

Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a 5-year £1.5Bn resource funding stream, announced as part of the 2015 spending review, to ensure that UK research takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries. The GCRF will deploy the UK's world-class research capability to address the challenges faced by the developing world. The funding is protected science spend and the Research Councils are primary delivery partners. The GCRF is also part of the UK Government's commitment to Official Development Assistance, promoting the welfare and economic development of developing countries.

Official Development Assistance

All research funded through the GCRF highlight will form part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA). Therefore, research proposals submitted under the GCRF highlight **should clearly demonstrate that the primary purpose is to promote the economic development and welfare of countries on the DAC list of ODA recipients as its main objective.**

Proposals should:

- Address a **specific problem** or seek a **specific outcome** which will impact on the economic development and welfare of countries on the DAC list in the immediate or longer-term
- Articulate a clear and specific case for the primary benefit and relevance of the proposed research to the countries on the DAC list
- Consider the pathway to realising the development impact (even if outside the timeframe of the project)

Proposals can:

- Focus on a developmental topic or address an unmet capacity need in the partner country

Proposals do not need to be solely relevant to developing countries, but developing countries should be the primary beneficiaries. Secondary benefits to the UK should be articulated.

Further guidance is available in the FAQs (see downloads) and in the RCUK ODA guidance document (see external links).

Applications

For applications to the 2017 Bioinformatics and Biological Resources Fund to be considered within the GCRF highlight in the call, they must clearly articulate the issues above. Please refer to the OECD DAC List of ODA Recipients (see external links) for the most up to date summary of countries eligible to be included.

Applicants who wish their applications to be considered as part of the highlight **must submit an expression of interest** so that the BBSRC office can advise on the ODA relevance of their application prior to submission, as well as provide guidance on any areas where clarification is required.

Full proposals submitted under the GCRF highlight that do not clearly articulate how the proposed research will address near-term or long-term benefits to the welfare or prosperity of countries on the DAC list will be rejected from this call.

Application options

The application options available within the GCRF highlight are listed below. The following limits apply:

Full BBR proposal:

- Up to 5 years
- Up to £2M FEC

GCRF component proposal:

- Up to 5 years
- Total of BBR proposal and GCRF component not exceeding £2M FEC

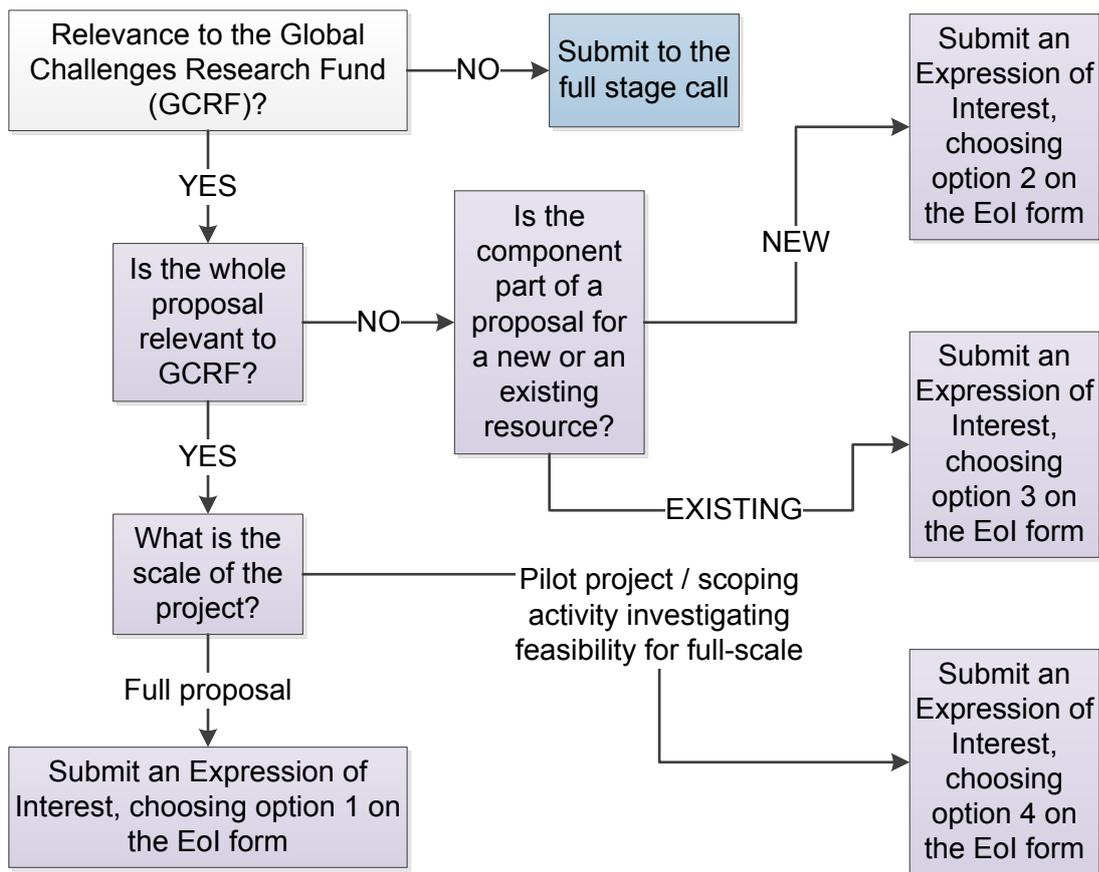
GCRF pump priming proposal:

- Up to 12 months
- Up to £150K FEC

Option	Detail
Whole full BBR proposal is ODA compliant	<p>The entirety of the full BBR proposal fulfils the criteria outlined above.</p> <p>An Expression of Interest is required.</p>
Work package within a full BBR proposal is ODA compliant	<p>Partial ODA compliance of a project is not permissible within the GCRF guidelines. Therefore, submitting a joint proposal is not permissible for this option.</p> <p>This can be addressed by submitting two separate (but linked) proposals, financial limit see above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full BBR proposal that does not fulfil the criteria outlined above • GCRF component proposal that fulfils the criteria outlined above <p>An Expression of Interest is only required for the GCRF component proposal, but it should describe the link to the new full BBR proposal.</p>

	<p>A GCRF component and its related new full BBR proposal will be viewed as a whole project for assessment purposes. The split is solely for administrative reasons.*</p>
<p>ODA compliant activity related to new BBR proposal without direct GCRF relevance</p>	<p>Two separate proposals should be submitted, financial limit see above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full BBR proposal that does not fulfil the criteria outlined above • GCRF component proposal that fulfils the criteria outlined above <p>An Expression of Interest is only required for the GCRF component proposal, but it should describe the link to the new full BBR proposal.</p> <p>A GCRF component and its related new full BBR proposal will be viewed as a whole project for assessment purposes. The split is solely for administrative reasons.*</p>
<p>ODA compliant activity related to existing (currently active) BBR proposal without direct GCRF relevance</p>	<p>The activity must fall within the lifetime of the remaining resource.</p> <p>Only a GCRF component proposal that fulfils the criteria outlined above should be submitted.</p> <p>An Expression of Interest is only required for the GCRF component proposal, but it should describe the link to the existing full BBR proposal.</p>
<p>ODA compliant pump priming activity without direct relation to new or existing BBR proposal</p>	<p>The GCRF pump priming proposal fulfils the criteria outlined above</p> <p>An Expression of Interest is required.</p>

*In case of a significant difference in quality between the components, and if either component could be feasibly funded without the other, the assessment panel can recommend partial funding of a component proposal.



Additional Points

- Ensure due consideration for IP issues and ethics across country boundaries
- The BBSRC data sharing policy applies. Please ensure that all participants are aware of the policy.