

GCRF Strategic Advisory Group Call for Nominations

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is part of the UK's official development assistance (ODA). Its aim is to support cutting-edge research and innovation that addresses the global issues affecting developing countries.

The GCRF is led by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) which operates across several delivery partners, including UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the devolved higher education funding bodies, the Academy of Medical Sciences, Royal Society, British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and UK Space Agency.

The GCRF Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) provides external advice to the GCRF delivery partners and BEIS, reaching across the disciplines of all the delivery partners.

The Secretariat of the SAG is hosted by UKRI on behalf all the delivery partners and BEIS. Current membership of the SAG can be found [here](#). For more on the governance of the GCRF please see [here](#).

Call for nominations

This is a call for nominations for new members to the SAG, and we are looking to recruit up to **seven** new members to start at the meeting on 16th March 2021.

Nominees are expected to make a strong case against the **person specification**. In addition to this we wish to find individuals that can fulfil roles from the listed **priorities**.

Applications must be submitted on [SmartSurvey](#) by **10:00 (GMT) 8th February 2021**. Please note that interviews will take place via Zoom videoconference on the **week beginning 1st March 2021**. Full details of the application and selection procedure the role of the SAG can be found later in this document.

Priorities

The membership of the SAG is expected to reflect the breadth of disciplines across the delivery partners, and the variety of the views, experience and needs of our stakeholders, nationally and internationally.

In order to realise this, we are seeking nominations from individuals that can demonstrate experience against one or more areas from the following priority list.

The strength of fit of any individual application against these priorities will be a factor of the assessment. In addition to that, to meet the needs of the SAG the breadth of coverage of these priorities, from across the new members taken as a group, will be factored into decision making.

In this call for nominations we are looking for individuals who have the background and experience to credibly represent the following stakeholder areas and/or research disciplines:

- Policy makers, charities and the third sector;
- Business, or industrial research and development;
- International: from academia, business, policy makers, the third sector or NGOs outside of the UK. We particularly welcome overseas candidates from [DAC recipient listed countries](#).
- Climate Change and Resilience, including energy policy for development;
- Arts and the humanities;
- Social sciences, in particular with a background in social statistics and data;
- Global Health;
- Food systems;
- Education.

Person Specification

As the SAG are representatives of the international development community providing independent strategic advice for GCRF Delivery Partners, we are seeking applications from those people who:

- Have a recognised background in international development research from academia, business, the third sector or other stakeholders
- Have personal experience of working in a developing country context;
- Understand the translation and impact of research, particularly into developing countries;
- Proven experience in developing and implementing strategy or policy in an International development research environment,
- Experience of representing the views of the International development research community including previous experience of sitting on relevant committees or boards

In addition to this, as a group the membership of GCRF SAG should:

- Reflect the breadth of academic disciplines across the UK research base and the importance of taking a transdisciplinary approach to solving global challenges;
- Be diverse across career stages and life course;
- Be drawn from the academic, other research, development practitioner, and innovation communities, including business and international NGOs;
- Demonstrate an international/global perspective, particularly with regard to capacity-building in the Global South.

Role of the SAG

The primary purpose of the SAG is to advise on the strategic development and delivery of the GCRF, and specifically:

- The development of a strategic research agenda and prioritisation of challenge topics;
- The engagement with research and stakeholder communities and the facilitation of new ideas and opportunities;
- The GCRF portfolio across delivery partners, highlighting opportunities for integration, gaps and emerging needs and opportunities;
- The effectiveness of delivery partner strategies and mechanisms, including mechanisms to build capability where it is needed to address existing deficits;
- The integration of ODA and non-ODA challenge research, where this is sensible to do so;
- The consistency of GCRF funding in line with the Haldane principle;
- The definition of success measures for GCRF, with consideration of evaluation and reporting on impact.

The responsibilities of the SAG members are to:

- Act within the 7 Principles of Public Life¹ (Nolan principles), in particular to provide independent, informed advice, avoiding actual or perceived conflicts of interest by taking a collegiate approach to policy and strategy development;
- Act as “generous generalists”;

- Validate and challenge constructively the delivery partners' perspectives drawing on the available evidence and their own experiences;
- Take individual and collective ownership of the advice they provide, whilst recognising the separation of that advice from responsibility for the decisions made, which rests with the delivery partners;
- Use their own networks to gather intelligence that can be brought to bear in policy development and to disseminate delivery partner policies and strategies;
- Provide positive advocacy for the GCRF in the public realm.

Equality, diversity and inclusion:

The delivery partners have an aspiration to increase the breadth and diversity of the Group, and as such the membership of the GCRF SAG should be balanced across range of characteristics including gender, ethnicity and across career stages and life course.

Appointment

Appointments will be for three years (with the possibility of ending after two years). All appointments will begin with effect from the first meeting.

Members are paid a fee for each activity they are involved with and, when attending physical meetings, are reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses (in accordance with UKRI policy).

The Group will meet quarterly with the first meeting of the new appointments planned for the end of March 2021. There may be additional work required outside of the formal SAG meetings and it is expected that members will need to commit between 2 and 4 additional days to SAG work per year.

Application process

Applications should be made through [SmartSurvey](#) by 10:00 (GMT) on 8th February 2021:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CVHJMX/>

In order to submit an application, the following information will be needed:

- **Applicant details:** Basic information and contact details for the nominee, including title, name, current position, organisation, telephone numbers and email address.
- **Personal qualities and experience:** Free text to support why you would be suitable as a member of the SAG including:
 - A statement evidencing how your skills, attributes and experience meet the requirements of the person specification [500 words];
 - A statement outlining how your current position, background and experience fit against the recruitment priority areas. This may be against one or more of the stated priorities [500 words];
 - A description of your personal motivation for becoming a SAG member [500 words].
- **Current Curriculum Vitae:** A CV (no longer than two sides) containing details of your professional qualifications, research, work experience and/or other relevant experience.
- **Equal Opportunities information:** UKRI operates a policy of equality and fair treatment. All applications will be treated fairly, regardless of gender, age, ethnic origin or disability. To help us achieve this aim the information from this section helps us to monitor the effectiveness of our policy. Individuals are asked to supply equal opportunities information which will not be used to determine an applicant's fit to the essential criteria but will be used to consider a balance across the SAG.

Applications will be assessed solely on the information provided in the application, with the focus of the assessment on the answers to the questions provided. Please use this space to provide as much evidence as possible of your previous experiences. CVs will only be used for reference if further information is needed.

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (EU) (GDPR), the personal information provided as part of your application will specifically be used for the purpose of administering this process and aggregated anonymised data will be used for the purposes of monitoring our advisory and decision-making bodies. Analysis of the information will be viewed by UKRI staff only and personal information will not be used for any other purpose without your specific consent.

For further information on how your information will be used, how we maintain the security of your information, and your rights to access information we hold on you, please contact the UK Research and Innovation Information Rights Team at: dataprotection@ukri.org

The closing date for applications is **10:00 (GMT) on 8th February 2021**. We expect applicants to strictly adhere to the text limitations set out in the application form. If it is considered necessary, we will approach candidates for further information and/or clarification.

Selection process

The selection process will consist of three steps:

Step 1 – A long-list of candidates will be developed based on evidence against the individual assessment criteria. It will be ensured that the selection of individuals for this put forward for shortlisting are collectively able to fill the priority areas.

Step 2 – A panel made up of representatives from BEIS, the delivery partners and current SAG members will meet to select a shortlist of candidates to interview. In their selection they will ensure that the appropriate processes have been followed, while ensuring that the selection of individuals put forward for interview are collectively able to fill the priority areas:

Step 3 – Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview to discuss their interest in the role and what qualities they will bring to the SAG. The interview panel will be made up of the current SAG chair as well as representatives from BEIS and the delivery partners. The panel will make final recommendations on the successful candidate.

In making their final recommendations the interview panel will consider their selection at the level of the overall SAG in order to:

- Securing an appropriate spread of expertise and experience across the priority areas;
- Ensuring diversity of membership;
- Achieving an appropriate distribution of membership from academia, industry and civil society;
- Achieving an appropriate distribution on the SAG of UK and international voices, particularly ensuring representation from the Global South

Assessment criteria

- Fit to the person specification
- Fit to the priority areas
- Motivation and commitment to the SAG

Timetable

- Call opens: 22nd December 2020
- **Call closes: 10:00 (GMT), 8th February 2021**
- **Interviews: Week beginning 1st March 2021**
- First Meeting for new members: 16th March 2021

Queries

If you have any questions about the role or the nominations process please email gcrf@ukri.org and include 'GCRF SAG Recruitment 2021' in the subject heading.