UKRI GCRF Global Impact Accelerator Accounts 2018

Call Document

Background

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will be awarding up to 25 Global Impact Accelerator Accounts (GIAAs). These will be awarded from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government in late 2015 to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries. Research Organisations in receipt of substantial GCRF portfolios consisting of 10 or more UKRI GCRF projects, have been invited to apply (see Annex 1 for list of 25 eligible institutions). All awarded GIAAs will have a fixed start date of 1st October 2018 and duration of up to 6 months. GIAA funding must be spent within the 2018/2019 financial year and no extensions will be granted.

UKRI is committed to enabling and supporting the achievement of the widest benefit to society and economy from the excellent research and capabilities in which we invest. The GCRF GIAAs will build on existing UKRI mechanisms, allowing institutions to act strategically in support of impact from Official Development Assistance (ODA) research. The aims of the GIAAs are to support knowledge exchange, commercialisation and capacity building in order to enable innovation and impact in an international development context (including activities with DAC listed countries).

Scope

Twenty-five organisations have been identified as being eligible for GIAAs as they have been identified as having ten or more GCRF projects and, therefore, have the largest potential to increase the number and breadth of impacts across the portfolio. These twenty-five organisations represent;

- 19% of the organisations with a GCRF portfolio
- 65% of the projects awarded to date
- 64% of the total award value to date.

Recognising that the pathway to impact takes time and often extends beyond the lifetime of an individual project, these awards provide flexible funding to enable institutions to generate a wide range of outputs, outcomes and impacts from previous and existing GCRF, as well as other UKRI ODA investments. This will contribute to UKRI investments reaching their full potential and allow UKRI and Research Organisations to develop strong narratives linking investments to tangible impact.

GCRF GIAAs are expected to build upon existing UKRI funding, delivering and accelerating interdisciplinary impacts in developing countries. Eligible organisations are expected to draw on their existing GCRF portfolio and other UKRI ODA funding, such as the Newton Fund. Where appropriate, organisations are also encouraged to build on research which does not currently have an ODA focus, yet has potential to deliver impact within developing countries. This will allow organisations to broaden existing ODA portfolios and develop development impact from previous non-ODA funding.

Key Areas
Funding will be used flexibly and rapidly to support the following common Research Council IAA key areas:

- strengthening user engagement
- strengthening the exchange of knowledge through culture change and capability development, including through the development of skills for knowledge exchange activity
- supporting new, innovative and imaginative approaches to knowledge exchange and impact
- supporting activities that enable impact to be achieved in an effective and timely manner
- supporting knowledge exchange – including at early stages of progressing research outputs and outcomes to the point when they can be supported by other funding

In addition to these common UKRI key areas, GCRF GIAAs will also support the following:

- Generate knowledge and good practice with researchers and user communities in DAC list countries to understand research and innovation needs and realise their own impacts
- Enhance impacts from existing UKRI ODA investments and enable ROs to align current research activities towards ODA aims
- Boosting impacts within lower income countries
- Encouraging development impacts with an interdisciplinary dimension.

**Funding**

The funding available for eligible organisations has been calculated using an algorithm which takes into account the size of the Research Organisation’s GCRF portfolio in terms of the number of projects and total funding amount. All GIAAs will be between £150,000 and £300,000 (80% fEC).

Note, depending on total amount of funding available, funding per project may be increased or decreased by up to 20%. Therefore, Business Plans will need to demonstrate how they are able to scale their planned activities to prepare for this eventuality.

**Use of Funds**

The GCRF GIAAs are awarded to offer flexible support, enabling institutions to operate tailored schemes to facilitate the realisation of impact from GCRF funded research across disciplines. The awards are intended to add value to existing UKRI ODA funding and take advantage of unforeseen opportunities. Activities that may be supported through GIAAs include:

- Activities to engage or work with academic and non-academic partners, such as; secondments or people exchange with researchers in lower middle income countries, etc.
- Activities to disseminate research and outputs, such as; conferences, media consultancy, production of websites, engagement with other lower middle income countries, etc.
- Activities to engage with broader audiences outside of existing collaborating countries and/or institutions, such as; involvement of other DAC list country researchers, applying research findings to lower middle income countries, regional meetings, etc.
- Activities to engage broader audiences outside of academia, such as; consultation with local NGOs/charities/business, demonstrations of research outputs, academia-industry/community appointments, etc.

- Activities to change attitudes, awareness or understanding, such as; sustained engagement with local communities or groups, provision of publically-available online information and resources, etc.

- Activities to change policy or guidelines, such as; contribution to curriculum design, engagement with local governments or policy stakeholders, etc.

GCRF GIAA funding is intended to be complementary to past and existing GCRF funding including quality-related (QR) funding, any follow on funding or if the institution holds or has previously held GCRF IAA funding. GIAAs are intended to provide support across the organisations GCRF portfolio and are not intended to support singular projects or duplicate funded activities. Funding awarded through GCRF GIAAs can also be used to contribute to the reasonable administration costs of the GIAA, as well as researcher time on projects.

How to apply

Eligible organisations will be required to submit a GCRF GIAA Business Plan, referring to the Call Specification. Business Plans may be up to 6 A4 sides in a minimum font size of 11. Business Plans must provide information under the following headings:

- **Organisations GCRF strategic aims and objectives**
  - Overview of the organisations GCRF strategic aims and objectives
  - How will the organisation build on existing GCRF (and other UKRI ODA/potential ODA investments, referencing specific projects where appropriate?
  - How will the GIAA enhance this strategy?
  - How will the GIAA complement any existing GCRF funding being received by the organisation?

- **Planned approaches and activities**
  - Description of planned approaches and activities of the GIAA
  - How will the planned approaches and activities deliver the aims and objectives of the GIAA?

- **Anticipated outputs, outcomes and associated measures of success**
  - Description of anticipated outputs and outcomes
  - How will ambitious but realistic targets be set and achieved?
  - What approach will be taken to track and demonstrate success?

- **Leadership, management, governance and assurance**
  - Description of leadership, management, governance structures and processes
  - Processes described must provide assurance to UKRI in relation to the necessary transparency, traceability and attribution of GIAA funds

- **ODA compliance**
  - Description of how the planned activities of the GIAA will be ODA compliant
  - How will the organisation ensure ODA compliance throughout the award?

- **Financial information**
  - Must include an indicative funding breakdown, outlining planned resources to deliver key activities and objectives as identified elsewhere in the Business Plan
  - Envisaged spend over each quarter
How will the organisation be able to scale up or down the activities?

*(Please note that under the nature of IAAs, the funding is intended and expected to be flexible which will be taken into account during assessment)*

Business Plans must be emailed to GCRF@rcuk.ac.uk by **16:00 on Monday 24th September 2018**. Business Plans received after this deadline will not be considered or processed. At this stage, a Je-S submission is not necessary.

**Assessment**

GIAAs Business Plans will be scrutinised by UKRI and assessed on to what extent the following criteria is met:

- the GIAA will contribute to the organisations existing GCRF strategic aims and objectives
- the planned approaches and activities are likely to accelerate development impact
- the Business Plan has clear and achievable targets and success measures
- the planned leadership, management, governance and assurance methods and processes are appropriate, ensure accountability and transparency, and enables working across international research organisations, disciplines and with external stakeholders
- the GIAA will deliver ODA compliant activities
- the use of funding represents value for money

UKRI will feedback any concerns or issues raised after assessment process, which will require response and amendment from applicants. Formal commitment from UKRI to fund this award, if successful, will follow in the form of a grant offer letter. The grant start date will be the 1st October 2018.

**Reporting**

If successful, a Final Expenditure Statement (FES) will be required, to be submitted through Je-S according to standard procedure. As the awards finish on 31st March 2018, the deadline for receipt of the FES will be 30th June 2018. A final narrative report will also be required by June 2018; further details will be provided nearer the time.

**Timetable**

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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24th September</td>
<td>Business Plans submitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st October 18</td>
<td>Awards start</td>
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<tr>
<td>31st March 19</td>
<td>Awards end</td>
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<tr>
<td>By end June 19</td>
<td>Final expenditure statement</td>
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<td>By end June 19</td>
<td>End of funding report</td>
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**Contact**

For any queries, please contact gcrf@rcuk.ac.uk or telephone 01793 4444265 / 01793 444014.
Annex 1

Durham University
Imperial College London
King's College London
Lancaster University
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
London Sch of Hygiene and Trop Medicine
London School of Economics & Pol Sci
Queen's University of Belfast
The University of Manchester
University College London
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
University of Reading
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University of York

GCRF funding data is available on request