

# Cylchlythyr | Circular

## Global Challenges Research Fund 2020/21

**Date:** 10 June 2020  
**Reference:** W20/16HE  
**To:** Heads of higher education institutions in Wales  
**Response by:** No response required  
**Contact:** Name: Claire Hobbs  
Telephone: 029 2085 9647  
Email: [claire.hobbs@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:claire.hobbs@hefcw.ac.uk)

This circular confirms allocations from the Global Challenges Research Fund which is being made available via HEFCW in 2020/21.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please email [info@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:info@hefcw.ac.uk).



Noddir gan  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
Sponsored by  
**Welsh Government**

## Introduction

1. This circular announces funding of £3.4 million from the Global Challenges Research Fund which is being made available via HEFCW in 2020/21.

## The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

2. The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a five-year £1.5 billion fund to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries through
  - challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research
  - strengthening capacity for research and innovation within both the UK and developing countries
  - providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.
3. GCRF forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment. ODA-funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list. [Further information about GCRF](#) is available on the UKRI website.
4. The funding for GCRF is provided by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). It is delivered primarily by the Research Councils, Learned Societies and UK Space Agency, which make awards on the basis of competitive bids.

## GCRF Funding Provided via the HE Funding Bodies

5. In addition to the funding which it is providing to the Research Councils, the Learned Societies and UK Space Agency, BEIS also provides an element of GCRF funding to Research England. The Overseas Development Agency agreed that it would be appropriate for BEIS to provide equivalent allocations to the higher education funding bodies of the devolved countries of the UK.
6. BEIS has provided us with figures for HEFCW's GCRF funding for 2020/21. BEIS has calculated the HE funding bodies' allocations in proportion to each country's share of total UK Research Council funding. In the first year of the scheme, the funding bodies' allocations were calculated on the basis of Barnett proportions (5% for Wales), but BEIS advised us from the outset in 2016/17 that it intended to move to the current method.

## Eligible Uses of Funding

7. The GCRF funding made available via HEFCW has been provided for the purpose of supporting cutting edge research that promotes the economic development and well-being of countries on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee [\(DAC\) list](#).
8. Within the above overarching objective, the list of eligible uses of the funding made available via the UK HE funding bodies has been reviewed and expanded this year. In 2020/21 the GCRF funding provided via HEFCW is expected to be used to progress the three year strategies that were agreed and [published](#) in 2018.

## Reporting Requirements

9. Institutions in receipt of funding are requested to provide annual reports on progress against their agreed strategies. Funding bodies provide a combined report to BEIS, coordinated by Research England, for internal monitoring and compliance purposes.

## Allocations

10. As in previous years, the GCRF funding has been allocated pro rata to universities' Research Council grant income. We have applied a funding threshold which means that funding will only be provided to those institutions which generate an allocation of at least £50k through the operation of the pro-rata allocation formula.
11. The 2020/21 allocations are set out at **Annex A**. They will be paid to universities in two instalments, the first 50% in June and the second 50% upon receipt of the funds from BEIS, expected in September 2020.
12. This funding will be regarded as a supplement to QR.

## Assessing the Impact of our Policies

13. We have carried out an impact assessment of our funding methodology to help safeguard against discrimination and promote equality. We also considered the impact on the Welsh language, and Welsh language provision within the HE sector in Wales. The Equality Act 2010 requires all public authorities in Wales, including universities, to carry out an impact assessment to comply with the provisions set out in the Act.

## Further information

14. For further information, contact Claire Hobbs (tel 029 2085 9647; email [claire.hobbs@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:claire.hobbs@hefcw.ac.uk)).

## Global Challenges Research Fund Allocations – 2020/21

	Research Council research grant income 2018/19	GCRF allocations 2020/21
	£	
University of South Wales	570,000	0
Aberystwyth University	7,484,000	£425,665
Bangor University	3,636,000	£206,804
Cardiff University	33,076,000	£1,881,255
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	129,000	0
Swansea University	16,027,000	£911,563
Cardiff Metropolitan University	200,000	0
Wrexham Glyndŵr University	21,000	0
Centre for Advanced Welsh & Celtic Studies	202,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,345,000</b>	<b>£3,425,287</b>

Source for Research Council research grant income: HESA Resources for institutions of higher education 2018/19