The Global Challenges Research Fund: Opportunities for CSE Event

http://www.ed.ac.uk/research-support-office/global-challenges-research-fund

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GCRF: Opportunities for CSE

Timetable

- 12.30 - Chair and Intro – Andy Mount
- 12.45 - GCRF Overview – Catherine Burns
- 13.00 - Developing a GCRF Proposal – Eliza Calder (NERC Award – GCRF Resilience Foundation Award)
- 13.15 - Early CSE GCRF Activities – Baojun Wang (EPSRC - Institutional Sponsorship Award)
- 13.30 – 14.00 Q and A, plus open discussion: What are the major CSE GCRF challenges and opportunities?

Global Challenges Research Funding

- UK Government 'Tackling Global Challenges in the National Interest'
- International development in low and middle income countries
- Budget £1.5bn over 5 years (Unallocated 'Collective': £691m)
- Not including Newton Fund, DFID funding
- Capacity and capability, address problems, respond to crisis
- RCUK Themes: Health, Clean energy, Sustainable agriculture, Conflict and humanitarian action, Foundations for economic development, Resilient systems, Mass migration & refugee crises
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- "The UK is a research super-power whose global leadership is changing and saving lives across the world….Global Britain’s commitment to innovative research will mean we can act faster, reach more of the world’s poorest people - and get the most out of every pound we spend on behalf of the UK taxpayer.” Priti Patel, Gates Foundation Conference 26/10/16

The Budget

Where We Are Now: Recent call activity

- 25 Internal Applications for EPSRC GCRF Institutional Fund – 6 funded across CSE Schools e.g. Baojun Wang: Ultra low cost paper based biosensors for arsenic contamination of water in resource limited countries
- 42 CSE GCRF Applications as PI plus 6 with CSE staff as Co-I
- 4 applications to GCRF Resilience Foundation Award, Sep 2016 – 3 of 4 funded.
- 8 CSE Applications for EPSRC – Tackling global development challenges through engineering & digital technology research

Where We Are Now:

- 18 funding calls released since May across the Research Councils
- UoE submitted around 140 outline and full applications across 3 Colleges
- Institutional Awards: ESRC IAA, BBSRC IAA, EPSRC Block Funding, BBSRC Institutes: GCRF Data and Resources Opportunity
- Early Open Call Awards: ESRC-AHRC Forced Displacement; NERC et al Building Resilience

Current Calls:

- AHRC: GCRF Area Focused Network Plus (18th January)
- Research Networking Highlight Notice for International Development (28th Feb)
- http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/
How Can I Get Involved?

World-class university today
• 21st in 2015 World QS rankings
• 24th in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-16.
• Power (Quality and Breadth)
• 3 Colleges, 22 Schools.
• Over 35,000 students, more than 23,000 undergraduates, 12,000+ postgraduates
• Highly international
• Over 14,000 international students from more than 150 countries
• Collegiate & multidisciplinary
• Numerous networks and global partnerships - Russell Group, LERU, Universitas21

University research
• 1st in Scotland and 8th in UK
• 83% research activity is classified world leading/internationally excellent
REF 2014 Power Ratings

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Reach
• Numerous networks and global partnerships

Tremendous opportunities for multidisciplinary activities at scale....
PLUS
• Chancellor’s Fellows…..
• Research training (CDTs)
• World-leading expertise in CHSS, CMVM
Opportunities for networked activities, building on physical infrastructure, research expertise, commercialisation activities and innovation activities... Combination provides USP to addresses Global Grand Challenges (GCRF) e.g. Capacity & Capability

Harnessing UoE/CSE Research Excellence, Power, Reach

Partnering and Impact

Role:
The principal requirement is for substantive, targeted and high quality collaborations or partnerships, demonstrated through clear leadership roles, and balance and proportionality in partners’ roles and responsibilities.

Context:
All partnerships, including international ones, should be based on mutual respect and understanding for different cultural, ethnic, social and economic beliefs and practices.

Process:
The exploitation of new knowledge does not just occur at the end of a research project, but is rather embedded throughout the research process itself, so we expect such stakeholders to be included and involved in both the early design and on-going conduct of research projects.

ESRC Secondary Data Highlight Notice

Personal reflections on GCRF (IS) calls.....

• It is important to identify a realistic pathway(s) to impact (including a realistic pathway to ODA country adoption); this is best achieved by identifying specific ODA partners with whom you will work/develop the impact on the appropriate timescales.
• It is important to identify a clear need for the research within the ODA country, and convince that the ODA country or countries are clearly the primary end users of the research
• Specific plans for engagement with the ODA partner (including where possible scheduling meetings and including costing for travel) are most convincing
• Do not forget the need to satisfy the research requirements of the funder (i.e. demonstrate a significant core of specific RC activity).
  – EPSRC “concern that some of the projects were moving away from the EPSRC remit and drifting into NERC territory.”
• Partnership building takes time.....(within and without)