

# Royal Society Challenge Grants Scheme Notes

## 1 Overview

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing or Low and Middle Income countries (LMICs). The Fund forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). ODA funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the [OECD Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#) list and is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective. All applications under this programme must therefore be compliant with these [guidelines](#).

Science, technology and innovation have long been linked to economic prosperity and societal well-being and today are seen as especially crucial for the health and wealth of developing nations. The UK science base can make a significant contribution to addressing these global challenges and the GCRF offers a real opportunity to make significant progress in many areas of science that will benefit developing countries.

As part of the GCRF, the Royal Society has launched the Royal Society Challenge Grants, open to research fellows currently supported by the Royal Society to enable them to work on a global challenge theme.

## 2 Objectives

The Royal Society Challenge Grants are an exciting opportunity for the exceptional scientists supported by the Society through its Dorothy Hodgkin, University Research, Sir Henry Dale and Industry Fellowships, Wolfson Research Merit Award holders and Research Professorships to work on global challenges and problems facing developing countries.

The objectives of these awards are to enable some of our best researchers to:

- Develop new areas of research that will address global challenges directly and primarily relevant to developing countries
- Employ interdisciplinary approaches to address some of the complex research questions posed by global development problems.
- Develop collaborations with the best overseas researchers around the world to encourage new alliances to be brought together.

The scheme is **not intended** to supplement existing grants.

The proposed research must fall within the remit of the Royal Society (the natural sciences including engineering). The Royal Society does not cover social sciences or clinical medical research.

### 3 Awards

Duration: **12 months** (requests for no-cost extensions will be considered)

Value: **Up to £100K** and will be dependent on case for support.

The grant can be used flexibly on activities directly relevant to the proposed research. Requests can include:

- Consumables (incl. fieldwork)
- Travel and subsistence for the applicant and/or members of their team, and if applicable the collaborating team in the DAC list country
- Small pieces of equipment (no more than £10K)
- Research Assistant Salary (or contribution) in the UK

**NOTE: Research staff costs will be paid at 80% of the full economic cost, all other costs will be paid at 100%.**

**Costs not supported:** PhD studentships; animal breeding, housing and maintenance; day to day travel expenses; internal (within your host organisations) facility access charges; renovation and refurbishment costs; premises costs; and costs of protection of intellectual property.

All projects must be commenced by **4 December 2017**.

### 4 Eligibility: Who can apply?

- This scheme is open to Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin, University Research, Sir Henry Dale and Industry Fellows, Wolfson Merit Research Award holders and Research Professors.
- Researchers must be supported by the Society during the grant. Instances where the RS fellowship will end during the grant the applicant must have secured an academic position or fixed term position for the remaining duration of the award
- Proposals must address research questions or projects relevant to Global Challenge areas as highlighted below, and be directly and primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries. Please note the grant cannot be used to fund pure dissemination projects.
- All research applications under the Global Challenge Research Fund must comply with eligibility requirements for Official Development Assistance for funding from the Global Challenge Research Fund details of which can be found within these [guidelines](#)
- Collaborations with researchers in a country on the OECD DAC list are strongly encouraged; if this is not the case, applicants must demonstrate in the proposal how they will interact strongly

with and benefit the DAC country/countries in question. DAC list countries can be found at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>

Applications are welcome from individuals conducting research in scientific fields that are not traditionally associated with global challenges. In particular, we welcome applications that will employ interdisciplinary approaches to address key research problems relevant to these challenges.

## **Global Challenge Areas**

Proposals should address the GCRF research agenda for enabling change focusing on one or more of the following areas:

### **Equitable Access to Sustainable Development**

1. secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable marine resources and agriculture
2. sustainable health and well being
3. inclusive and equitable quality education
4. clean air, water and sanitation
5. affordable, reliable, sustainable energy

### **Sustainable Economies and Societies**

6. sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
7. resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change
8. sustainable cities and communities
9. sustainable production and consumption of materials and other resources

### **Human Rights, Good Governance and Social Justice**

10. understand and respond effectively to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises
11. reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action
12. reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities.

## **5 Timings and Assessment Criteria**

**Closing date: 14 July 2017 15:00 UK time**

The primary considerations will be:

- how the proposed research will address the global challenge(s) directly and primarily relevant to developing countries
- the quality and originality of the proposed research
- whether the research aims are achievable and the likelihood of success
- the potential of the proposed research to lead to further research beyond the end of the grant, especially in relation to problems relevant to developing countries
- the track record of the applicant

## 6 Application Guidance Notes

### Using Flexi-Grant®

Applications can only be submitted online using the Royal Society's Grants and Awards management system (Flexi-Grant®) via <https://grants.royalsociety.org>. Further information about the Grants and Awards Management system can be found via <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/flexi-grant/>. If you have not previously used Flexi-Grant®, please follow the registration process from the Flexi-Grant®, homepage. **Paper-based applications will not be accepted.**

Before completing the online form, all applicants should check that they comply with the eligibility requirements and ensure all necessary information is presented in the application. These requirements are strictly adhered to and applications without all the necessary information, or evidence to show the assessment criteria are met, will be rejected.

**All applications must be approved by the Host Organisation and the applicant's departmental support must be completed before you can submit via Flexi-Grant®. Late applications will not be accepted.**

**ORCID identifier:** All applicants applying to the Royal Society will be required to submit an ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) identifier before their application will be accepted for submission. ORCID maintains a registry of unique researcher identifiers and a transparent method of linking research funding, research publications, research data and any other research outputs to these unique identifiers. This is a mandatory requirement at the application submission stage only. You can register for an ORCID identifier via <https://orcid.org/register>.

**Adding Participants:** All applications must be commenced by the UK lead applicant. To invite a participant (i.e. Head of Department) to your application the participant will need to be registered on Flexi-Grant®. You will need to ensure you have their registered email address to invite the participant on the participant tab.

### Completing the application form

The application can be completed by using the navigation tabs on the application summary page, with each page categorised as follows:

- Summary
- Eligibility Criteria
- Applicant Personal Details
- Applicant Career Summary
- Research Proposal
- ODA Compliance
- Use of Animals in Research
- Financial Details
- Applicant Declaration
- Head of Department Support

A full list of question fields to be completed as part of the application can be found in the following pages.

In the following table each box represents a page of the application form; the left-hand column contains the questions within each of these pages as set out in the form; the right-hand column contains useful guidance on its completion.

**Note that questions with \* are mandatory fields.**

**Please read these guidance notes carefully as you complete the form.**

<b>Summary</b>	
Summary table	<p>The summary page of the application form provides instructions for submission of your application for approval from the Host Organisation. In addition you are provided with an overview for each section of your application form, the approximate length of time it will take to complete each section.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> you will only be able to submit your application for approval by the UK Host Organisation once all sections of the form have been completed, which includes statement of support from the Head of Department.</p>

<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	
Eligibility Criteria *	Confirm that you meet the eligibility criteria. Details of the eligibility criteria can be found on pages 2-3.

<b>Applicant Personal Details</b>	
Title, Names, address, organisation and country *	Review and complete your <b>personal details</b> accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in processing your application. Address: must be the organisation address at which you are based.
Email address *	This field defaults to the account in which the application has commenced, and is where all correspondence pertaining to the application throughout the application process, and in the event of the application being successful, will be sent. The applicant must therefore commence the application using the login email address used to register a user account on Flexi-Grant®.

<b>Applicant Career Summary</b>	
Academic Qualifications & Career History *	<p>List all your qualifications and career history in reverse chronological order. The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence for your academic merit as possible.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> if you have an existing ORCID identifier, you can retrieve your qualifications and career history information from your profile to complete this section of the application form.</p>

List your key and/or relevant publications *	Provide details of authors, titles and references for up to ten of your best publications in refereed journals, in reverse chronological order. You should choose not only the best but also those most relevant to the application to support your case.  <b>Note:</b> if you have an existing ORCID identifier, you can retrieve your key publications from your profile to complete this section of the application form.
Field of Specialisation *	Enter details of your field(s) of specialisation. (20 words max.)
Subject Group/Area *	Select the subject group/area(s) that most closely reflects your area of research from the drop-down menu and tick box options.
Summary of Your Current Research *	Provide an outline summary of your current research. Please also include a brief comment on the strength of your organisations. (200 words max.)
Title of Current Position *	State the title of your current position. (20 words max.)
Current Employer *	Enter the official organisation name of your current employer.
Current Department*	Enter details of your current department name (e.g. Department of Astrophysics).
Contract Type*	Select contract type from drop-down menu.
Current Position Start Date *	Enter the date when your current position started.
Current Position end Date *	Please enter the date when your current position is expected to finish. If you are on a permanent contract please enter 31 December 2050.

<b>Research Proposal</b>	
Project Title *	Give the full title of your proposed project. (20 words max)
Start Date *	Enter start date, which must be no later than 4 December 2017. Use dd/mm/yyyy format
End Date *	Enter end date, which must be 12 months from start date. Use dd/mm/yyyy format
Subject Group/Area *	Select the subject group/area(s) that most closely defines the research area of the research proposal from the drop-down menu and tick box options. This will enable us to allocate the application to the most appropriate assessment panel.
Multidisciplinary proposal *	Please indicate whether your proposal covers more than one of the following subject groups: physical sciences; biological sciences; humanities or social science. If so, please indicate which subject groups it covers, e.g. 'My proposal covers biological sciences and social science.' Please enter N/A if your proposal falls within one subject group only.
Global Challenge Areas *	Select one or more Global Challenge Areas that your research proposal will address
Lay Summary *	Please provide a lay summary of your proposed project. This should be understandable by a layperson. Explain why you have chosen to work in this subject area and what it is about your proposed research that you find particularly exciting,

	<p>interesting or important. Please also explain the potential impact or wider benefits to society of your research. (250 words max.)</p> <p>Please explain the potential impact of your research on addressing the global challenges facing developing countries avoiding specialist terminology.</p>
<p>Research Proposal * (Upload only)</p>	<p>Please upload a PDF file entitled “Research Proposal” ensuring that the document is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no more than 3MB</li> <li>unlocked/no password protected</li> <li>3 pages maximum (Ariel Font, size 10) including any figures</li> <li>addresses each of the points below:</li> </ol> <p>1. a general description of the proposed research to be carried out. This should include, but is not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description of the nature of the proposed research. This should include a summary of the aims &amp; objectives, timescales of the research and how it meets the objectives of the scheme.</li> <li>Description of the methodology to be used.</li> <li>Details of the research programme describing the activities that will take place, where, and how they will contribute to the achievement of the research objectives.</li> <li>Details of visits between research groups (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p>The inclusion of citations is not mandatory, but if included would need to be within the maximum character limit.</p> <p>2. an indicate what results you expect from the research and collaboration, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential scientific impact and outputs – significance of key advances, potential impact on other research and on addressing problems relevant to developing countries.</li> <li>Potential long-term outcomes such as further/additional research funding from other sources, future development beyond the lifetime of the project and provision of training and career progression of research staff</li> </ul>
<p>Collaborations*</p>	<p>Please provide details of any collaborative arrangements that currently exist to support the proposed research, including the names of your collaborators (200 words max).</p> <p>Collaborations with researchers in a country on the OECD DAC list are strongly encouraged; if this is not the case, applicants must demonstrate in the proposal how they will interact strongly with and benefit the DAC country/countries in question.</p>

<p><b>Data Management and Data Sharing</b></p>
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The Society supports science as an open enterprise, and is committed to ensuring that data outputs from research supported by the Society are made publically available in a managed and responsible manner, with as few restrictions as possible. Data outputs should be deposited in an appropriate, recognised, publically available repository, so that others can verify and build upon the data, which is of public interest.

The Society does not dictate a set format for data management and sharing plans. Where they are required, applicants should structure their plan in a manner most appropriate to the proposed research. The information submitted in plans should focus specifically on how the data outputs will be managed and shared, detailing the repositories where data will be deposited. In considering your approach for data management and sharing, applicants should consider the following:

- What data outputs will be generated by the research that are of value to the public?
- Where and when will you make the data available?
- How will others be able to access the data?
- If the data is of high public interest, how will it be made accessible not only for those in the same or linked field, but also to a wider public audience?
- Specify whether any limits will be placed on the data to be shared, for example, for the purposes of safeguarding commercial interests, personal information, safety or security of the data.
- How will datasets be preserved to ensure they are of long-term benefit?

Outline of data management and data sharing plan*	If the proposed research will generate data that is of significant value to the research community, then please provide details of your data management and sharing plan. (200 words max.)
Overseas Field Research *	Will you be conducting field research overseas?
Overseas Field Research <b>(Upload only)</b>	<p>Please upload documents related to the following (if applicable):</p> <p>1. Permission</p> <p>Any mandatory documents that show local support has been assured by way of permission from the government concerned to travel to and work in the country.</p> <p>2. Collection of specimens</p> <p>Any mandatory documents that show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific permission has been obtained from the host country to collect and to export specimens and material.</li> <li>• The director of the museum or other decision makers where these specimens will be deposited has indicated his/her desire or willingness to have such specimens and material</li> </ul>



<b>ODA Compliance</b>	
As this funding call is being supported as part of the GCRF all applications must include a statement demonstrating how they are ODA compliant and will promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries as the primary objective. Further information on ODA compliance under the GCRF is available <a href="#">here</a> .	
Which country/countries on the <a href="#">DAC list</a> will directly benefit from this proposal? *	Tick the relevant country/countries
How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development problems of these countries? *	Please provide a statement. (200 words max)
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? *	Please provide a statement. (300 words max)

<b>Use of Animals in Research</b>	
<p>The Royal Society is committed to supporting the development of alternative methods to reduce and/or replace the use of animals in research. Applicants proposing to use animals in their research must ensure that the use of animals falls within the regulations stipulated in the Animals (Scientific Procedures Act) 1986 and subsequent amendments. Additionally, applicants should continually be aware of developments in best practice, and adopt the principles of the 3Rs (<a href="https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs">https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs</a>) when designing and conducting experiments on animals.</p> <p>As a funder of research, the Society takes its responsibilities towards the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures Act) 1986 seriously, and requires applicants to consider the questions below when preparing grant applications that include the use of animals.</p>	
Does your proposal involve the use of animals or animal tissue? *	Select 'Yes' or 'No'. If you have selected 'Yes' it is mandatory to complete all of the relevant questions on the Use of Animals in Research page.

<b>Financial Details</b>	
Budget Table *	<p><b>Maximum Grant</b> – applicants can request up to £100,000 over the duration of the award for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consumables (incl. fieldwork)</li> <li>• Travel and subsistence for the applicant and/or members of their team, and if applicable the collaborating team in the DAC list country</li> <li>• Small equipment up to £10K</li> <li>• Research Assistant Salary in the UK (including overheads) @ 80%</li> </ul> <p>Please note that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A small sum may be paid for essential local labour in the overseas location (fieldwork) and is to be included under consumables</li> <li>2) The amount requested for equipment must not exceed £10k</li> <li>3) Please enter 80% of the UK Research Assistant Salary cost (including overheads)</li> <li>4) The total amount requested for the duration of the award should not exceed £100,000</li> </ol>
Justification *	<p>Fully justify your request for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consumables (incl. fieldwork)</li> <li>• Travel</li> <li>• Equipment (up to £10K)</li> <li>• Salary (80% of FEC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Costs not supported:</b> PhD studentships; animal breeding, housing and maintenance; day to day travel expenses; internal (within your host organisations) facility access charges; renovation and refurbishment costs; premises costs; and costs of protection of intellectual property.</p>

<b>Applicant Declaration</b>
<p>Please declare that:</p> <p>You have read the Terms and Conditions of Award under which Royal Society grants are awarded and, if a grant offer is made, you agree to abide by them.</p> <p>You have access to the necessary facilities to enable you to deliver the research proposed, and will continue to have access to the facilities for the duration of the project.</p> <p>You have agreed with your Head of Department that you will be afforded sufficient time and resources to deliver the research project as described in this application.</p>

### Head of Departmental Support

Confirmation of support of the project/collaboration is required by the head of department. The applicant must invite the head of department to participate in the completion of the application form before it can be submitted for approval.

Please check which email address the Head of Department would like you to use as they may already be registered with a user account on Flexi-Grant®. It is **important** that you enter the correct email address when inviting the Head of Department to support your application, as an email will be sent automatically from Flexi-Grant® to these individuals with instructions for viewing your application and providing their support. Any mistakes in the email addresses supplied will delay the progress of your application.

It is the responsibility of the applicant(s) to:

- Inform the Head of Department of the deadline
- Liaise with the Head of Department to ensure that they have received their invitation with instructions to participate in completion of your application, as no provision is made for non-receipt of these automatic emails.
- Keep track of the progress of Head of Department completion status on your application summary page. You can issue a **reminder** email to the Head of Department through the participants tab on your application summary page.

If the instruction email from the Royal Society has not been received please:

- a) double check the accuracy of the email address supplied on the application form
- b) advise the intended recipient to check their spam filters/junk folders
- c) contact the Royal Society with an alternative email address for the recipient

The Royal Society will not be held responsible for automated emails that are not received due to address errors or spam filters.

## 7 Enquiries

If you have any enquiries about the submission of your application or about the e-GAP2 process, please contact the Grants Team, The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG or email: [ChallengeGrants@royalsociety.org](mailto:ChallengeGrants@royalsociety.org)

## Appendix 1: Application Submission Process Flow Diagram

