Economic and Social Research Council

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ESRC Global Challenge Research Fund Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme

Frances Burstow, ESRC Strategic Lead, Skills and Methods

Agenda

▸ Welcome and housekeeping

▸ Overview of the Global Challenge Research Fund

▸ ESRC GCRF Postdoctoral Fellowships

▸ Overseas Development Assistance Compliance

What is GCRF?

Cutting edge research which addresses the problems faced by developing countries
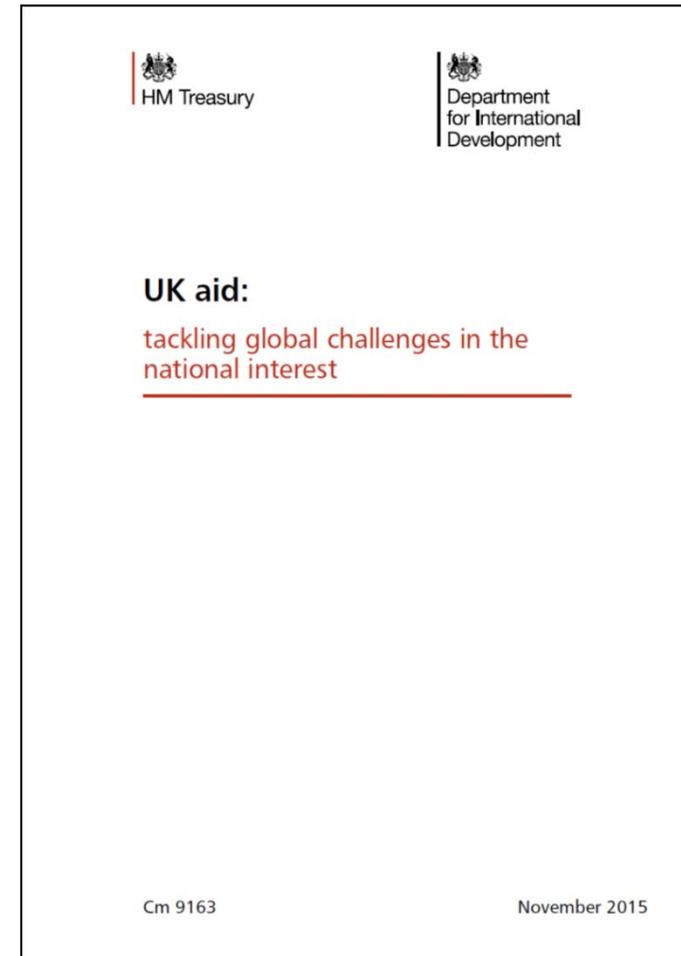
2015 Government Spending Review Outcomes

❑ Address global challenges through disciplinary and interdisciplinary research

❑ Strengthening capability for research and innovation, within both UK and developing countries

❑ Agile response to emergencies and opportunities

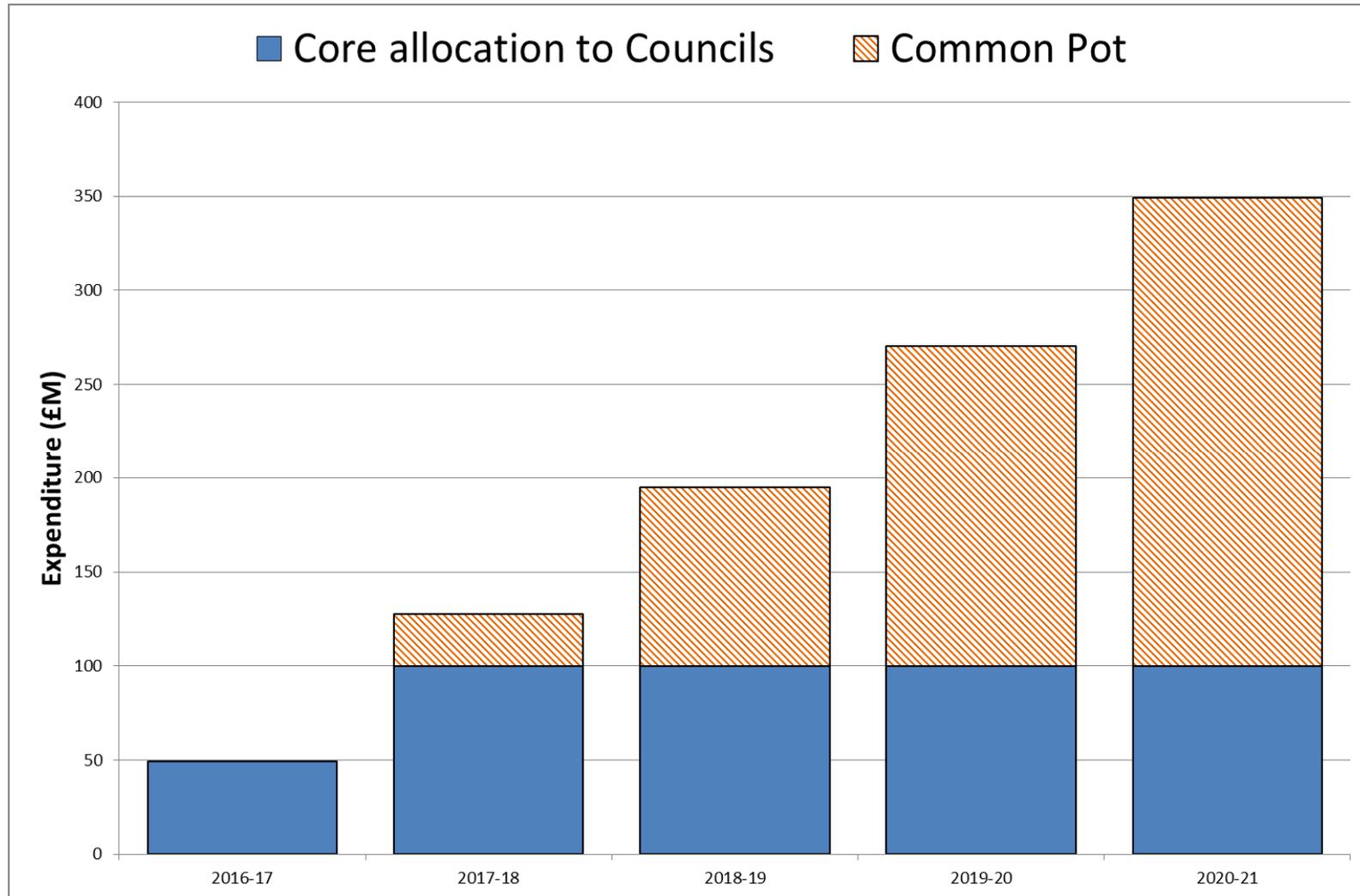# Part of the UK Government's Official Development Assistance

"*research directly and primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries may be counted as ODA.* This includes research into tropical diseases and developing crops designed for developing country conditions. *The costs may still be counted as ODA if the research is carried out in a developed country.*"

UK Aid Strategy: four strategic objectives

- Strengthening global peace, security and governance

- Strengthening resilience and response to crises

- Promoting global prosperity

- Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable

HM Treasury

Department for International Development

UK aid:

tackling global challenges in the national interest

Cm 9163   November 2015

GCRF allocation

Global Challenge Research Fund

	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	SR
AHRC	5	7	7	7	7	25
BBSRC	10	20	20	20	20	70
EPSRC	10	15	15	15	15	55
ESRC	5	10	10	10	10	35
HEFCE	20	37	37	37	37	130
MRC	14	34	34	34	34	115
NERC	5	10	10	10	10	35
STFC	0	4	4	4	4	11

GCRF Collective Fund: Priority Areas

▸ Initial high level challenge areas:

- Health

- Clean Energy

- Sustainable Agriculture

- Conflict and Humanitarian Action

- Foundations for Inclusive Growth

▸ Call for Evidence - closes 22 August

http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/gcrf-call-for-evidence/

ESRC Priorities

▸ Building effective institutions in conflict-affected and fragile states

▸ Migration, mobility and development

▸ Dynamics of inequalities

▸ Innovation and inclusive economic growth

▸ Shocks, security, risks and resilience

Modes of Delivery

- Centres and Large Grants

- Strategic Networks

- Urgency Grants

- Doctoral Training and Early Career Researchers

- Data Infrastructure

- Capacity Strengthening Initiatives

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Q&A

ESRC GCRF Postdoctoral Fellowships

▶ Aim: to enhance the capacity of early career researchers in the social sciences to engage with the GCRF

▶ Delivered through five ESRC Doctoral Training Centres

▶ Funding up to £125k at 100% FEC to support a 1 yrs. (up to 2 yrs. PT) programme of activities

▶ All proposals must be ODA compliant

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ESRC GCRF Postdoctoral Fellowships

▶ Engage with academic and non academic audiences to communicate research findings from your PhD

▶ Build international networks with academic and user audiences to develop impact opportunities and inform and support further development of your research

▶ Collaborate with users through an internship or placement – to develop professional and transferrable skills

▶ Produce publications in order to help establish track record

▶ Develop research and related skills through additional specialised training

▶ Carry out further limited research based on their PhD and related work

Eligibility

▸ Must have graduated from one of the research organisations which make up the DTC to which you are applying

▸ At time of submission you must have a PhD or have passed viva voce with only minor corrections

▸ Must have no more than three years active postdoctoral experience at the start date of the award

▸ Not open to established, permanent members of staff in an academic position with a research component

Timetable

▸ Deadline for proposals – 9 September

▸ DTCs check eligibility

▸ DTCs assess proposals – w/c 3 October

▸ DTCs inform successful applicants w/c 10 October

▸ Successful proposals submitted in Je-S w/c 10 October

▸ Fellowships commence no later than beginning of January 2017

Q&A

GCRF and ODA Compliance

Jo Duffy, Lead for ESRC ODA Compliance Team

What is ODA (1)?

▶ ODA stands for Official Development Assistance

▶ The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) sets the international standard for defining and registering ODA

▶ See: https://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/34086975.pdf for more information

What is ODA (2)?

Official Development Assistance is defined as those flows* to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients and to multilateral development institutions which are:

i. provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and

ii. each transaction of which:

   a) is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and

   b) is concessional in character and conveys a grant element of at least 25 per cent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 per cent).

*Flows are transfers of resources, either in cash or in the form of commodities or services.

What is the DAC list?

▸ The DAC List of ODA Recipients shows all countries and territories eligible to receive official development assistance (ODA). These consist of all low and middle income countries (LMICs) based on gross national income (GNI) per capita as published by the World Bank

▸ The DAC revises the list every three years. The next review of the DAC List will take place in 2017. The current DAC list is available online at www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm

Which countries are on the DAC list?

DAC List of ODA Recipients
Effective for reporting on 2014, 2015 and 2016 flows

Least Developed Countries	Other Low Income Countries (per capita GNI <= $1 045 in 2013)	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI $1 046-$4 125 in 2013)	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI $4 126-$12 745 in 2013)
Afghanistan	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Armenia	Albania
Angola	Kenya	Bolivia	Algeria
Bangladesh	Tajikistan	Cabo Verde	Antigua and Barbuda[2]
Benin	Zimbabwe	Cameroon	Argentina
Bhutan		Congo	Azerbaijan
Burkina Faso		Côte d'Ivoire	Belarus
Burundi		Egypt	Belize
Cambodia		El Salvador	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Central African Republic		Georgia	Botswana
Chad		Ghana	Brazil
Comoros		Guatemala	Chile[2]
Democratic Republic of the Congo		Guyana	China (People's Republic of)
Djibouti		Honduras	Colombia
Equatorial Guinea[1]		India	Cook Islands
Eritrea		Indonesia	Costa Rica
Ethiopia		Kosovo	Cuba
Gambia		Kyrgyzstan	Dominica
Guinea		Micronesia	Dominican Republic
Guinea-Bissau		Moldova	Ecuador
Haiti		Mongolia	Fiji
Kiribati		Morocco	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Lao People's Democratic Republic		Nicaragua	Gabon
Lesotho		Nigeria	Grenada
Liberia		Pakistan	Iran
Madagascar		Papua New Guinea	Iraq
Malawi		Paraguay	Jamaica
Mali		Philippines	Jordan
Mauritania		Samoa	Kazakhstan
Mozambique		Sri Lanka	Lebanon
Myanmar		Swaziland	Libya
Nepal		Syrian Arab Republic	Malaysia
Niger		Tokelau	Maldives
Rwanda		Ukraine	Marshall Islands
Sao Tome and Principe		Uzbekistan	Mauritius
Senegal		Viet Nam	Mexico
Sierra Leone		West Bank and Gaza Strip	Montenegro
Solomon Islands			Montserrat
Somalia			Namibia
South Sudan			Nauru
Sudan			Niue
Tanzania			Palau
Timor-Leste			Panama
Togo			Peru
Tuvalu			Saint Helena
Uganda			Saint Lucia
Vanuatu[1]			Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Yemen			Serbia
Zambia			Seychelles
			South Africa
			Suriname
			Thailand
			Tonga
			Tunisia
			Turkey
			Turkmenistan
			Uruguay[2]
			Venezuela
			Wallis and Futuna

▶ All countries on the DAC list are eligible to receive ODA, and therefore relevant to GCRF funding

▶ There are **no priority countries** on the DAC list for the purposes of GCRF

ODA and GCRF

- Only grants that comply with ODA requirements can be funded under GCRF calls.

- The OECD states that 'Only research directly and primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries may be counted as ODA. This includes research into tropical diseases and developing crops designed for developing country conditions The costs may still be counted as ODA if the research is carried out in a developed country.'
  (https://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/34086975.pdf - Is it ODA?)

- Refer to ESRC (www.esrc.ac.uk/gcrf) and RCUK pages for GCRF guidelines (www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf)

- Frequently Asked Questions for GCRF calls

ODA requirements for applicants

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how they meet ODA requirements throughout their **case for support** and **pathways to impact**. In addition, all proposals must include a one-page attachment (**ODA compliance statement)** addressing the following three questions:

▸ Which country / countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal?

▸ How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?

▸ How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list?

How will ODA compliance be assessed? (1)

▸ Initial checks by DTCs following guidance developed by the ESRC (responsibility is devolved)

▸ Escalation of borderline / complex cases to a small ODA compliance 'remit' team within ESRC, with further escalation routes to RCUK in the first instance and then DFID/BEIS

How will ODA compliance be assessed? (2)

▶ The ESRC ODA compliance team places proposals in one of three categories:

- The team are confident that the proposal **meets the minimum criteria** for compliance and can pass through to panel/peer review

- The team view the proposal as **borderline** (giving reasons) but state that it should pass through to peer review/panel. The panel are asked to pay particular attention to issues of ODA compliance.

- The team are confident that the proposal **does not meet the minimum criteria** for compliance and therefore should be rejected on these grounds.

▶ DTCs are advised to follow this practice when assessing the ODA compliance of ESRC GCRF Postdoctoral Fellowships

How will ODA compliance be assessed? (3)

▸ The initial decision to allow a proposal to progress to peer review/panel **does not** exclude the possibility that a panel may later deem a proposal to be non-compliant.

▸ Panels are required to assess not just technical compliance, but also the extent to which a proposal meets the **spirit** of ODA.

▸ As always, our principal criterion is scientific excellence, and ODA compliance will be a second order criterion (along with a number of others).

Important considerations / points to note

- It is fine for research to take place outside of a DAC list country so long as it is **directly and primarily relevant** to the problems/development needs of a country or countries on the DAC list

- It is also fine for projects to include a comparative element, but the **primary motivation must be to benefit a DAC list country** or countries

- If a country is due to graduate from the DAC list during the course of the project it still counts as eligible for the purposes of GCRF

- The **primary impacts and principal beneficiaries** of the research must be within a DAC list country or countries

Unsure?

▸ Where there are questions about ODA compliance for specific applications the DTC in question should first seek to make a decision on ODA compliance in-house.

▸ If the DTC cannot resolve the query internally they should refer the proposal to the ESRC for advice from the ODA compliance remit team

Examples (1) (drawn from proposals we have funded in the past few years)

▸ A proposal which compares levels of gender equality in the IT sector in the UK and India, exploring what the UK can learn from the Indian case – not ODA compliant as impacts/beneficiaries are primarily in the UK

▸ A proposal which looks at intra-state contestation in Iraq's disputed territories and seeks to advance understandings of the dynamics of contested spaces and the options available for their non-violent management – ODA compliant as it deals with a clear development issue (post conflict reconciliation) and impacts are primarily with local stakeholders, and secondarily with the UN and other international stakeholders

Examples (2)

▸ A proposal which seeks to produce a history of the Taliban military campaign in Afghanistan focusing on the key themes of insurgent adaptation and resilience and to make a positive contribution towards conflict termination – not ODA compliant as although there are impacts within Afghanistan with local peacemakers on both sides of the conflict, the primary beneficiaries are British and US policymakers and militaries.

▸ A proposal which seeks to examine anti-racist practices in four Latin American countries (all on the DAC list) in order to promote anti-racist practices and thereby reduce racial conflict and inequality – ODA compliant, with clear impacts and beneficiaries in country.

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Q&A