



SFC Announcement

Official Development Assistance research allocations for 2017-18: Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

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Summary: Announcement of Official Development Assistance Global Challenges Research Fund allocations for FY 2017-18

FAO: Principals and directors of Scotland's universities

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Official Development Assistance research allocations for 2017-18: Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

Background

1. The Scottish Funding Council's strategy for world-leading research includes an ambition to increase the global reputation and standing of our universities, and international connections and collaborations.
2. The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) is allocating £4,012,495 to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) in Financial Year (FY) 2017-18. The Newton Fund allocation will be announced later in the year.
3. The GCRF was announced by the UK Government in 'The Allocation of Science and Research Funding 2016-17 to 2019-20'. The GCRF is a £1.5 billion fund which, over these five years¹, will support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries through:
 - 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.

Allocation and payment of funds

4. DBEIS has allocated £4,012,495 of GCRF Funds to SFC in FY 2017-18. SFC has allocated this funding to universities based on their proportionate share of the Research Excellence Grant (REG) elements REG(A) [based on REF results] and REG(B) [other research income, excluding income from charities]. The allocation of funds to individual universities is outlined in Annex A.
5. SFC will pay these funds to universities in September 2017. Funding for future years will be confirmed in due course.

Conditions of grant

6. Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) grants made by the UK funding bodies are provided for the purposes of supporting cutting edge research that promotes the economic development and well-being of countries on the

¹ This period is indicative only

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list. The funding bodies expect that acceptable use of funds would include supporting:

- Meeting the Full Economic Cost (FEC) of GCRF grants made by the Research Councils.
 - Capacity and capability building in the UK and developing countries.
 - Challenge-led interdisciplinary and collaborative research activity.
 - Pump-priming activities to under-pin GCRF bids to other funders, including relationship building.
 - Generating impact from research both within and beyond the sector.
 - Rapid response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.
7. Activity should align with the GCRF Strategy and BEIS ODA Statement of Intent which were published at the end of June 2017:
- [UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund \(GCRF\)](#)
 - [Research & Innovation: Official Development Assistance \(ODA\) Statement of Intent](#)
8. For further guidance, and information on eligible partner countries, please consult the respective [GCRF](#) sections on the Research Councils UK or UK Government websites.
9. Plans for the use of this funding should be underpinned by a strong commitment to inclusion, equality and diversity. Universities should commit this funding to eligible activity by March 2018 (SFC may request the return of any uncommitted funds) and will be required to report on the use of this funding by July 2018.
10. If you wish to accept this offer of grant, you should respond to Nick Dixon, Budgeting and Reporting Officer, email: ndixon@sfc.ac.uk, tel: 0131 313 6677 by **Friday 8 September 2017**.

Further information

11. Please contact David Beards, Senior Policy Officer Research and Innovation, tel: 0131 313 6520, email: dbeards@sfc.ac.uk, or Caroline Leburn, Funding Policy Officer, tel: 0131 313 6627, email: cleburn@sfc.ac.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kemp', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Kemp
Interim Chief Executive