

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Global Challenges Research Fund 2017/18

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To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales
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This circular announces funding from the Global Challenges Research Fund which is being made available via HEFCW in 2017/18.

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Introduction

1. This circular announces funding of £2.3 million from the Global Challenges Research Fund which is being made available via HEFCW in 2017/18.

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

2. The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a five-year £1.5 billion fund to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges 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.
3. GCRF forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment. ODA-funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list. [Further information about GCRF](#) is available on the RCUK website.
4. The funding for GCRF is provided by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). It is delivered primarily by the Research Councils, Learned Societies and UK Space Agency, which will make awards on the basis of competitive bids.

GCRF Funding Provided via the HE Funding Bodies

5. In addition to the funding which it is providing to the Research Councils, the Learned Societies and UK Space Agency, BEIS is also providing an element of GCRF funding to the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The Overseas Development Agency has agreed that it would be appropriate for BEIS to provide equivalent allocations to the higher education funding bodies of the devolved countries of the UK.
6. In 2017-18, these allocations have been calculated on the basis of the 'standard shares' for each UK country which are normally used for such calculations (5% for Wales). For Wales, the allocation for 2017-18 will be £2,319,187.
7. The arrangement was introduced for the first time in 2016/17 and is expected to continue for the duration of the programme.

Eligible Uses of Funding

8. The GCRF funding made available via HEFCW has been provided for the purpose of supporting cutting edge research that promotes the economic development and well-being of countries on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee ([DAC](#)) list.
9. Within the above overarching objective, the list of eligible uses of the funding made available via the UK HE funding bodies has been reviewed and expanded this year. In 2017/18 the GCRF funding provided via HEFCW can be used for the following purposes:
 - a) Capacity and capability building in the UK and developing countries, consistent with purposes of GCRF
 - b) Challenge-led interdisciplinary and collaborative research activity, consistent with purposes of GCRF
 - c) Pump-priming activities to under-pin GCRF bids to other funders, including relationship building
 - d) Generating impact, consistent with purposes of GCRF, from research both within and beyond the sector
 - e) Meeting the Full Economic Cost (FEC) of GCRF grants made by the Research Councils
 - f) Rapid response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.

Reporting Requirements

10. Institutions in receipt of funding will be asked to provide a report on the use of their 2017/18 GCRF funding allocation in early summer 2018. Information to be provided in the report will include: the methodology used to allocate the funding internally; information about the projects and activities supported; and the developing countries which benefitted from the activity.

Allocations

11. Reflecting the purpose for which it has been provided, the GCRF funding has been allocated pro rata to universities' Research Council grant income. A straight pro-rata allocation would have resulted in small allocations in some cases. In order to avoid that, and consistent with the approach that we have adopted for Higher Education Research Capital, we have applied

a funding threshold. Funding will only be provided to those institutions which generate an allocation of at least £50k through the operation of the pro-rata allocation formula.

12. The 2017-18 allocations are set out at **Annex A**. They will be paid to universities in full in September 2017.
13. This funding will be regarded as a supplement to QR.

Assessing the Impact of our Policies

14. We have carried out an impact assessment screening to help safeguard against discrimination and promote equality. We also considered the impact on the Welsh language, and Welsh language provision within the HE sector in Wales.

Further information

15. For further information, contact Linda Tiller (tel 029 2085 9715; email linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk).

Global Challenges Research Fund Allocations – 2017-18

	Research Council research grant income 2015/16	2017/18 GCRF allocations
	£	£
University of South Wales	380,000	0
Aberystwyth University	10,885,000	363,967
Bangor University	4,330,000	144,784
Cardiff University	36,539,000	1,221,770
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	61,000	0
Swansea University	17,605,000	588,666
Cardiff Metropolitan University	225,000	0
Wrexham Glyndŵr University	181,000	0
Centre for Advanced Welsh & Celtic Studies	599,000	0
Total	70,805,000	2,319,187

Source for Research Council research grant income: HESA Resources for Institutions of Higher Education 2015/16