International Funding Update

This link to an article written for Funding Insight from Rachael Sara-Kennedy (UUKi) provides an overview of recent developments in funding for international research, including the GCRF, Newton and Rutherford Fund. This includes a reference to a new International Collaboration Fund, a £110m commitment in the Industrial Strategy white paper expected to support collaborations with partners in developed economies.

As we have indicated in previous editions of this Update, Newton Fund calls for Institutional Links and Researcher Links are now expected to open once per year, in April.

SUMMARY

Funding Opportunities
- **Newton Fund (Met Office):** Climate Science for Service Partnership China
- **Newton Fund (Met Office):** Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership Southeast Asia
- **Newton Fund (MRC):** UK-Kenya Joint Partnership on Non-Communicable Diseases
- **Newton Fund (ESRC):** Smart Cities in Mexico
- **Newton Fund (British Council):** Institutional and Researcher Links [PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT]
- **NERC:** Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund [PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT]
- **Africa Union:** Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition
- **Weston Brain Institute:** Rapid Response (Fluid Biomarkers)
- **Bausch + Lomb:** Independent Research Grants in Ocular Health

Collaboration Opportunities, News and Events
- **DFID-ESRC-MRC-Wellcome Trust:** Annual Health Systems Call Extended to 2021
- **GCRF (ESRC):** International Conference on China Urban Development

Previously Advertised Opportunities
Funding Opportunities

Newton Fund (Met Office): Climate Science for Service Partnership China
Deadline: 29 March 2018

The Newton Fund’s Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership (WCSSP) programme aims to strengthen climate and weather resilient economic development and social welfare in participating countries. On 19 February 2018, a handful of new research grant tendering opportunities opened under the China strand of the programme (climate only), each worth an estimated £600,000:

- Aerosols and regional climate dynamics
- Attribution of extreme events and human impacts
- Land-Atmosphere Interactions and Processes
- Predictability of Regional Climate
- Regional Water Cycle

Applicants must be a UK operating and registered organisation, although consortia are eligible. They are not expected to have in-country partners to apply, as the bilateral partnership nature of the Newton Fund means that effort by in-country researchers is supported by existing in-country partners as standard.

Newton Fund (Met Office): Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership Southeast Asia
Deadline: 29 March 2018

In addition to the above opportunities under the China programme, the Met Office has launched a call on the vertical structure of weather over Southeast Asia. The successful bidder is likely to receive an estimated £300,000 to conduct a project on the nature of weather events in the region, with a key focus on vertical processes and structures as captured in global and convection permitting models.

Applicants must be a UK operating and registered organisation, although consortia are eligible. They are not expected to have in-country partners to apply, as the bilateral partnership nature of the Newton Fund means that effort by in-country researchers is supported by existing in-country partners as standard.

Newton Fund (MRC): UK-Kenya Joint Partnership on Non-Communicable Diseases
Deadline for expressions of interest: 9 April 2018
Deadline for full applications: 9 May 2018

MRC has teamed up with the Kenyan National Research Foundation (NRF) to provide funding for maximum three-year, high quality, collaborative research projects focused on addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Kenya. Proposals must address one or more of the following diseases: cancer, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, or diabetes.
Applications should be developed by a UK-based PI – from a HEI, independent research organisation, government funded organisation, MRC unit or institute, or university unit – and a Kenya-based PI. MRC and NRF have allocated funding of up to £1.5m and £700,000 respectively under the Call, which is expected to support around four projects. MRC will fund successful UK applicants at 80% fEC.

Newton Fund (ESRC): Smart Cities in Mexico
Deadline (UK side): 3 May 2018

ESRC and Mexico’s National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) are currently seeking collaborative UK-Mexican research proposals under one or more of the following topics: urban infrastructure, ICT, mobility and quality of life; resilience and environmental sustainability; the politics of the smart city; and urban economies and digital social innovation.

Research teams should be adequately balanced and include at least one Mexican and one UK research organisation. Four projects are likely to receive funding under the Call, which has an allocation of £20m from ESRC and MXN$20m (c£770,000) from CONACYT. UK-based partners can request justified costs up to £450,000 at 100% full economic cost (fEC), with ESRC contributing 80%.

Newton Fund (British Council): Institutional and Researcher Links [PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT]
Opens: w/c 9 April 2018

Preparations are underway for the next round of Institutional and Researcher Links, which provide funding for research and innovation collaborations between the UK and partner countries. Currently, it is understood that 10 countries will be eligible for Institutional Links and 3-4 for Researcher Links Workshops. This year there will be one “mega round”, as opposed to two separate calls.

NERC: Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund [PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT]
Deadline: Early May 2018

NERC has replaced its continually open International Opportunities Fund (IOF), which we have mentioned previously, with an annual €1m scheme. The Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund will support UK environmental science researchers with maximum £100,000 two-year grants to develop new, ‘best of the best’ networks, which underpin the development of long-term collaborations.

Standard NERC PI eligibility rules apply, with proposals from new investigators – who may not already have international research partners – encouraged. One or more international project partners are mandatory. The annual Call will be announced each March and close in early May. Funding decisions will be made in July with awards to start from September.
Africa Union: Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition  
Deadline: 22 May 2018

The intergovernmental African Union (AU) was established to promote unity and solidarity among all African states, with an ambitious strategic science and technology development programme being seen as integral to this. With support from the European Commission, the AU is currently offering two- to three-year research grants in the area of food, nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

Applicant consortia to the $9m (£6.5m) call must comprise at least three African or EU-based partners (research organisations, government ministries or public institutions). A majority should be from Africa, with at least two different African countries represented. Grants are worth $500,000 to $1m (£360,000 to £725,000) each, and must fall between 50% and 80% of total eligible costs.

Weston Brain Institute: Rapid Response (Fluid Biomarkers)  
Deadline for letters of intent: 23 April 2018

The Canada-based Weston Brain Institute was established to accelerate the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of ageing, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. Through a range of programmes, the Institute funds researchers in both Canada and Europe (Ireland, Netherlands and the UK only).

This current European call was launched to provide seed funding – without requirement for preliminary data – in support of high-risk, high-reward, translational research on novel biomarkers detected in patient-derived fluids. Projects can receive a maximum of £150,000 over 18 months. PIs must be postdocs or above, based at an eligible institution in one of the three participating countries.

Bausch + Lomb: Independent Research Grants in Ocular Health  
Applications accepted on a rolling basis

Bausch + Lomb, the American eye health products company, funds new treatments and technological advancements in ocular health on an ongoing basis. Eligible research must provide valuable scientific or clinical information relevant to disease states, drug or device efficacy, device design, improved clinical care, new clinical use, or otherwise benefit patients.

The amount of the grant requested must be reasonable in light of the activities to be performed. It cannot be used to fund an applicant’s ordinary operating expenses unrelated to the funded research project. The applicant must be a bona fide researcher with complete control over all aspects of the proposed research.

Collaboration Opportunities, News and Events

DFID-ESRC-MRC-Wellcome Trust: Annual Health Systems Call Extended to 2021

As mentioned in previous Funding Updates, the Health Systems Research Initiative was launched in 2013 to help strengthen health systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Following an
“excellent response to this programme from the research community”, funding has now been secured for an annual call until 2021. The current call – listed below – remains open until 5 June 2018.

GCRF (ESRC): International Conference on China Urban Development
9-12 July
Glasgow

The University of Glasgow is hosting this year’s GCRF-sponsored conference on Chinese urban development. It will bring together researchers from urban studies, geography, sociology, political science, urban planning, urban management, public policy, and China studies. Interested students and staff can submit a conference paper abstract to UrbanChina2018@glasgow.ac.uk by 31 March.

Previously Advertised Opportunities

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

GCRF (AMS): Networking Grants
Deadline: 21 March 2018

GCRF (ESRC): Inequalities and Skills Acquisition in Young People
Deadline: 22 March 2018

Newton Fund
For all funding opportunities: http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/funding/funding-opportunities/

Participating in Newton Funded International Workshops

Newton Fund (BA-RS-AMS): Newton Advanced Fellowships
Deadline: 14 March 2018
Each national academy has a different set of eligible applicant countries:
- Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) – Brazil, Mexico and South Africa
- British Academy (BA) – Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey
- Royal Society (RS) – Brazil, China, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey

Newton Fund (BA-RS): Newton Mobility Grants
Deadline: 14 March 2018
- BA – Brazil, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam
- RS – Brazil, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey

BA-RS-AMS: Newton International Fellowships
Deadline: 27 March 2018
- AMS – Brazil, China, India, Mexico or South Africa
- BA – Any nationality (not UK citizen or UK-based)
RS – Any nationality (not UK citizen or UK-based)

Newton Fund (BBSRC): Enhancing Ruminant Livestock Productivity in Kenya
Deadline: 10 April 2018

Newton Fund (MRC-NERC): Atmospheric Pollution and Health in a Chinese Megacity
Deadline: 25 April 2018

Newton Fund (AHRC): Development through the Creative Economy in China
Deadline: 26 April 2018

Newton Fund (NERC): Wallacea Region – Understanding Biodiversity and Evolutionary Responses to Environmental Change
Deadline for notifications of intent: 15 March 2018
Deadline for full proposals (invitation only): 1 May 2018

Newton Fund (MRC-ESRC): UK-South Africa Joint Initiative on Mental Health
Deadline: 2 May 2018

Newton Fund (RCUK): UK-China AMR Centre Partnerships Initiative [PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT]
Opens: Early 2018

Other Funders

JSPS: Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities, Social and Natural Sciences
Deadline: 13 March 2018

BBSRC: Breakthrough Technologies to Advance Crop Breeding
Deadline for outline applications: 14 March 2018
Deadline for full proposals (invitation only): July 2018 (TBC)

UICC: Yamagiwa-Yoshida Memorial International Cancer Study Grants
Next deadlines: 15 March (TBC) and 15 October 2018

Human Frontier Science Programme: Research Grants
Deadline for registration: 19 March 2018
Deadline for letters of intent: 28 March 2018
Prostate Cancer Foundation: Young Investigator Awards
Deadline: 19 March 2018

Pfizer: ASPIRE Inflammation Research Awards
Deadline: 23 March 2018

ESRC: Understanding the Future of Canada-UK Trade Relationships
Deadline: 29 March 2018
Daiwa Foundation: [Awards for UK-Japanese Collaborative Projects](#)
Deadline: 31 March 2018

JPI HDHL: [Nutrition and the Epigenome](#)
Deadline: 12 April 2018

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy: [International Grants](#)
Next deadline: 15 April 2018

Royal Society of New Zealand Catalyst Fund: [Seeding Grants](#)
Next deadlines: 19 April, 19 July and October 2018 (exact date TBC)

Project Management Institute: [Sponsored Research Programme](#)
Deadline: 25 April 2018

Spencer Foundation: [Small Grants for Education Research](#)
Next deadlines: 1 May, 1 August and 1 November 2018

Russell Sage Foundation: Calls on [Computational Social Science](#) and [Integrating Biology and Social Science Knowledge](#)
Deadline for letters of inquiry: 24 May 2018
Deadline for full proposals (invitation only): 15 August 2018

DFID-ESRC-MRC-Wellcome Trust: [Health Systems Research Initiative](#)
Deadline for foundation grants (single-stage): 5 June 2018

Global Connections Fund: [Bridging Grants with Australian Entities](#)
Deadline for eligibility tests: 14 June 2018
Deadline for full applications (invitation only): 28 June 2018

Christensen Fund: [Global Programme for Biological and Cultural Diversity](#)
Deadline for pre-proposals: 31 August 2018

Matsumae International Foundation: [Research Fellowship Programme in Japan](#)
Deadline: 31 August 2018

John Templeton Foundation: [Small and Large Research Grants in Core Areas](#)
Deadline: 31 August 2018

Centre for Education and Ethics: [Research Grants](#)
Deadline: 6 November 2018