**£1.5 billion for Research on Global Challenges**

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund which aims to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries whilst developing our ability to deliver cutting-edge research. [Click here](#opencalls) to see the current calls open for this scheme.

Along with the [Newton Fund](http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/)[[1]](#footnote-1), the GCRF forms part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment. Together, these two schemes support the UK’s pledge of committing 0.7%[[2]](#footnote-2) of the gross national income (GNI) to overseas development and at the same time protect the science budget. Both these schemes will run until, at least, 2021.

**Official Development Assistance (ODA)**

ODA-funded research activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of developing countries. The ODA commitment is monitored by the [Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)](http://www.oecd.org/).

Both Newton Fund and GCRF funding will be awarded in a manner that fits with [Official ODA guidelines](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm). Co-Investigators can be based anywhere in the world, but research must be of benefit to countries eligible to receive ODA according to the [OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm).

**Research Councils UK and GCRF**

The RCUK GCRF represents a collective commitment by all Research Councils to:

* address complex societal challenges through supporting frontier interdisciplinary research and innovation
* address the problems faced by developing countries whilst developing our ability to deliver cutting-edge research
* open up new opportunities to advance agendas for sustainable development, eradicate poverty, combat inequalities and strengthen global governance
* build capacity and capability in interdisciplinary approaches for the future
* provide agile responses to sudden emergencies or new opportunities requiring interdisciplinary solutions.

In the UK context, the GCRF is an opportunity for:

* Research **for** development: Addressing the challenges facing developing countries
* Research **as** development: Scientific, particularly social scientific, capabilities and infrastructure as components of development
* Research **on** development: critically analyse aid agendas of UK and others

**ESRC’s priorities under GCRF**

The Economic and Social Research Council’s priorities build to a large extent on DFID’s **UK Aid Strategy[[3]](#footnote-3)** summarised in 5 areas**:**

1. Building effective institutions in conflict-affected and fragile states
2. Migration, mobility and development
3. Dynamics of inequalities
4. Innovation and inclusive economic growth
5. Shocks, security, risks and resilience

**GCRF open funding calls**

* **[Secondary Data Analysis Initiative:](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/gcrf-secondary-data-analysis-initiative-highlight-notice/)** funding up to £200,000 for projects utilising existing data resources or improving the capacity and methods for secondary data research in and on developing countries. **Deadline: Friday 15 July 2016**. **>>**[**More**](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/gcrf-secondary-data-analysis-initiative-highlight-notice/)
* [**Forced displacement call**](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/esrc-ahrc-call-for-proposals-on-forced-displacement/)**:** up to £300,000 for between 6 to 24 months on the experiences of the forced displaced (both internationally and internally) due to poverty, war, conflict, persecution or human rights violations. **Deadline: Wednesday 20 July 2016**. **>>**[**More**](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/esrc-ahrc-call-for-proposals-on-forced-displacement/)
* [**Strategic Networks call**](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/gcrf-strategic-networks-call-2016/)**:**  to fund 20 -25 networks up to £150,000 over a period of 12 to 18 months around ESRC’s 5 priority areas. **Deadline: Tuesday 2 August 2016**. **>>**[**More**](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/gcrf-strategic-networks-call-2016/)
* [**Centres competition: Foundations of inclusive growth**](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/gcrf-centres-competition-2016-foundations-of-inclusive-growth/)**:** Up to 5 million funding for a research centre based around ESRC’s 5 priority areas. **Deadline: Tuesday 6 September 2016**. **>>**[**More**](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/gcrf-centres-competition-2016-foundations-of-inclusive-growth/)
* **Cross-council initiative on tackling AntiMicrobial Resistance (AMR).** This call accepts interdisciplinary research on behaviour within and beyond the healthcare setting**:**
  + **Pump-priming grants** will fund research primarily relevant tothe needs of Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs), maximum of £250,000. **Deadline: Wednesday 20 July 2016.**
  + **Large scale:** maximum of £2 million forup to 48 months. These grants will be open to proposals focusing on the UK or global settings**. Deadline: Thursday 8 September 2016. >>**[**More**](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/tackling-antimicrobial-resistance-behaviour-within-and-beyond-the-healthcare-setting)

1. Launched in 2014, the Newton Fund has now doubled the original £75 million investment to £150 million per year by 2021, leading to a £735 million UK investment. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The 0.7% commitment was established by the UN in 1970. <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/press/07.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/478834/ODA_strategy_final_web_0905.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)