International Funding Update: Rutherford Fellowships, BMGF Grand Challenges Explorations (Round 20)

Good morning,

Following the recent creation of the £100M Rutherford Fund, EPSRC has issued a first call for fellowships, open to candidates from all nationalities. Although these 3-year fellowships “aim to support excellent engineering and physical sciences research aligned to the Industrial Strategy challenges”, funding is specifically allocated to support projects at the interface of other funding councils including AHRC, ESRC and BBSRC. Host institutions must send an Intention to Submit by 12 October, and UEA is limited to submit 2 applications; please contact a.heppleston@uea.ac.uk and your School Research Director by 5 October if you would like to nominate a candidate.


This update includes the long expected Newton Fund calls in partnership with Colombia (NERC-AHRC), as well as an opportunity for Research Links with Peruvian partners through the Newton Fund. Finally, the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation has also issued its twentieth round of Phase I Grants via the Grand Challenges Explorations scheme.

Kind regards,

Audrey

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**Previously Advertised Opportunities**

**Funding Opportunities**

**EPSRC-AHRC-BBSRC-ESRC: UKRI Innovation Fellowships**

Interested academics must contact their School Director of Research by 5 October 2017

This call, aligned with the Government’s new Industrial Strategy, is focused on innovative individuals at the early stages of their research career in academia or industry. Funding will support maximum three-year fellowships for research which help achieve the aims of the Industrial Strategy and lead to either short- or long-term economic benefit for the UK.

Up to £38.9m is available from EPSRC to fund between 65 and 85 fellows. Additional funding of up to £1.6m from AHRC, at least £1m from BBSRC and a maximum of £0.4m from ESRC will be available for research at specified interfaces. A number of priority areas have been identified: robotics and artificial intelligence systems; high productivity services through specialised artificial intelligence; development and manufacture of batteries for the electrification of vehicles; digital manufacturing; quantum technologies; cheap and clean energy technologies; integrated and sustainable cities; new approaches to data science.

As well as these areas, EPSRC would like to support excellent engineering or physical sciences research underpinning other areas of the Industrial Strategy, and excellent research at specified interfaces with AHRC, BBSRC and ESRC, namely: space research; advanced sustainable agriculture; leading edge health care technologies; and other disciplines, including creative and digital industries, immersive technology and live experiences; digital humanities and data science; development of bioinformatics tools; digitisation and automation in services.

There are no nationality restrictions imposed by EPSRC, although the fellowship should be held at an eligible UK HEI or independent research organisation. An intention of this programme is to attract global talent to the UK, so proposals from non-UK nationals are encouraged.

**Newton Fund (NERC-AHRC): Exploring and Understanding Colombian Bio Resources**

Deadline for intention to submit: 24 October 2017

Deadline for full proposals (invitation only): 30 November 2017

Two of the Research Councils have announced a new opportunity concerning socioecological systems in the Colombian regions of Boyacá and Cundinamarca, and their response to environmental change. The call is open to interdisciplinary UK proposals (a Colombian call is being run separately) addressing at least one of the following three challenges:
Functioning and resilience of socioecological systems
Maximising and supporting social inclusion in the sustainable management and resilience of socioecological systems
Understanding and delivering the benefits of natural resources to support social and economic growth

Funding is at 80% fEC, and it is expected that five to eight projects of between £700,000 and £1.1m will be supported.

Newton Fund (British Council): UK-Peruvian Researcher Links **Workshop Grants** and **Travel Grants**
**Deadline: 25 October 2017**

Following Peru’s recent admittance to the Newton Fund, calls have opened up for:

- Workshop Grants bringing together early-career researchers (ECRs) from the UK and Peru, coordinated by one PI (must be a Leading or Established Researcher) based at a UK institution and another based in Peru
- Travel Grants for visits of between one and three months of UK ECRs to Peru, or vice-versa

The maximum funding available for a workshop in Peru, based on 40 attendees, is £45,000 (more if it is held in the UK). Travel grants can range between £4,300 for a one-month visit (UK to Peru) to £9,600 for three months. Proposals relating to the Newton-Paulet Fund challenge areas of water, health or biodiversity will be given priority.

Newton Fund (RCUK): **UK-Colombian Research Partnerships on Post-Conflict Transitions** (pre-announcement)
**Call opens: 28 September 2017**
**Deadline for proposals: 30 November 2017**

This year’s call for research partnerships under the Newton-Caldas Fund is due to open next Thursday, 28 September. The scheme provides funding for internationally competitive, transformative and high-quality collaborative research projects, bringing together UK and Colombian researchers, as well as civil society practitioners and the public sector.

Proposals may address a broad range of areas related to post-conflict transitions in Colombia under three main themes: participation and inclusion; working towards reconciliation; and education for peacebuilding. They should be jointly developed but UK and Colombian applicants must apply separately for funding.

RCUK and Colciencias, the Colombian funding department, will be publishing information about potential applicants in an online networking database. Those interested in finding partners are encouraged to email **rcuknewtonfundenquiries@rcuk.ac.uk**, providing the following information:

- Full name, including title
Newton Fund (MRC): **UK-Vietnam Partnership for Infectious Disease Research** *(NOW OPEN)*

**Deadline for expressions of interest:** 7 November 2017  
**Deadline for full proposals (invitation only):** 12 December 2017

A second call for collaborative UK-Vietnamese proposals in biomedical research launched earlier this month. The call has a total of £2m available for UK-based researchers and £750,000 for their Vietnam-based counterparts to participate in three-year research partnerships.

Infectious diseases of particular interest under the call include: HIV and other sexually transmitted infections; TB; malaria; respiratory infections; neglected tropical infections; and antimicrobial resistance (excluding epidemiological and surveillance activities). Proposals are welcomed across the spectrum of biomedical research activities, but funding will not cover clinical trials.

**BMGF:** [Grand Challenges Explorations Round 20](https://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/sites/default/files/additional-materials/GCE_Rules_and_Guidelines_Round20.pdf)  
**Deadline:** 8 November 2017

Three new opportunities have opened under Round 20 of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s (BMGF) Grand Challenges programme. These Phase I grants offer funding of up to $100,000 (c. £80,000) each for a grant period of 18 months. Phase I projects that show promise will be eligible to apply for follow-on (Phase II) funding.

- **Healthy Minds for Adolescent Mothers: Achieving Healthy Outcomes for the Family**
- **Novel Approaches for Improving Timeliness of Routine Immunization Birthdose and Healthcare Worker Skill in Low-Resource Settings**
- **Innovations for Integrated Diagnostics Systems**


This scheme is the result of an agreement between the Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBS) of the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and the UK Research Councils. Its aim is to reduce barriers to working internationally currently encountered by researchers by allowing US and UK researchers to submit a single collaborative proposal that will undergo a single review process.
Proposals may be submitted to either NSF/SBE (via FastLane) or one of the three participating Research Councils (ESRC, AHRC and BBSRC). The lead agency should be decided on the basis of where the largest proportion of research lies (financially).

Collaboration Opportunities, News and Events

UK-India Education and Research Initiative: Academic Peer Reviewers Sought
Deadline for expressions of interest: 8 October 2017

Universities UK International are seeking academics to review research applications for the E-Partnership and Research Incubation strand of the UK India Education & Research Initiative (UKIERI). There are two separate calls currently in need of expertise:

- UKIERI-DST: cyber physical systems, environmental sciences and future manufacturing
- UKIERI-UGC: all subject areas

Peer reviewers will be required to remotely review up to 10 research proposals using an online portal. They will each receive an honorarium payment of £80 for up to four proposals, and £160 for five to ten proposals.

RCUK: Mental Health Networking Event
31 October 2017
London

Deadline for registration: 12 October 2017

This informal event is being held ahead of a planned cross-disciplinary research call on mental health. Its aim is for potential applicants to learn more about RCUK’s expectations of the successful network plus awards, as well as meeting potential collaborators.

Attendance at this event will be capped at 100 spaces, so the number of attendees per institution may be limited in the event of oversubscription. Alongside academics, representatives from charities, service providers, businesses and clinicians are expected to attend.

Fleming Fund (NIHR): Technical Advisory Group
Deadline for applications: 20 October 2017

A call has opened for applications to join the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the Fleming Fund, a Department of Health-led initiative aimed at tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). A permanent TAG is being established to support the implementation of the Fund to 2021-22. It will consist of no more than 20 members, who will be expected to provide a maximum of five days’ worth of support annually in exchange for the reimbursement of “reasonable out-of-pocket expenses”.

To be considered, applicants require a minimum of 10 years’ experience in one of the following fields: AMR; agricultural health; animal health; antimicrobial use; clinical infectious disease and microbiology; data usage for evidence-based decision making; project evaluation for international projects; health economics; health policy planning in developing countries; health system strengthening in LMICs; health workforce development; laboratory capacity building; laboratory microbiology; medicine policy and regulation; or infectious disease surveillance with experience in LMICs.

GCRF (IFS): Low and Middle Income Longitudinal Population Study Directory

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has developed a new directory of low and middle income population studies, with support from the GCRF. It aims to provide a resource for funders and researchers interested in understanding changing socioeconomic and health circumstances, and to enhance opportunities for international and interdisciplinary research collaboration.

Previously advertised Opportunities

GCRF
(For open calls involving the member councils: http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/)

GCRF Collective Fund (RCUK): Interdisciplinary Research Hubs Call

There is no limit at this outline stage on the number UEA can submit as lead, however applications will be subjected to the following timeline:

- **19 September** – Researchers asked to submit a first draft of the five-page proposal and to have worked with REN colleagues to provide an indicative budget for the Hub.
- **20 September** – Five-page proposals circulated to Associate Deans for Research for review.
- **W/c 25 September** (or w/c 2 October) – Workshop for researchers involved in UEA-led bids, and in bids being led by other institutions.
- **29 September** – RCUK deadline for Intentions to Submit.
- **W/c 30 October** – All UEA-led proposals to have finalised institutional commitment sections, including letter of support from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation.
- **9 November** – RCUK deadline for submission of bids.

GCRF (Royal Academy of Engineering): Africa Catalyst

Deadline: 23 October 2017

This initiative aims to strengthen professional engineering bodies in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). There are two areas to the call:

- **Grants** (ranging from £30,000 to £300,000) for capacity-building, which are open to profession engineering bodies based in SSA as lead applicant, working in collaboration with a UK partner
- A research **tender** open to universities and leading researchers, working in collaboration with researchers and professional engineering bodies in SSA

A [webinar](#) is being held from 1-4pm on 13 September to assist with the application process.
GCRF (AHRC-MRC): Second call for Global Public Health Partnership Awards
Deadline: 26 October 2017
Projects must bring together expertise from both the arts and humanities, and the medical and health sciences; involve researchers, practitioners, communities, patients, or other non-academic partners in one or more low- or middle-income country (LMIC); and focus on (any) global public health issue in LMICs with the potential to benefit the health of people in LMICs. There are two types of grant on offer:
- Small Partnership Awards of up to £50,000 (fEC) over max. 18 months for initial activities
- Large Partnership Awards of no more than £200,000 (fEC) over 18-24 months for a comprehensive package of work

GCRF (BBSRC): Sustainable Agriculture for Sub-Saharan Africa
Deadline: 8 November 2017
Proposals must be led by a UK PI, but collaboration with Co-Is based in SSA is strongly encouraged. The call is expected to fund between 10 and 15 projects, worth between £500,000 and £1.5m each (100% fEC). There is a grant ceiling of £2m per proposal.

GCRF (ESRC): Pre-announcement of new calls
ESRC has pre-announced the commissioning of four new calls under the GCRF. The calls will focus on the areas of mental health, education and skills, decent work and transitions towards sustainable and inclusive societies. The formal launch of the calls will be in October/November 2017, and a total budget of approximately £16 million will be available.

Newton Fund
For all funding opportunities: http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/
Participating in Newton Funded International Workshops

Newton Fund (Met Office): CSSP Brazil and WCSSP Southeast Asia (pre-announcement)
Expressions of interest currently open: prospective applicants can register an interest via the links below up until the call launch date (this requires no proposal detail at this stage and carries no obligation to bid).
Two new tendering opportunities will open on 4 October under the Met Office’s Climate Science for Service Partnership (CSSP) Brazil:
- Estimating methane fluxes through inverse modelling (full deadline 4 December 2017)
- Meteorological driving data for offline land surface and impacts simulations (full deadline 4 December 2017)
A further call is due to launch on 9 October under the Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership (WCSSP) Southeast Asia:
- Tropical error covariances for data assimilation with particular focus to Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines (full deadline 17 November 2017)

Newton Fund: Regional Latin America call focussed on biodiversity
Deadline: 13 October 2017
Partner countries are **Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru** and **Argentina**.

**Newton Fund (RCUK):** [UK-China AMR Centre Partnerships Initiative](#) (pre-announcement)

**Newton-Mosharafa Fund (British Council):** [UK-Egypt PhD Programme](#)

**Deadline: 15 October 2017**

**Newton Fund (Innovate UK-BBSRC-EPSRC):** [UK-India Industrial Waste Challenge](#)

**Deadline: 18 October 2017** (applicants must register to apply by 11 October)

**Newton Fund (BBSRC):** [UK-India joint call on pulses and oilseeds](#)

**Deadline: 24 October 2017**

**Newton Fund (Royal Academy of Engineering):** [Distinguished Visiting Fellowships and Missions to Turkey](#)

**Deadline: 25 October 2017**

**Newton Fund (BBSRC- FAPESP):** [Joint Pump-Priming Awards for AMR and Insect Pest Resistance in Agriculture](#) (pre-announcement)

**Newton Fund (MRC-ESRC):** [Mental Health in South Africa](#) (pre-announcement)

**Newton Fund (NERC):** [Forthcoming activities](#) (pre-announcement)

NERC has revealed some of its forthcoming Newton Fund programmes for 2017:

- **Ganga Delta - Bay of Bengal Interactions**, a joint programme with India’s Ministry of Earth Sciences to understand how the Ganga Delta and Bay of Bengal are being impacted by climate change and human activity
- **Wallacea understanding biodiversity and evolutionary responses to environmental change**, a joint programme with the Indonesian Science Fund (DIPI) to improve understanding and predictive capabilities of community biodiversity and dynamics, in response to environmental change
- **Increasing resilience to hydrometeorological hazards**, for which collaborative research programmes are under discussion with five partner countries in Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

**Other Funders**

**CIFAR:** [Research Workshops for global challenges](#)

Applications accepted on a rolling basis

**THET:** [Health Partnership Scheme for Ghana, Burma/Myanmar, Tanzania, Uganda or Zambia](#)

**Deadline for applications: 1 October 2017**

**BBSRC:** [UK-Brazil Joint Funding of Research](#)

**Deadline: 4 October 2017**

**Strengthening Technology, Research and Innovation Cooperation between Europe and South Africa:** [Call for Twinning Activities in Marine Sciences](#)

**Deadline: 6 October 2017**
World Cancer Research Fund International: Regular Grant Programme
Deadline for outline proposals: 6 October 2017
Deadline for full proposals: 9 February 2018

JSPS: Bilateral Joint Research Projects
Deadline for UK-based applicants: 10 October 2017

British Academy: The Humanities and Social Sciences Tackling the UK’s International Challenges
Deadline: 11 October 2017 (host institution must approve by 12 October)

UNESCO: International Geoscience Programme
Deadline: 15 October 2017

Royal Society: International Exchanges
Deadline: 17 October 2017 (10 October for Japan and Taiwan cost shares or 13 October for China cost shares)

CEPI: Platform technologies to enable rapid vaccine development for epidemic prone infections
Deadline for stage one proposals: 17 October 2017
Deadline for stage two proposals (invitation only): February 2018

DFID: UK Aid Connect
Deadline for phase 2 thematic areas: 20 October 2017

NIHR: Global Health Research
Deadline: 20 October 2017
A webinar was held on the 25th July to support this new call (link to video of the webinar).

UK-India Education and Research Initiative: Call for Research Proposals
Deadline: 20 October 2017

BBSRC-DH: One Health Approaches to Accelerate Vaccine Development
Deadline: 25 October 2017

British Council: Cultural Protection Fund Large Grants
Deadline for expressions of interest: 3 November 2017
Deadline for full applications (invitation only): 31 January 2018

British Academy: Anti-Corruption Evidence Programme
Deadline: 15 November 2017 (host institution must approve by 16 November)

BBSRC: International Partnering Awards
Deadline: 16 November 2017

DFID-NERC: Science for Humanitarian Emergencies and Resilience
Deadline for outline bids: 21 November 2017
Deadline for full proposals (invitation only): 10 April 2018
EU-India Platform for Social Sciences and Humanities: Call for collaborative research on sustainability, equity, wellbeing and cultural connections
Deadline for applications: 30 November 2017

Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy: Grants for emerging scholars
Deadline: 1 December 2017

Global Innovation Fund: Grants for social innovations in the developing world
Applications accepted on a rolling basis

Rockefeller Foundation: Grants
Applications accepted on a rolling basis

Simons Foundation: Targeted Grants in Mathematics and Physical Sciences
Applications accepted on a rolling basis

Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI): Explorer Award
Applications accepted on a rolling basis

International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology: Mid-Career Research Fellowships
Applications accepted on a rolling basis

BBSRC: International Travel Award Scheme (ITAS)
Applications accepted on a rolling basis (at least six weeks before proposed travel)