

## **GCRF Challenge Clusters Call for Proposals**

### **1. Summary**

UKRI invites applications for Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Challenge Clusters. These ambitious grants seek to harness the power of disciplinary and interdisciplinary research to address global challenges and deliver sustainable development impact. The applications are intended to be research community driven, requiring GCRF grant holders to identify new Challenges which could be addressed through clustering of current or previously funded GCRF projects whilst also leveraging external expertise to accelerate impact, share knowledge and build capability and capacity beyond GCRF.

This is a two-stage call which will provide seed funding for around 20 initial projects over an initial 12 months of up to £150k each. The first stage projects will be evaluated and in the second stage £1m - £2m funding will be made available for 6 to 8 projects over the subsequent three years. Challenge Clusters should bring together current and/or former GCRF projects, along with associated partners from non-government organisations, industry, charity, civil society and other policy makers who have agreed to collaborate to accelerate impact against a specific global challenge. Clusters are encouraged to bring together other development projects funded by either UK or International organisations to leverage knowledge and deliver new synthesis of research findings.

Proposed activities must be additional to the currently funded activities undertaken by GCRF projects. The types of activities in Challenge Clusters could include synthesis of research findings to support the use of evidence in decision-making, co-creating new insights, or the application of best practice. Research synthesis could also be used to assist in developing future research agendas and proposals in stage two could include research activity resulting from this synthesis. There is an expectation that research activity would be co-developed by the cluster to achieve specific impact against the identified challenge. Proposals could also include activities related to sharing and dissemination of research resources. Proposals should foster knowledge exchange and provide an environment supportive for early career researchers. Proposals should be bold and inspirational, crossing disciplinary and sectoral boundaries while addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. The research and innovation described should be ambitious but realistic, setting a clear, targeted, measurable and time-bound pathways to impact. The identified

challenge may align with or across current GCRF Challenge Portfolios, although Clusters are not limited to these GCRF portfolio areas. Applications are expected to set out a strong narrative underpinned by evidence which demonstrates why the identified challenge needs cluster funding and how a coherent crossdisciplinary, cross-sectoral and multi-agency approach can achieve the stated aims and objectives.

## 2. Background to the GCRF

The [Global Challenges Research Fund \(GCRF\)](#) is a 5-year £1.5Bn fund and a key component in the delivery of the [UK Aid Strategy](#): tackling global challenges in the national interest. The fund aims to ensure that UK research takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries through:

- 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.

Further information about the GCRF and details of other current GCRF calls is available on our website (<https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/>).

The Collective Programme under the UKRI GCRF Collective Fund is a series of calls, including this call, designed to enhance the coherence, strategic focus and overall impact across six strategic GCRF Challenge portfolios:

- Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure
- Education
- Food Systems
- Global Health
- Resilience to Environmental Shocks and Change
- Security, Protracted Conflict, Refugee Crises and Forced Displacement

The programme is being delivered by UK Research and Innovation and steered by the [GCRF Challenge Leaders](#). Where proposals fall within one of the six Challenge Portfolio remits of GCRF Challenge Leaders, applicants are advised to engage with the Challenge Leaders for strategic advice on clustering projects.

## 3. The Aims of Challenge Clusters

There are over 800 GCRF projects funded to date. Each project alone cannot address seemingly intractable global challenges, but by bringing together clusters of GCRF and other official development assistance (ODA) oriented research projects from across the necessary range of

academic disciplines alongside other relevant stakeholders such as NGOs, CSO, government or industry, they could achieve much greater impact.

While Challenge Clusters can address challenges already funded by any GCRF programme applicants must demonstrate how the proposed activities are additional to those currently funded activities being undertaken by other GCRF projects.

Challenge Clusters will fund research community driven projects addressing challenges relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The strategic aims of the GCRF Challenge Cluster call are to:

- Stimulate and support the coherent clustering of GCRF and non-GCRF projects and actors to achieve greater impact
- Address development challenges within, between and beyond the GCRF challenge portfolios
- Identify research gaps which are barriers to achieving impact against challenges
- Develop and strengthen equitable international academic, policy and industrial partnerships and continue to build capacity in the development landscape both in low and middle income countries and in the UK.

In the first stage proposals should outline a programme which includes synthesis of research findings and develops new insights to support the use of evidence in decision-making or the application of best practice. These initial synthesis and insights are expected to be used to assist in developing the research agendas and programmes of research activities to be undertaken in the second stage of the application.

It is expected that clusters will be managed by a professional appointed to undertake this specific role. Applicants are invited to submit full bids by 24th September 2019. Successful applications will start in April 2020.

#### **4. Assessment criteria**

The following aspects of the proposal will be assessed at both stages, with greater emphasis placed on the processes and milestones to delivering impact in the second stage review:

##### **1.Excellence**

- a) Credibility of the challenge identified, including the interdisciplinary and crosssectoral considerations;
- b) Potential of the identified projects and partners to leverage research findings to address the identified challenge
- c) Clarity and pertinence of the objectives for the proposed research;
- d) Extent that the proposed programme is ambitious and has clear innovation potential.

## **2. Impact**

- a) Extent to which it is challenge-led and impact-focussed, generating excellent and novel research and translating this into measurable real-world outcomes;
- b) Clarity of vision and integrated plan for the translation of the proposed research into measurable international development impact;
- c) Potential to deliver impact and/or scalable solutions at the local, national and/or international level;
- d) Developing a sustainable programme that has a legacy beyond the initial investment, with potential to leverage further support from development agencies, as well as financial or in-kind contributions including from ROs and the private sector.

## **3. Implementation**

- a) Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, resources and budget;
- b) Competence and complementarity of the participants within the cluster of projects;
- c) Adequate participation of the relevant policy making bodies, NGOs, ROs, industry, business, and research institutes;
- d) Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management.

In order to meet these criteria the minimum expectations of the proposals are that they should:

- Explain the challenge which the challenge cluster would seek to tackle and provide a description of the process that was undertaken to identify and form the cluster to address the specific challenge identified.
- Describe the constituent parts of the cluster/group (GCRF or other ODA oriented programmes, projects, and/or other pertinent organisations and activities).
- Describe how bringing the above together into a challenge oriented and coherent whole can lead to more impactful outcomes. How do the members complement one another? In what way does each of them contribute to the project? How will they work effectively together?
- Detail the specific objectives for the programme, which should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable within the duration of the project. Objectives should be consistent with the expected impact of the project.
- Describe how the above objectives are different to previously funded ODA activities
- Describe how gender equality is taken into account in the project's content.

- Describe the extent to which the proposed work aspires to address the Challenge outlined. Your answer could refer to the ground-breaking nature of the objectives, concepts involved, issues and problems to be addressed, and approaches and methods to be used.
- Describe the innovation potential which the proposal represents. Where relevant, refer to products and services already available on the market.
- Describe the “baseline” of the challenge and programme, i.e. where the challenge starts and the “baseline data” against which the programme will measure its progress.
- A plan for the dissemination and implementation of the project's results. The plan, which should be proportionate to the scale of the project, should contain measures to be implemented both during and after the project. They should be tailored to the needs of various audiences, including groups beyond the project's own community. Where relevant, include measures for public/societal engagement on issues related to the project.
- For innovation, knowledge exchange and/or commercial activities describe a credible path to deliver these outputs to the intended community(s). Explain how the proposed deliverables will help to achieve the expected impact of the project. Include a description of any commercial involvement in the project to ensure translation of any pertinent research outcomes and explain why this is consistent with and will help to achieve the specific measures proposed.
- Outline the strategy for knowledge management and protection. Include measures to provide open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications which might result from the project.
- Provide a clear description of the structure of the work plan, timetable and the main tasks per partner (including deliverables, milestones and risk assessment).
- Provide an indicative breakdown of the budget per quarter and describe how you will ensure value for money in the delivery of this award.
- Justify the level and allocation of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment) demonstrating their appropriateness.

The research and innovation described should be ambitious but realistic, setting a clear, targeted, measurable and time-bound direction of travel. As this call is funded using the Global Challenges Research Fund, applicants should ensure that they have considered and address requirements on Official Development Assistance (ODA) guidance.

## **5. Research Ethics**

All GCRF projects must be underpinned by a strong research ethic based on mutual respect and understanding for different cultural, ethnic, social and economic beliefs and practices. Solutions

to any development challenge(s) must be rooted in, and acceptable to, the institutions, communities and societies where they will operate.

Ethical issues should be interpreted broadly and may encompass areas where regulation and approval processes exist as well as areas where they do not. Applicants must ensure that the proposed research will be carried out to a high ethical standard and must clearly state how any potential ethical and health and safety issues have been considered and will be addressed, ensuring that all necessary ethical approval is in place before the research commences and all risks are minimised.

The provisions of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 must be observed. All UKRI awards are made on the absolute condition that no work which is controlled by the Act will begin until the necessary licences have been obtained. All work supported by a UKRI award must comply with the principles described in “Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research: expectations of the major research council and charitable funding bodies”. When collaborating with other laboratories, or where animal facilities are provided by third parties, researchers and the local ethics committee in the UK should satisfy themselves that welfare standards are consistent with the principles of UK legislation. Research involving the use of genetic resources must be carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in the Nagoya Protocol. Any research undertaken outside the UK must have both UK and respective country ethical approvals.

## **6. Capacity Building**

An important aspect of GCRF is capacity development, and UKRI strongly encourages all proposals to this call to identify research capacity-building activities as part of, and not separate to, the stated research approach. While the focus of a clusters should be on the quality and impact of the research within the given challenge area, increasing capacity may contribute to this. Examples of building capacity include:

- opportunities for those with relevant skills who have not previously worked on development relevant research projects to orient their research towards global issues
- support and mentoring for more junior team members
- co-design of research and implementation with developing country partner staff
- please note that studentships are not eligible under this call.

## **7. Equitable Partnerships**

Partnerships are a key pillar of the GCRF strategy. UKRI developed the following statement of expectation for research partnerships in consultation with researchers from East Africa:

*Partnerships should be transparent and based on mutual respect. Partnerships should aim to have clearly articulated equitable distribution of resources, responsibilities, efforts and benefits.*

*Partnerships should recognise different inputs, different interests and different desired outcomes and should ensure the ethical sharing and use of data which is responsive to the identified needs of society.*

Further guidance on how to develop and maintain equitable research partnerships is available in KFPE's Guide for transboundary research partnerships '11 Principles and 7 questions'.

## 8. Funding

This is a two-stage call which will seed fund around 20 initial projects over 12 months for up to £150k each. In the second stage funding is available for the most highly rated 6 to 8 projects for which £1m - £2m is available for each project over three years. For UK based applicants the Research Councils will pay 80% of the fEC, with the research organisation (RO) contributing the other 20%. Overseas applicants from DAC-listed nations can apply for up to 100% fEC. As this call is funded using the Global Challenges Research Fund, applicants are required to submit an ODA compliance statement and should ensure that they have considered and address requirements on [Official Development Assistance \(ODA\) guidance](#).

### **Funding of international Investigators**

GCRF will fund 100% of the justified costs for international principal and co-investigators from countries on the DAC list. GCRF calls further permit the fully justified costs associated with international Investigators' contribution to the project to exceed 30% of the overall cost of the grant (at 100% fEC). No upper limit will be applied, though all costs will need to be fully justified. This applies to Investigators from countries on the DAC list and those from countries who are not on the DAC list (available here: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.html>). However, we strongly encourage international co-investigators from countries not on the DAC list to make a significant contribution to their own research costs. Please see FAQ document linked below for more information on non-UK non-DAC list organisation costs.

If a principal or co-investigator is from a country flagged as likely to graduate from the DAC list during the course of the project this should be treated as a country not on the DAC list.

The overhead rate for DAC list country Investigators is up to 20% of salaries and other staff-related costs (i.e. statutory contributions analogous to UK National Insurance or Superannuation contributions). Indirect costs may not be charged on non-staff related direct costs, e.g. equipment, consultancies and conferences as well as travel and subsistence.

Please note that only DAC list country Investigators are eligible for 20% of international salary related costs as overheads/indirect costs and that this does not apply to non-DAC list country Investigators.

Due diligence guidance for ROs can be found here: <https://www.ukri.org/files/funding/due-diligence-guidance-for-ukros-pdf/>

Further guidance is provided in the call-specific Je-S Guidance for Applicants.

## 9. ODA compliance

GCRF forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ([www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)). ODA-funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list. Funding within this call will therefore be awarded in a manner that fits with [Official ODA guidelines](#).

To comply with ODA requirements, all proposals must make clear how their primary purpose is to promote the economic development and welfare of a developing country or countries on the DAC list. There are no priority countries. Proposals may relate to any country or countries on the DAC list except those which are flagged as likely to graduate from the list during the course of the proposed project. If a country is flagged as likely to graduate it cannot be the primary focus of a proposal, although it can be included as an additional case study or comparison. In such proposals the primary purpose of the research must be to promote the development and welfare of a developing country not due to graduate from the list.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how they meet ODA requirements throughout their 'Case for Support' and 'Pathways to Impact' submission. In addition, all proposals must include a mandatory 'Non-UK Components' attachment addressing the following three questions:

1. Which country / countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal?
2. How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?
3. 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?

### **Important considerations**

To be ODA compliant the principal motivation of the project must be to directly benefit a country or countries on the DAC list, and the key/principal beneficiaries of the research should be located in a DAC list country or countries.

It is fine for research to take place outside of a DAC list country or for projects to include a comparative element as long as the principal motivation is to benefit a DAC list country or countries. (It is also fine for research projects to have secondary impacts outside of eligible countries).

If a focus country within a proposal is flagged on the DAC list as likely to graduate from the list during the course of the project then the research would not be ODA compliant unless the primary focus is on a country or countries not due to graduate.

The impact-generating and knowledge exchange related activities must be focused on a DAC list country or countries, and if the applicants intend to generate impact via international organisations or international non-governmental organisations they should explain why this is likely to lead to greater impacts than working directly with stakeholders in-country.

Compliant proposals must address development challenges in an eligible country or countries and be likely to contribute directly to their economic development and/or welfare. Impacts should be targeted at specific DAC list countries and should not depend on the trickle down of a global public good.

Further guidance on how to submit the ODA compliance statement as a 'non-UK component' attachment is provided in the call-specific Je-S Guidance for Applicants. [UKRI guidance on ODA in relation to GCRF is available.](#)

Initial ODA compliance assessment will take place within UKRI, though final decisions may include input from commissioning panels as well as external sources of ODA expertise.

### **ODA transparency and reporting**

As part of the government's commitment to ODA transparency and in line with DfID ODA reporting requirements, UKRI is responsible for publishing information about UKRI ODA grants including project titles and summaries via the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry and via DfID's national statistics. The purpose of publishing information via the IATI registry is to make information about ODA easily accessible to governments, stakeholders and other relevant groups in beneficiary countries. All UKRI funded projects from this programme will be published in this way. Please therefore write your project title and summary in such a way that they are meaningful and accessible to non-specialist audiences, following publication. We would be grateful if you would ensure that the project title and summary are written in plain English and avoid the use of jargon, acronyms, puns and plays on words. Please also make clear in your project title and summary how your project is ODA compliant, for example by identifying the development challenge(s) being addressed, the aims of the project and the beneficiary countries.

## **10. Eligibility**

Proposals can be led by any current or former GCRF grant holder (based in the UK or abroad) based in a Research Organisation (RO), who is named as either a Principal Investigator or CoInvestigator, across UKRI funded GCRF projects within the parameters set out below.

At least two existing GCRF projects must form part of the cluster proposed. UKRI encourages the clustering of further, relevant ODA oriented projects supported by other funding partners (including other GCRF delivery partners) from the UK and elsewhere, including philanthropic organisations. To be eligible, the (minimum) two GCRF projects listed must have been funded for at least one year, or, are at least half-way through their total funded period (whichever is the smallest) at the time of the 1st stage submission deadline (24<sup>th</sup> September 2019). The (minimum) two GCRF projects that form part of the cluster must be distinct projects with substantially different research teams listed on the original submission. The cluster can include

research funded through institutional GCRF allocations (e.g. via Funding Councils or institutional block grants), but the two projects used to determine eligibility must have been funded following an external, independent and competitive assessment.

### **Lead research organization**

For this call, proposals must be led by a PI based in a research organisation eligible to receive funding from [UKRI](#) or an equivalent eligible research organisation in a lower middle income country (LMIC) on the OECD DAC recipient list (see organisational eligibility criteria below). The lead organisation will be responsible for the overall management of the grant including control, disbursement and assurance of funds.

### **Letter of Support**

Principal and Co-investigators may be based anywhere in the world, but, additionally for GCRF calls, all co-investigators from the UK and overseas, and principal investigators from overseas (not UK) must submit a 'Letter of Support' from their organisation using the template provided within the Je-S guidance. This is to ensure comparability of standing between international organisations and UKRI recognized UK research organisations and to ensure the organisation's commitment to the project.

Proposals may be submitted by individuals who are not established members of the proposed host institution. In these circumstances, by submitting the proposal the RO confirms that it guarantees to provide facilities for the applicant as if an established member of staff for the duration of the grant.

UKRI does not allow the resubmission of previously unsuccessful proposals to any schemes, unless the applicant has been explicitly invited to do so. All proposals will have to make a clear case for how they comply with [Official Development Assistance \(ODA\) guidelines](#).

## **11. Due Diligence**

As part of UKRI funding assurance, non-UK Research Organisations may be requested to complete an UKRI Overseas Due Diligence Questionnaire. Please be aware that Research Organisations may be contacted by UKRI at any point during the review process. This is in order to expedite our assurance process. If UKRI does contact any non-UK research partner organisation named on an application, the Lead organisation will be informed.

Non-UK lead organisations will need to undergo UKRI due diligence checks if they have not been checked by UKRI in the last three years. UKRI reserves the right to undertake additional checks within the three year period if required.

For organisations hosting co-investigators due diligence checks are for UKRI's assurance purposes only and do not replace the due diligence of the lead organisation. However, when obtaining information from non-UK research organisations UKRI will request permission to share the information provided with the lead organisation. The lead organisation can then use this information for their own due diligence processes should they wish.

## 12. Safeguarding

UKRI condemns all forms of harm and abuse, including bullying and harassment. We take a zero tolerance approach to harm and abuse to any individual employed through or associated with our programmes in all contexts; whether in humanitarian or fragile and conflict-affected settings, in other field contexts, or within the international or UK research and development community which we fund. We expect institutions to promote the highest standards in organisational culture, and have in place the systems and procedures required to prevent and tackle all incidents of harm and abuse. Applications must detail how they will identify and manage safeguarding risks and what policies and procedures will be in place to enable reporting and investigation of allegations when they arise.

## 13. Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to report research outcomes on Researchfish in line with standard UKRI Terms and Conditions. In addition to the standard outcomes all award holders will need to complete sections under the 'GCRF Collective Fund' outcomes.

## 14. Application Process

First Stage Proposal Applicants are invited to submit proposals through the [Joint Electronic Submission \(Je-S\) system](#); only those proposals submitted through the Je-S system will be accepted for processing. Proposals must be costed and approved by the relevant institutional authority at the research organisation before submission. The deadline for full bid proposals will be **16.00 BST on 24th September 2019**. Second stage applicants will be invited, and further guidance will be provided.

Je-S is the electronic submission system which is used by all Research Councils to provide a common electronic system that supports research administration. More detailed information can be found at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>. In particular, applicants should note the registration requirements to make a Je-S submission. The Je-S application form for this specific call will be open to applicants in due course.

In order to use the Je-S system, principal investigators, co-investigators and their organisations need to register on the system a minimum of two weeks before the call closing date. Registration of both the principal investigator's organisation and their own details must be completed before the proposal can be formally submitted to UKRI.

Care and attention must be given to completing the online form correctly. Proposals that are not completed correctly may be rejected by UKRI.

UKRI may require applicants to amend parts of proposals, such as the length of attachments or the inclusion of missing mandatory attachments, as a condition of accepting the proposal for processing.

When submitting your application through Je-S, please follow these steps:

1. Log into your Je-S account
2. Select Council: EPSRC
3. Document type: Standard proposal
4. Scheme: UKRI
5. Call/Type/Mode: GCRF Challenge Clusters

Applications to the first stage will undergo external peer review before being considered by a specially convened panel of academic and non-academic experts at a meeting in February 2020. The panel will be asked to assess the proposals against the fit to the call and the assessment criteria. The panel will then make formal recommendations to the funders. The funders may wish to apply some conditions on grants, and there may be subsequent negotiations on the details of the support offered. Funding decisions are expected to be announced in February/March 2020 and awards are expected to commence shortly after.

In addition to the standard proposal document (Je-S form), each application must consist of the following documentation:

Document	Maximum page length	Je-S attachment type
GCRF Challenge Cluster proposal	8 pages	Case for Support
<a href="#">Justification of Resources (JOR)</a>	2 pages	JOR
<a href="#">ODA compliance statement</a>	1 page	Non-UK component
<a href="#">Data management plan</a>	½ - 3 pages (see template)	Data management plan
<a href="#">Gender equality statement</a>	1 page	Non-UK component
<a href="#">CV (for PI and Co-Is)</a>	2 pages each	CV
<a href="#">Pathways to Impact</a>	2 pages	Pathway to impact
Letters of Support (where applicable)	2 sides A4	Letter of Support

\*weblinks provide further guidance to these aspects of the submission

### **Case for Support (8 pages)**

Applicants should submit an eight page proposal which draws from the assessment criteria as laid out in section (4) above. Applicants are asked to structure their proposals using the following subtitles:

- 1) Background to the Identified Challenge
- 2) Background to the constituent projects and partners that form the cluster
- 3) Strategic Aims and Objectives of the Cluster
- 4) Planned activities
- 5) Anticipated outputs, outcomes and measures of success
- 6) Leadership, management, governance and assurance
- 7) Risk Assessment
- 8) Requested funds and Value for Money

### **Gender Equality Statement (1 page)**

Official Development Assistance provided by UKRI must comply with the requirements of the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014 which states, the “desirability of providing development assistance that is likely to contribute to reducing poverty in a way which is likely to contribute to reducing inequalities between persons of different gender.”

It is now mandatory for all applications to UKRI GCRF and Newton Fund calls/competitions announced and published after the 1st April 2019 to provide a Gender Equality Statement. This statement must outline how applicants have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities, as required under the International Development (Gender Equality) Act. This should be no longer than one page, and should be attached as a ‘non-UK Component’ through Je-S. It is expected that some projects will have less impact on gender and gender relations and professional judgement of the applicants should be exercised to ensure appropriate consideration of the context and intended aims of the project.

Applicants are able to reference other parts of your application within this statement, if relevant.

**Applicants are required to address the below criteria**, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of their research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable. Criteria to address while considering gender impact:

- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research and innovation and the beneficiaries of the research and innovation.
- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.

- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.
- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

### **Attachment Font Size and Type**

UKRI Grants will check that all attachments, except those provided by 3rd parties (e.g. letters of support) comply with the agreed font and type style (minimum font: pt11 / Type: Calibri).

### **Second Stage Proposal**

Details about submitting to the second stage will be made available to the successful first stage applicants during the first year of their award.

### **What we will do with your information**

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, the personal information that you provide within the Interest to Submit will specifically be used for the purpose of administering the call. The information will be viewed by UKRI staff and selection panel members but will not be used for any other purpose without your specific consent. For further information on how your information is used, how we maintain the security of your information, and your rights to access information we hold on you, please contact the Joint Information Services Unit ([jisu@epsrc.ac.uk](mailto:jisu@epsrc.ac.uk)).

## **15. Commissioning timetable**

Closing date for 1 <sup>st</sup> stage proposals	24 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
Panel meeting	February 2020
Decision announced	February/March 2020
1 <sup>st</sup> stage grants start	April 2020
2 <sup>nd</sup> stage submission deadline	Winter 2020
2 <sup>nd</sup> stage grants start	Spring 2021

## **16. Contacts**

If you have any queries or would like to discuss eligibility please contact: UKRI GCRF:  
[GCRF@ukri.org](mailto:GCRF@ukri.org)

Enquiries relating to technical aspects of the Je-S form should be addressed to:

### **Je-S helpdesk**

Email: [jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:jeshelp@rcuk.ac.uk) Telephone: (+44) 01793 444164

Opening hours: 8:30 – 17:00 Monday to Thursday, 8:30 – 16:30 Friday UK time

## Change Log

Name	Date	Version	Change
Geoff Hill	25.06.2019	1	N/A
Natasha Stanton	12.08.2019	2	<p><b>Throughout the document:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closing date updated</li> <li>- Panel dates updated</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 8:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ODA guidance links updated</li> <li>- Due diligence guidance link added</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 10:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ODA guidance link updated</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 14:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Je-S guidance added</li> <li>- Clarity on second stage applications added</li> <li>- ODA guidance updated</li> </ul>
Natasha Stanton	09.09.2019	3	<p><b>Section 7:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Letter of Support page allowance updated</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 10:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alteration to Letter of Support guidance</li> </ul>