

Tŷ Afon, Heol Bedwas
Bedwas, Caerffili,
CF83 8WT

029 2085 9696

Tŷ Afon, Bedwas Road
Bedwas, Caerphilly
CF83 8WT

www.hefcw.ac.uk

Cyngor Cyllido Addysg
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Council for Wales

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Cylchlythyr | Circular

Global Challenges Research Fund

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Contact: Name: Linda Tiller
Telephone: 029 2085 9715
Email: linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk

This circular announces funding from the Global Challenges Research Fund which is being made available via HEFCW in 2016/17.

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Introduction

1. This circular announces funding from the Global Challenges Research Fund which is being made available via HEFCW in 2016/17.

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

2. The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government 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 RCUK 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 will make awards on the basis of competitive bids. In 2016-17, the funding available to the Research Councils is around £50 million (of £112m). Total funding for GCRF ramps up to ca £490 million by 2020-21, of which £100m has so far been allocated indicatively to individual Research Councils.

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 is also providing an element of GCRF funding to the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Although this does not trigger automatic "Barnett consequentials", the Overseas Development Agency has 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. In 2016-17, these allocations have been calculated on the basis of the 'standard shares' for each UK country which are normally used for such calculations (5% for Wales). For Wales, the allocation for 2016-17 will be £1.2 million.

7. The arrangement is expected to continue in subsequent years, but the allocations for the devolved HE Funding Bodies may, in future, be calculated on the basis of each country's share of total UK Research Council income earned by HEIs.

Terms of Funding

8. Grants provided by the Research Councils are expected to meet 80% of the Full Economic Cost (FEC) of the research undertaken. The QR funding provided by the HE Funding Bodies helps institutions meet the remaining 20% of the costs of research funded by the Research Councils. Accordingly, the GCRF funding which BEIS is providing to HEFCW and the other HE Funding Bodies is being made available in order to help universities meet the Full Economic Costs of research funded through GCRF awards from the Research Councils.
9. The GCRF funding provided via HEFCW can be used:
 - a) To meet the Full Economic Costs of GCRF grants from the Research Councils. **This is its primary purpose.**
 - b) To support research activities and infrastructure which are consistent with the terms and objectives of the Global Challenges Research Fund
 - c) To support pump-priming activities to underpin GCRF bids to the Research Councils.
10. Vice-Chancellors of institutions in receipt of funding will be asked to sign a Declaration of Expenditure in July 2017 to confirm that the GCRF funding made available via HEFCW in 2016/17 has been used in accordance with the purposes for which it was provided.

Allocations

11. Reflecting the purpose for which it has been provided, the GCRF funding has been allocated pro rata to universities' Research Council grant income. Consistent with the approach that we have adopted for Higher Education Research Capital, a funding threshold has been applied. 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.
12. The 2016-17 allocations are set out at **Annex A**. They will be paid to universities in full in December 2016.
13. This funding will be regarded as a supplement to QR. In subsequent years, we hope to include it within the QR allocations announced in HEFCW's annual Funding Circular, provided that we receive notification of the amount in sufficient time.

Assessing the Impact of our Policies

14. We have carried out an impact assessment screening 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.

Further information

15. For further information, contact Linda Tiller (029 2085 9715; linda.tiller@hefcw.ac.uk).

Global Challenges Research Fund Allocations – 2016-17

	Research Council research grant income 2014/15	2016/17 GCRF allocations
	£	£
University of South Wales	548,000	0
Aberystwyth University	9,579,000	219,563
Bangor University	4,464,000	102,321
Cardiff University	25,876,000	593,112
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	26,000	0
Swansea University	12,434,000	285,004
Cardiff Metropolitan University	132,000	0
Wrexham Glyndŵr University	352,000	0
Centre for Advanced Welsh & Celtic Studies	680,000	0
Total	54,091,000	1,200,000

Source for Research Council research grant income: HESA Finance Statistics Return 2014/15