

# ESRC Impact Acceleration Account KE Dialogues GCRF Highlight Notice

Notice applies 11 Aug 2016 to 30 Sept 2016

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## Instructions

Please read this highlight notice in conjunction with the Call specification and guidance for applicants (Call doc A) for the KE Dialogues scheme.

**NB this highlight notice is open only to University of Oxford applicants.**

Application forms and guidance documents are available to download online at <http://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/esrciaa/gcrfdialogues>.

Applications should be endorsed by your Head of Department and submitted through your departmental administrator/research support officer to [esrciaa@socsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:esrciaa@socsci.ox.ac.uk). All parts of the submission should be clearly named and the application should be **clearly marked with GCRF in the project title**. The deadline for applications is **30 September 2016, 5pm**.

## Useful contacts

If you have any general queries relating to this highlight notice or the ESRC IAA and KE Dialogues scheme please contact [esrciaa@socsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:esrciaa@socsci.ox.ac.uk).

For ODA compliance or more in-depth enquiries please contact the SSD Research Impact Facilitator [ailen.marshall-brown@socsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ailen.marshall-brown@socsci.ox.ac.uk) (Tel 01865 614881).

## 1 Summary

This highlight notice applies to the current ESRC IAA KE Dialogues call with **deadline 30 September 2016** (see [www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/esrciaa/gcrfdialogues](http://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/esrciaa/gcrfdialogues) for more details and to download relevant documents).

- We are looking to fund 2-3 GCRF KE Dialogues projects under this highlight notice that develop new and existing relationships with academic and non-academic stakeholders that will in turn develop the potential of researchers to contribute to the GCRF agenda.
- Applicants may request up to £7.5K of eligible costs under this highlight notice (rather than the usual £2.5K limit for KE Dialogues) to enable international travel.
- Projects funded by this highlight notice must promote economic development and welfare in an OECD DAC-listed country and fit with the ODA guidelines.
- **All ESRC GCRF IAA funding allocated under this highlight notice must be spent no later than 31 December 2016.**

## 2 Background and context

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is investing approximately £1million in its cohort of ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA) to **deliver critical foundation development activity** to support the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) ([www.esrc.ac.uk/gcrf](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/gcrf)).

The **GCRF is a £1.5 billion funding stream** operating across the seven Research Councils, National Academies, UK Space Agency and HEFCE, **to support cutting-edge research which addresses the problems faced by developing countries, and forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment.** The RCUK GCRF represents the largest portion of this fund, and is a strategic fund spanning all seven Research Councils. The Research Councils have each received directly allocated portions of the GCRF, and the ESRC is drawing on its allocation to support this activity.

The GCRF will address global challenges through **disciplinary and interdisciplinary research** and will **strengthen capability for research and innovation** within both UK and developing countries – providing an **agile response to emergencies** where there is an urgent research need.

This funding is through the ESRC's allocation, and is one of a number of Research Council activities to **build and enhance interdisciplinary capacity to deliver new research that addresses GCRF's aims** through short to medium term investments. Every discipline within the social sciences has the potential to make a strong contribution to the GCRF agenda. The ESRC anticipates playing an integral role in developing and delivering the GCRF, working alongside other research councils and partners. Further information about the ESRC's approach to the GCRF and details of other current GCRF calls is available on their website ([www.esrc.ac.uk/gcrf](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/gcrf)). Further details are also listed on the RCUK website (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/>).

## 3 IAA GCRF objectives

University of Oxford's IAA has received additional ESRC GCRF funding to focus on the two key areas below:

- 1 **Building relationships to develop the potential of social science researchers to contribute to both the RCUK and ESRC GCRF agendas; and**
- 2 **Increasing the impact of existing social science research within the RO relevant to the GCRF agenda.**

Applications to the KE Dialogues scheme under this highlight notice must address at least the first of these objectives – building relationships with academic and non-academic stakeholders. Further details below.

In all cases, activity funded by the ESRC IAA GCRF allocation must promote economic development and welfare in an OECD DAC listed country and fit with ODA guidelines (see below) <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/34086975.pdf>.

### 3.1 Relationship building

The KE Dialogues scheme provides small grants for events/meetings to bring together academics with external stakeholders in meaningful and productive two-way discussions. These grants are intended as a first step in developing new, collaborative relationships with non-academics that will, in turn, open up opportunities for new projects (see [Call Doc A](#) for full call specification).

KE Dialogues supported under this highlight notice are anticipated to create the foundations for the development of strong collaborations with UK and international academics (including interdisciplinary relationships within and beyond the social sciences) and must include non-academic stakeholders. Relationships can either be new or build on existing ones.

We expect a strong emphasis on building relationships with researchers and non-academics based overseas in OECD DAC-listed countries (e.g., from the public, private or third sectors) and/or with relevant international organisations with remits that include supporting development in ODA recipient countries (e.g., international aid, development, humanitarian or cultural exchange organisations).

The activities do not need to be UK-based: it is acceptable for some activities to take place in developing countries. No primary research will be eligible under this funding.

### 3.2 Enhancing impact

IAAs are also able to support social science researchers to enhance the impact of their existing work to promote the economic development and welfare of a developing country or countries. It is anticipated that in the context of the KE Dialogues scheme impact may happen as a longer term result of the relationship building, but immediate impact enhancement is not the primary aim of the call.

### 3.3 ESRC priority areas

The ESRC have identified five key areas, on which they will focus their GCRF funding (further details below). We welcome applications in these key areas as a focus for developing new relationships in advance of anticipated larger-scale funding in these areas:

- *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*

A central challenge across these themes will be to deliver cutting-edge social science-led research which advances knowledge and delivers practical outputs to inform policy and practice. More detail of the ESRC's thematic priorities are set out at <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/files/research/international/esrc-approach-to-the-gcrf/>.

## 4 ODA Compliance

**All activity funded under this highlight notice must meet the ODA compliance criteria.**

The Global Challenges Research Fund is classed as [Official Development Assistance \(ODA\)](#) and as such all activity funded by the GCRF has to meet the ODA requirements. ODA compliant activity promotes the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the [OECD Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\) List](#) and is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

ODA compliant research is defined by the OECD as:

*“research directly and primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries. 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.”*

### 4.1 Useful links

- OECD DAC list of countries – <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>
- Is it ODA? Factsheet – <https://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/34086975.pdf>
- RCUK ODA guidance – <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/international/gcrfodaguidance-pdf/>
- ESRC ODA guidance – <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/research/international-research/global-challenges-research-fund-gcrf/official-development-assistance-oda/>
- OECD Overseas Development Assistance information – <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm>

## 5 How to apply

Applicants must submit the following documents via their departmental research support administrator with the endorsement of their Head of Department:

- A completed application form for the ESRC IAA KE Dialogues scheme (see section 5.1)
- A 1-page statement on ODA compliance (see sections 4 and 5.2)

Application forms and guidance documents can be downloaded from [www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/esrciaa/gcrfdialogues](http://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/esrciaa/gcrfdialogues)

### 5.1 Application Form

Please complete the KE Dialogues application form following the normal instructions but also including information that responds to the following considerations:

- The start date should be no earlier than 15 October 2016 and the end date should be no later than **31 December 2016**.
- Include details of the relationships you are intending to build with relevant stakeholders in the ‘**Academic contributors**’ and ‘**Non-academic contributors**’ sections.
  - Proposals should include contributors from the DAC-listed country of interest and/or contributors from international development-related organisations.
  - Please include the country next to each of the names/organisations in your list.
  - At least 50% of the academic contributors should be social scientists ([ESRC remit](#)).
  - At least 50% of all contributors should be from non-academic organisations.
- Include in the ‘**Background**’ section details of the ESRC GCRF priority area you have selected and also any of the Sustainable Development Goals you aim to address through your KE Dialogue. Explain your choice of country, the development challenges you will focus on and why these are important to that country.

- Ensure that your **'Aims and objectives'** include elements that respond to the aim and focus of this highlight notice and the ODA criteria, i.e., are you engaging with stakeholders who will help you to develop new research to explore the problems of developing countries or will help you to implement and disseminate existing research findings to DAC listed countries?
- Include in the **'Format'** section where you intend to hold any meetings (i.e., are you intending to visit the DAC country or do you intend to bring representatives from overseas to the UK) and justify the rationale behind this choice. Consider an appropriate format for your KE Dialogue that will be sensitive to cultural differences and language barriers, creating open discussions encouraging all parties to contribute equally.
- Include in the **'Outcomes and sustainability'** section information about the potential outcomes of the KE Dialogue, and how this will enable further engagement with the GCRF agenda. Explain how you will maintain and develop longer term sustainable relationships with your project partners, describe your longer term impact goals and how these relate to the development challenges faced by that particular region.
- Include a breakdown of the planned expenditure in the **'Resources'** section, requesting up to a maximum of £7,500 (rather than the normal £2,500 for this scheme). This additional budget is designed to cover the significant costs of international travel and subsistence. Please follow the normal KE Dialogues guidance on eligible costs.

## 5.2 Statement on ODA Compliance

Please submit a 1-page document demonstrating how you meet the ODA requirement by responding to the following questions:

- 1 Which country/ countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal? Proposals may relate to any country or countries on the DAC list; there are no priority countries.
- 2 How is the proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?
- 3 How do you expect the outcome of the proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list?

## 6 Review process

Applications will be assessed via a competitive peer review process by our academic panel using our standard ESRC IAA KE Dialogues aims and selection criteria:

- **Academic track record** – a high quality research base (commensurate with career stage) is vital for any high quality knowledge exchange activity
- **Scope and quality of contributors** – engagement of a broad range of appropriate stakeholders, building new relationships as well as strengthening existing partnerships
- **Format** - an engaged, practical and appropriate dialogue format enabling two-way dialogue (avoiding standard dissemination), innovative approaches are encouraged
- **Potential** – applications showing the potential of the relationships to lead onto future collaboration or to create/accelerate impact will be prioritised
- **Multi-/Inter-disciplinarity** – applications with interdisciplinary collaboration are encouraged

Additionally projects will be required to be fully **ODA compliant** (section 4) to be considered for funding and must address at least the first of the **IAA GCRF objectives** outlined in section 3.

Reviewers will also be asked to bear the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) in mind and a particular emphasis will be placed on the [ESRC's GCRF thematic priorities](#) (section 3.3).