GCRF Small Grants Strengthening Partnerships Call

Briefing will start at 14:02 to allow late arrivals
Please add any questions to the chat and I will answer at the end

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What I’ll cover

• GCRF – a brief introduction
• Our strategy
• The call
• The application
• Tips and common mistakes
About GCRF

• 5-year £1.5Bn fund and a key component in the delivery of the UK Aid Strategy: tackling global challenges in the national interest.
  • challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research
  • strengthening capacity for research and innovation within both the UK and developing countries
  • providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need
UofG Strategy for Allocated GCRF

• Development and support for resilient, equitable and innovative research partnerships with the Global South
• Skills development
• Support for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) in the UK and the Global South
The Call

• Short-term, high impact initiatives that strengthen our existing partnerships and partners
• Infrastructure, training, equipment
• Not research-focused

Deadline: 09:00 on June 23, 2021
Submit to: GCRF@glasgow.ac.uk
Submit as a Word document
The Process

• GCID Coordination Group oversees the process
• A panel of 4 score each proposal
• The panels have 1 member from each College
• Applications are scored from 0 (not eligible for funding) to 10 (absolutely must fund) by each panel member, along with a justification
• Scores are checked for consistent differences in scoring, then collated and applications are ranked by mean score
• The Coordination Group meets and agrees the ranking
• Applications are funded in order of ranking until we run out of money
Some things to bear in mind

• Read the Highlight Notice. Twice.

• You must be working with partners we already have a signed (and active) collaboration agreement with

• You must be able to spend all funds by Nov 30, 2021
Some things to bear in mind

• It will take longer than you think to get agreements in place to send funds – be ready to facilitate this process

• The panels know about what it takes to do this kind of research

• There are no secret directions – provide all of the information requested
Some general considerations

• Listen to your partners’ needs
• Develop the proposals together
• Given careful consideration to the practicalities and logistics in the context of pandemic restrictions
• Demonstrate understanding of how your proposal fits into the local context
• Collaborate with humility and respect
Filling out the Application – Investigator Details

• Only 1 PI per application
• Provide ALL details requested for each investigator
Filling out the Application – Partner Eligibility

• Provide the full legal name of any partner institutions
• Evidence that the partner will be able to complete expenditure could include:
  • Identification of the contact who has facilitated signature of collaboration agreements in the past and who will do so for this award, along with an indication of how long it has taken to sign such agreements previously
  • An indication that advance payments will not be required or that such payment have been approved and actioned quickly in the past
  • Examples of how the partner has met tight time deadlines for expenditure and provided appropriate evidence thereof for other awards
Filling out the Application – Summary of Challenge and Proposed Activities

• Describe the challenge
• Describe the proposed activities
• Highlight the importance of the partner and how this proposal will strengthen our partnership with them/strengthen their own resilience
• This is where you show
  • What you’re actually doing
Filling out the Application – ODA Compliance

• What country or countries are the focus of your activity
• What communities are impacted by the gap you will be addressing?
• How can you improve things through your proposal?
• This is where you show
  • You understand the context
  • You are pragmatic about your ability to drive change
Filling out the Application – Timeline & Risk Mitigation

• What is your timeline
• What risks exist?
• How can you minimize risks?
• This is where you show:
  • You are realistic
  • You are informed
  • You can adapt
  • Feasibility
Filling out the Application – Outputs and Outcomes

• What are the specific deliverables and changes that will occur as a result of your activity?
• How will you measure them?
• This is where you show:
  • The strength of your evaluation plan
  • That you have thought about the measurable elements of change
  • That you can prove you did something
Filling out the Application – Capacity Strengthening

• Demonstrate the link between your activity and increased resiliency of your partner or the partnership with UofG?
• How will infrastructure be maintained/utilized after the end of the project?
• How you will measure this?
• This is where you show:
  • That you and your partners are thinking broadly about what capacity is needed
  • That the capacity developed is sustainable and can be measured
Filling out the Application – Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

• How are you ensuring EDI in your team?
• How are you ensuring EDI in the participants of any activity?
• How will the changes brought on by your activity impact EDI in local communities and organizations?

• This is where you show:
  • Awareness of structural inequalities
  • Knowledge of local contexts
Filling out the Application – Budget

• No DA costs allowed – for ANY partner
• We do not expect to fund DI staff costs at UofG
• Review ineligible cost list in the Highlight Notice
• This is where you show:
  • Value for money
  • Feasibility
  • That you understand all the elements required to deliver your activity
Filling out the Application – Justification of Resources

• Please do not list the information provided in your budget
• Justify why the costs are necessary (e.g. a high shipping cost may be required because of temperature control or installation costs are high because of the PPE now required for COVID-19)
• This is where you show:
  • Value for money
  • That the budget is built around what is needed rather than how you can spend £50,000
Don’t Forget

• You will need a collaboration agreement with any partner you wish to send funds to – make sure they know this in advance

• Advance payments will take time and effort on the part of you and your partners – identify this as a need early and have a contingency plan if they are not approved

• Stay within the word limits
Common Mistakes

• Over ambitious
• Not challenge driven
• Failure to provide the requested information
• Assuming the impact/value/importance of the work is already well understood outside your discipline
• Not eligible
Tips for Success

• Consider the panel – interdisciplinary
• Consider the challenges and be realistic – time is not your friend
• Build your budget around what the project needs, not how to spend the maximum amount
• Be open with your partners about what you both want from your project and how you will achieve it – it’s not just about a successful application, we want successful collaborations
• Remember – the panel doesn’t know what I know or what you know
COVID-19

- Things will not be “normal” in the foreseeable future
- Focus on your project plan, risks and mitigation, capacity requirements, technological needs and do not assume anything
Reporting

• Outcomes and Impact (against your planned outcomes/impact)
• Partner Organizations
• Project Summary
• Sustainability (what is coming next)
• Deviation from spend
• ODA Compliance
Ask for Help

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