

LSE Global Research Fund 2026/2027

Guidance for Applicants

The **Global Research Fund (GRF)** supports collaborative research initiatives between individual LSE faculty members and their nominated international research partners.

The Global Research Fund provides targeted support for researchers seeking to establish international research links or to further existing links. The scheme acts as a seed fund to enable LSE researchers to initiate and carry out collaborative research activities that facilitate joint research publications and future joint grant applications to domestic and international funders.

Please note: this fund is intended for projects led by a single LSE Principal Investigator (PI). For larger interdisciplinary teams.

Example GRF activities include but are not limited to:

- Joint research development activities that often do not receive financial support at the earliest stages, e.g. on-site meetings, seminars and workshops;
- Inbound and outbound visits as part of reciprocal agreement; invited lectures and seminars to establish or enhance contacts between groups and individuals;
- New network membership that further raises the departmental/institutional international profile through targeted engagement with specialist alliances or networks.

Outcomes: any proposed activities should have tangible intended outcomes related to joint publications and/or grant proposals. This should be clearly articulated in the application and will be measured through post-award tracking exercises.

The fund will particularly welcome applications that demonstrate a track record of collaboration or for new partnerships with a plan that outlines the sustainability of the proposed partnership beyond the initial funding phase. Applications will be assessed by an expert panel formed by senior LSE faculty.

Funding

The GRF can be used as a top-up fund to any existing funding provision (please include details on secured funding in the application form) or be listed as a way to demonstrate institutional support to potential external funders. The GRF uses a tiered award system to recognise applications of different sizes. Eligible costs associated with each tier are shown below. Please note these tiers are suggestions and the panel will endeavour to consider applications on an individual basis.

For the 2026-27 GRF call, the panel seek to award academically rigorous joint projects across the two tiers listed below, including projects within the two spotlights:

- Tier 1 (up to £5,000): to cover research visit to international partner institutions (LSE lead applicant only), or vice versa for partner institution PI, typically for no longer than five calendar days.
- Tier 2 (up to £2,500, only applicable to current and previous GRF awardees): to provide additional funding support to further build on collaborative projects that are currently underway and seeking to expand in research scope and/or collaborative partners.

Funds can only be spent on activities that fit the purpose of this call. Applicants should itemise their budget using the tables in the application form. The International Strategy and Academic Partnerships team reserve the right to verify submitted expenses.

For 2026/27, the GRF includes additional ringfenced funding for two new spotlights:

- Africa Spotlight: to support the development of international research collaboration with partners in Africa, helping to establish or strengthen collaborative activities with the potential to lead to joint research outputs, external funding applications, and longer-term institutional engagement.
- Interdisciplinary Spotlight: to support projects that bring together expertise from different disciplines, fostering new interdisciplinary collaborations and research activity that extends beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries.

To apply for either spotlight, simply select the Africa Spotlight or the Interdisciplinary Spotlight on your GRF application form. Applying through a spotlight will not affect the validity or competitiveness of your application.

Eligibility of LSE applicants

- Open to Faculty, Research and Policy Staff, and Fellows (as per LSE HR Role Profiles).
- The employment contract must last until at least the year of the project.
- Students, GTAs, Emeritus Faculty, Guest Teachers, and Visiting Scholars cannot be PIs (but may form part of project teams).
- All PIs must have discussed the project with their academic unit and have their support.
- One application per round per scheme.

Ineligible costs

- Salaries / buyouts/hiring of Occasional Research Assistants
- Indirect and estate costs
- Conference fees, subscriptions, insurance, or dependent cost
- Costs incurred before proposal submission

Funding and project duration:

- Funding available: up to £5,000 per project (see above)
- Contributions from partner institutions and/or the host department or centre are encouraged to enhance project scope and sustainability, but are not a requirement.
- Project duration: up to 12 months

- A no-cost extension of up to 3 months may be requested, provided valid reasons are provided. All extension requests should be raised at least three months before the project end date stated in the original application.
- Awarded funds will be held in the PI's host department or centre
- Due diligence on collaborating external partners may be conducted upon award. A short network agreement may also be required prior to the start of activities

Selection process

Proposals are assessed by a panel of experts from diverse disciplines.

LSE Global Research Fund Assessment Criteria
1. Overall impression <i>Does the application present a compelling case for support for the proposed activity?</i> <i>To what extent are the international collaborators integral to the research topic/grant proposal?</i> <i>To what extent does the project require unique or complementary contribution and expertise of LSE researchers and the international partners.</i>
2. Project fit, potential and sustainability <i>Does the proposed activity demonstrate a good fit to achieve the GRF objectives, i.e. advancing LSE's international collaboration through publications and research funding?</i> <i>Is the plan for proposed activity concrete enough to deliver intended outcomes?</i> <i>In terms of sustainability, does the project demonstrate potentials for future external funding?</i>
3. Budget feasibility and appropriateness <i>Does the proposed budget demonstrate excellent value of money?</i> <i>Are all costed items essential to achieve the desired outcome?</i>

How to apply:

Please submit your completed application form to global@lse.ac.uk with the subject line: "Global Research Fund Application" and include a one-page CV.

Important practical notes

- We request receipts so please keep documents of any monies spent.
- For accommodation and subsistence rates please consult [LSE Travel, Subsistence and Personal Expenses policy](#) and [HMRC expense rates](#).; for accommodation for visits longer than three nights, please first check with the partner institution if they could provide support. We are only able to accept [Club Quarter](#) (LSE preferred rate) as the upper limit for hotel rates in London.

- For catering (including dinner), please visit [LSE catering page](#) for the most up-to-date costing information.
- For travel booking, please prioritise using the university-appointed travel agent.

Contacts for support

Queries about the GRCF should be sent to: global@lse.ac.uk

For support with identifying suitable external funding opportunities and developing external funding proposals, please contact your Research Development Manager: rescon@lse.ac.uk

For support with engaging non-academic partners (e.g. NGOs, industry, public sector), please contact the Impact Development Team: research.engagement@lse.ac.uk