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## 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 Awards)
- 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?

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## 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*

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## The Budget

GCRF (£M resource)	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21 *	5R Total
National Academies	11	11	11	11	11	45
AHRC	5	7	7	7	7	25
BBSRC	10	20	20	20	20	70
EPSRC	10	15	15	15	15	55
ESRC	5	10	10	10	10	35
HEFCE	20	37	37	37	37	130
MRC	14	34	34	34	34	115
NERC	5	10	10	10	10	35
STFC	0	4	4	4	4	11
International Partnership Programme	32	30	30	30	30	122
Unallocated GCRF	0	38	122	216	315	377
<b>Totals</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>1019</b>

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## 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 (18<sup>th</sup> January)
- Research Networking Highlight Notice for International Development (28<sup>th</sup> Feb)

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/>

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## 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. E.g. Eliza Calder- **Communication with Hazard Maps in Central America: A multidisciplinary science-media-community network**
- 8 CSE Applications for EPSRC – Tackling Global Development Challenges through Engineering & Digital Tech: 4 Engineering, 1 Physics, 3 Informatics
- RCUK - Growing Research Capability to Meet the Challenges Faced by Developing Countries, 2 UoE bids £8 million, 1 in Energy; CSE PI (Robin Wallace), 1 in Healthcare Data: CSE co-I (Dave Robertson) . Closing date **06/12**
- MRC and BBSRC GCRF: Networks in Vector Borne Disease Research
- EPSRC: Tackling global development challenges through engineering and digital technology research
- Plus others.....



**How Can I Get Involved?**

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

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

Reach

- Numerous networks and global partnerships  
- Russell Group, LERU, Universitas21



University research

- is 1<sup>st</sup> in Scotland and 4<sup>th</sup> in UK
- 83% research activity is classified world leading/internationally excellent

REF 2014 Power Ratings

**Harnessing UoE/CSE Research Excellence, Power, Reach**

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

All College of Science & Engineering Schools in top 5 in UK REF2014 for Power

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Engineering
- Geosciences
- Informatics
- Mathematics
- Physics & Astronomy

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 address Global Grand Challenges (GCRF) e.g. Capacity & Capability

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**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

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## Partnership 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*

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## 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)