read reports about healthy and equitable futures, basically it was the same situation and we've not really managed to

find our ways out of it. So really a call for things that are solution focused, future focused, and that will be transformative. Craig, next slide, please.

So some of the key challenges I see that a university could help address is, you know, in service of what matters to people, their own and family members' health often ranks top. But we do see these stark health inequalities in the UK and globally, and these are costly.

and are costly to individuals in terms of suffering, but also to societal progress. And we know just how much of societal progress can be affected when you've got a lot of people, especially at working age, who can't work or also older ages who then require care.

There's new compounding risks which worry me, including the climate crisis, but also from potentially negative consequences of technological advances, of geopolitical instability, of many other things like population ageing, that if you take those together, they really make an equitable health future less likely.

And the question is, how can we create solutions that are equitable and that would generate good health rather than ones that may go counter to good health? And traditional approaches to evidence have struggled to respond to fast-paced societal changes.

and to generate systemic solutions. We often have really good evidence in the different disciplines or in particular clinical areas, in particular areas of inequalities affecting particular groups or particular regions of the world. What we are really bad at, I think, is bringing that evidence together in a way that is coherent and action oriented. So for me, one of the challenges that faces is as academics and as researchers and as people who educate the future change makers of the world is how can we deploy the evidence that we have more wisely, not just keep adding new evidence that is hard to enact. Craig, next slide please.

So I've decided to focus the area in three different activity areas. So one is around convening for co-created solutions. I think we can leverage the university's legitimacy

as a

as a trusted evidence provider to foster equitable, non-extractive collaborations that span disciplines, sectors and communities and that build bridges between them. So for me, there is something very important that we are not the people who who know it all, but that we bring in knowledge from many different places in order to find solutions that actually work for everybody. Then the future orientation that both Chris and Jaime already mentioned to strengthen anticipatory thinking, horizon scanning and foresight capabilities.

so that in the university we can intentionally shape pathways to a healthier, fairer and sustainable systems and practises rather than accidentally trapping ourselves in things that won't work for future generations. And then, as I say, the evidence integration piece

the strength and coherence and actionability by developing methods and platforms that reduce the fragmentation of evidence and that integrate insights into a way that leads to transformation and action.

Next slide, please, Craig.

So the types of proposal ideas, I didn't want to...

be overly specific, because I'm really keen that people bring their best ideas forward and articulate what they think needs to happen. But having been asked, you know, what do we provide here? It's seed funding, early stage investment to develop or test novel, potentially high profile,

research, education or innovation ideas that have clear relevance to their healthy and equitable futures challenge. As Emma said earlier, it can be either for 5K or 15K, depending on how early stage it is or what actually needs to happen to make the idea fly. In particular, HEF will support

bid development for substantive research, education or innovation programmes using the seed that will generate or integrate knowledge methods or theoretical perspectives in new ways. I really don't want to fund things that could happen otherwise. You know, GCF has

got a certain amount of funding, which I am keen to use to develop things that are very aligned and very novel and potentially transformative. So intended use of the seed fund include preparatory work,

to strengthen bids to research, public sector, private sector or philanthropic funders. For example, thinking of SAT pits or partnership development activities or rd testing of ideas with beneficiaries or end users or communities and or producing initial data

or scoping work that might support a future.

application for further funding. I'd expect most seed funding applications to be research focused, but if you've got some really good idea for a high profile educational proposal, then at least let us have it and we'll consider it. For example, you know, if you were thinking of a have relevant Erasmus plus joint master's programme or any other educational activity that you feel and have done some research which really add benefit to this particular area. Joan Blett sort of just slightly research focused framing of the seed fund discouraged you from.

from giving it a try. So focus on new collaboration, future and solution orientation should be clearly written and compelling. We have a diverse pool of reviewers, so write it for an audience of a non-generalist educated audience and potential to make a difference will be a particular criterion as well. Craig, next slide please.

So beyond the seed funding opportunity, future seed funding opportunities, so apart from this open call for seed funding, I just thought I'd mention the catalyst, which is still ongoing. It's 6 workshops of which two have already happened in areas associated with healthy and equitable futures. It's been a process that's been running for most of the past year.

We're in phase three now and participants can apply for micro funding of 2K and sprint funding then later for five or 15K again, which is available to those signed up to any phase three workshops. So just to mention, there is 4 workshops still coming up, one on reflexive participatory knowledge infrastructures, one on human capability systems, one on collaborative place and community systems, and one on cultural and narrative systems, all in relation to healthy, equitable futures. And if you're interested, there is an event Bright link and you'll have the slides.

so you could sign up. But as I say, these come up as of next week or in a few days time, so you'd need to act quite quickly. And then early next year, we'll have project funding available for, in particular, around evidence integration in key areas where we at the university already have significant strength, but where the activity seems to be siloed. So watch this space there. Craig, next slide.

Beyond seed funding, further ways to engage. Similarly, for me, the key thing is that I'm trying to build a team. So we're now recruiting for healthy and equitable future

leadership positions, an associate lead in research, associate lead in strategic partnerships and impact, and an associate lead in engagement.

Pan-university strategic roles, quite senior, so looking for grade 9 and grade 10 interested senior colleagues who really want to make a change and want to deliver a strategic programme across the university and beyond.

So that's the key thing at the moment. If you're at all interested and fit the bill, then please get in touch and I can tell you more about it. For more junior staff, so grade 7s and grade 8s in particular, I will be looking for some GCF fellows later this year or early next year.

who are interested in helping me run some high level summit or forums in the healthy, equitable futures area. But that call is not open yet. There's event series, sign up to our newsletter or our LinkedIn profile and that'll keep you informed of everything going on in

GCF World, Craig, and I think that's it from me. I think so, over to you, Maria.



Maria McPhillips 38:39

Thank you very much. So I'm going to speak very briefly about the third area of activity within Glasgow Changing Futures, Collaborative Futures. And as Chris indicated, this is a broader area of activity. It aims to create and secure a strong future.

for challenge-led collaboration here at the university. And by having this ambition, we believe that collaborative futures would allow us to take a more purposeful institutional approach, and one that intentionally creates the condition for future challenge-led activity at scale.

And importantly, and as Chris also indicated, this is not about focusing on one challenge area or one solution, but it's about giving attention to the different conditions within our university that together help ensure we are well placed to contribute to a range of challenges.

and to support the emergence of many solutions.

So whilst this is at a formative stage, the intention really is to focus on building an integrated view of our challenge-led ecosystem so we can better understand where we are as an institution. We want to give attention to lowering the barriers to collaboration by understanding what works to enable scale and sustain collaboration within the university.

And then we want to apply this knowledge and understanding, working in

collaboration with our colleges to take this evidence-informed approach to fostering ideally cross-college collaboration and creating a pipeline of challenge-led activity that bridges our existing and emerging strengths.

Next slide, please, Craig.

So in this first call that will launch on Thursday, we will use collaborative futures as a way to explore, initiate and scale.

cross college challenge led activity that's beyond the current GCF challenge areas. So activities that don't naturally sit either within sustainable futures or within healthy and equitable futures as you've just been hearing about.

In this round of support, we would like to be able to offer support in different ways, both to underpin emerging challenge-led collaborative projects and teams. So perhaps through the support for team initial team formation, or the generation of pilot data, the undertaking of feasibility studies or scoping work, and also to be able to offer support to activity that's perhaps at a more advanced stage and is aiming for bid submission perhaps.

maybe in the next 12 to 18 months, for example. So this opportunity to advance that large scale bid preparation.

So that's what we're going to focus on in this initial round of funding that will, like I say, launch on Thursday. And Craig, if we could go to the next slide, please.

And then we're also considering another approach to supporting and fostering future challenge led activity. And this would be slightly, I guess, less traditional in terms of seeds funding by experimenting with a longer term approach that could include inviting

academics to suggest novel challenge themes that would be explored, for example, through facilitated workshops or sandpits to understand their potential. And then also a more directed approach where we would like to encourage colleagues to respond to a small number of cross-college challenge focused themes.

We've been taking a look at various data sources as part of identifying these potential themes. And the aim here is to bring together existing areas of strength that aren't currently as well connected as they might be or as we would hope they are. And also whilst trying to ensure

that this connectivity has the potential to be cross-college. And it's really important here that any activities that GCF supports in this way also align with college ambitions.

And if we could just, Craig, just click forward, please. Thank you very much. So we

have been looking at a couple of potential crossover themes. We've given a bit of attention to emerging technologies in the broadest sense there. And we recognise that we have, as an institution, lots of strength with respect to emerging technologies. And we also have lots of strengths with respect to both the trust, governance and ethics and the social impact of these technologies. And this could be an opportunity to encourage greater cross-college collaboration.

around those thematic areas. So we're exploring that for opportunities that would hopefully come online later in the summer.

And what we're hoping here is that this dual approach, it gives space both for new ideas and teams, as well as helping us to experiment with a mechanism to intentionally support specific themes and activities. And that we do this from a place of understanding, both in terms of a better understanding of our own challenge-led ecosystem, as well as that work that we're doing to better understand what works for effective collaboration here at the University of Glasgow.

And in this way, we hope that the GCF can act as a pipeline builder, helping to create a purposeful approach to nurturing and advancing future challenge-led teams and projects aligned to our existing and distinctive strengths, helping us to enhance connectivity across the university, and also do that experimenting with mechanisms and initiatives to scale challenge-led, cross-disciplinary research and impact, very much in keeping with the ambitions of the institutional strategy, as Chris outlined at the beginning. And if we just go to the next slide.

And then beyond seed funding, I did mention an area of activity is how we might lower the barriers to collaboration. We are undertaking a research project within Collaborative Futures that we're calling towards the University of the Future and this is led by Lisa Bradley, a senior lecturer in the College of Social Sciences and also the interdisciplinary lead for the ARC.

In the next couple of weeks, we will launch a university-wide survey that will seek to gather thoughts, experiences of researchers across the university in terms of their experience of collaboration here at Glasgow. This will sit alongside some interviews and focus groups to gather data on perceptions and experiences from across the university. This

collaboration survey and the interviews will look at the different infrastructure required to support effective collaboration, thinking about this from a relational point of view, organizational, material and imaginal. And the reason why we think this survey is really important is to help us generate a really timely and informative evidence base. And Craig, if you could click forward.

We, this, the gathering this evidence in this way at this time will enable us to take an evidence informed approach, thinking about how we, from the relational point of view, how we might inform support and recognition for collaboration and team research from an organisational point of view.

how we might shape the configuration of our new research management system to ensure our systems and processes make collaboration across the institute more straightforward. From a material point of view, how we might use existing, such as the ARC and any new collaborative spaces,

And then, from an imaginal point of view, how we can develop future-focused thinking practises and models.

Thank you.

To Emma.



Emma Kallblad 47:54

Great, thank you, Maria. Those have been really helpful overviews from each of the area leads there. So, I'm now going to hand over to Craig, who's going to talk to us about what happens next.



Craig McLenaghan 48:09

Thanks, Emma.

So obviously we're at a very exciting stage as we launch this week on Thursday and hopefully you got a sense of the breadth of activity that's going on across GCF. But when we refer back to the open call, the Collaborative Seed Fund,

The key dates to keep in mind, and I'll go on to talk about the support we'll have available, are on this slide. So obviously we open them Thursday, so you'll be able to go on our web pages, you'll see application guidance, the forms you need to download and populate, and the application link for submitting your application.

Hopefully you've seen our comms in the previous weeks, hence being here and see those are already quite a lot of information on the web pages to work through. So

we'll be open for five weeks for this call, closing on the 4th of June. During that period, we'll have an in-person clinic.

where you'll have a chance to meet the leads in person and maybe talk through your proposal, get some guidance. Myself and Emma will also be there if you've got any operational questions. So yeah, we've got that five week period for you to hopefully be working with your collaborative teams and figuring out what the proposal is and getting that information populated. We have Jun as the GCF team to review the applications and we will really stress the importance of an unbiased, transparent and fair review process which we'll be implementing.

And by the end of July, we'll be back in touch with everyone to inform what the decision is. We will do our best to provide informed feedback, concrete feedback on how to improve if you've been unsuccessful and likewise inform you of the next steps.

if you have been successful.

For us, the project start date will be the next academic year, the 1st of October. That will give us plenty of time, set up behind the scenes, the funding and obviously start the initiation of your team, getting everything organised for the next academic year. And important to our fund is that we will obviously move the funding to you the next academic year. That funding must be spent by the end of that academic year and your project must be delivered by the end of that academic year. We would not we will not consider and we want to be upfront about this any kind of 0 cost extensions. We want to keep on our timelines with reporting. We want to be upfront about that. We will be there to support. The GCF team will be able to support throughout that period. And yeah, it's important that we set out that we expect the projects to be delivered and the money spent within that time or we will recoup the money for future activity we can reinvest in. So in terms of what we have coming up, in terms of applicant support, obviously today we're doing this webinar. This will be, this has been recorded at the moment and will be posted on the web pages. We have an app application process briefing tomorrow at lunchtime. And again, that will be recorded, posted to the web pages. That's an opportunity for a deep dive into the application guidance, the application forms and all the kind of brass tacks of the application process, really operational, going through how to populate the forms and what we want to see. And yes, it can inform it. And again, a

chance to ask any questions that you feel that might not quite fit today, but is maybe better for that session. On the 19th of May, as I've already said, we've got the in-person clinic that will be on from 11 till 4.

Each of the academic leads have a kind of prescribed time. I'll share the, obviously we'll share the slides after that. I'll pop in some important links. Also got Petra's catalyst links. I'll put the web page in there and also the in-person clinic. Importantly, it's an hour and a half.

We have Maria, Jaime and Petra throughout the day for on that day. Myself and Emma will be there all day and it is a chance to come and meet us, learn a bit more, speak about the application and quite a safe environment. And yeah, we'd be more than happy to interact on that day. We will be populating an FAQ.

on our website through the entire application window. So questions that arise quite commonly, we'll get them on there, try and clarify anything that people are maybe uncertain on. And we do have a mailbox, GCF seed fund at Glasgow.ac.uk. Please feel free to reach out if you've got any questions, if you want to connect.

Honestly, anything we want to build a relationship with the institution, with the individuals. So please reach out and we will always do our best to support how best we can.

So just passing back to Emma, I think we've only got one question, which is maybe a testament to the great job we've done today.



Emma Kallblad 53:40

I.

Undoubtedly. More questions are welcome if you'd like to use that little button up at the top of your screen called Q&A and type them in there. So the question that has come in so far is, is the current call more focused on building collaboration within the University of Glasgow or can it be with other universities from Europe and the UK? And then the answer is very much the core of this call is around building collaboration within the University of Glasgow. So reaching out to colleagues across schools and colleges and units

to build collaborative teams based in the university. That said, you can include partners on the application form where these are relevant to delivering what your intention is. So I hope that's a clear enough

answer on that. Should we take a moment to see if any further questions come in?

So I think that's it for today, so please do.



Jaime Toney 55:08

Emma, Emma, there's two other questions in the chat or in the QA. Sorry to interrupt.



Emma Kallblad 55:10

Ohh.



Craig McLenaghan 55:12

Yeah.



Emma Kallblad 55:14

No, thanks, Jaime. I can't see them on my screen. Could you read them out, please?



Jaime Toney 55:19

Sure, there's a question about how you identify potential new themes. Which methods did you use? Did you use meta science, AI approaches? One potential issue for meta science. The research centre I direct create has.



Emma Kallblad 55:23

Ohh.



Jaime Toney 55:38

been a national centre since 2012 and runs a non-university website.

And so I think that's one for for Maria maybe to come in on.



Maria McPhillips 55:51

Yeah, I'm happy, happy to take that one. So, so I would say actually the identification of potential themes has been more about discussion, particularly in the very much in the initial stages of that. Those themes aren't set, but it's just to give you a sense of where we might take this. So, initial discussions, and with the colleges understanding what they feel are their strengths and areas that they'd like to progress in the coming years, as well as having a little bit of a look at the signals that might come out of our application activity over the last couple of years as well.

I'm aware of create and definitely aware of create and so not having drawn from the

university servers in the way that you're suggesting there. I hope that answers the question, but I'm very happy to have another discussion about that.



Emma Kallblad 56:54

And Marie doesn't.



Jaime Toney 56:54

There's also a question, what is the funding for, for example, what types of expenses are covered?



Emma Kallblad 57:05

Craig, do you want to pick up on that one there?



Craig McLenaghan 57:08

Yeah, yeah. So, obviously, I'll send out the link to the web pages afterwards, but on the web pages and our applicant guidance, you will see an eligible and ineligible spend section where we've clarified what spend we will obviously permit or not permit.

In terms of what the funding is for, again, on the website, we really can map that out. We've got the purpose of the fund at the start, we dig into the core criteria and we've got the lead applicant eligibility on there. So it's very important that everyone reads through that document before making an application just to make sure they are eligible and they have the kind of team, very importantly here, is the team in place and the proposal, the idea to take it forward. So yeah, that's what I would say with that.



Jaime Toney 58:06

And just to say, Emma, in case you're not able to see that, there's a follow up for Maria on that from Christopher. I don't know if you want to take it offline or take it here, but Christopher asks, would you consider meta proposals, so meta in quotes, that themselves aim to research and gain insights into impediments or incentives to promoting good collaborative research?



Petra Meier 58:07

Omar.



Jaime Toney 58:31

G.



Maria McPhillips 58:31

Yeah, I'd love to have a conversation about that, Christopher. We are, we do. I briefly mentioned the University of the Future project that's embedded within collaborative futures. But when we see the launch of the university strategy, you'll see collaboration are really embedded in our strategic ambitions. And I think any additional insight we can gain around, I could say, impediments or incentive to promote good collaborative research would really welcome a discussion on that and happy to take that offline.



Emma Kallblad 59:08

Is there anything any further questions in the chat there, Jaime?



Jaime Toney 59:13

No, that's all of them.



Emma Kallblad 59:18

Great, well, thank you everyone for joining Glasgow Changing Futures today. As Craig has said, there's a lot more information on our website and we're really looking forward to working with you over the coming months as these proposals take shape. And a quick reminder of the deadline, the 3rd of June.
And.

We're excited also to working with these with these proposals as they are funded as they take shape and help us shape our own university.

Thank you, goodbye.



Petra Meier 59:54

Thanks, Phil. Bye.

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