



AHRC Research Networking Scheme: 2019 Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Highlight Notice

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II. Introduction

This highlight notice is intended to encourage the development of research networking proposals that seek to build sustained international boundary crossing collaborations and equitable partnerships with Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) to enhance the contribution that arts and humanities research (working with other disciplines where appropriate) makes to international development and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

This 2019 highlight notice seeks networking proposals under one (or both) of the following main headings:

- development challenges, contexts and areas that are under-represented in the current AHRC portfolio;

- addressing issues of gender, equalities, diversity and inclusion in international development.

Proposals for full economic costs up to £30,000 – plus supplementary funding of an additional £30,000 – for a period of up to two years may be submitted. The supplementary funding is available to enhance international activities that support applications under this highlight notice. As funding for this Highlight Notice is part of the allocation to the AHRC under the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) (see section below), all applications must be fully compliant with the requirements of Official Development Assistance (ODA). Given that collaboration and the development of equitable partnerships with developing countries is central to this highlight notice, the £30,000 supplementary funding must be specifically used to facilitate international activities, collaborations and participation (particularly in relation to LMICs) over and above to standard £30,000 Research Networking scheme limit.

This highlight notice will close at **1600 hours on 24 September 2019, with projects expected to commence no later than 15 January 2020.**

III. Context

Developing AHRC's GCRF/ODA portfolio

The AHRC's portfolio of over 200 projects funded under GCRF has a wide spread in terms of geographic coverage – over 90 DAC List countries – and thematic areas (projects covering all 12 GCRF thematic areas and all the SDGs). Further information on the AHRC GCRF portfolio (e.g. geographic distribution) can be found at: <https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/internationalfunding/the-global-challenges-research-fund/> and further detail on the wider UKRI Portfolio (including AHRC grants and project summaries) can be found by searching the [UKRI Gateway to Research](#) and through the UKRI GCRF webpages (including spread by GCRF Challenge Areas) <https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/funded-projects/>.

However, despite that breadth, there are some significant variations in coverage, both *geographically*¹ and *thematically*². Whilst some of these areas may be addressed through research supported by other funders or through current calls under the GCRF, some important areas and themes appear to be under-researched. As outlined in the Research Areas section of this document these under-researched areas provide rich opportunities for the arts and humanities to (co)produce culturally and historically informed research in diverse contexts and to bring distinctive perspectives on, build capability relating to, and support inter-disciplinary innovation in addressing, major global sustainable development challenges.

¹ E.g. parts of Francophone, Lusophone and Central Africa and some small island states have been identified as under-represented, and more widely there are undoubtedly other significant gaps, including at a sub-national level for instance in terms of 'peripheral' regions, cultures and population groups.

² E.g. relatively few AHRC-funded projects address GCRF challenge areas of 'Sustainable production and consumption of materials and other resources' (& SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production), 'Clean air, water and sanitation' (& SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation) and 'Affordable, reliable, sustainable energy' (& SDG 7: Clean and Affordable Energy), along with related cross-cutting challenges such as climate change (& SDG 13: Climate Action) and reducing waste.

Gender, Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion in International Development

In line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development pledge to 'leave no-one behind' and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5: Gender Equality and 10: Reduced Inequalities, AHRC has identified equalities, diversity and inclusion as a key cross-cutting theme for future development of its GCRF portfolio. UN SDG 10 for example includes targets to 'empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status' and 'Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard'. The meeting of the UN high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2019 will focus on the theme of 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'. The recent introduction across UKRI of a requirement for Gender Equalities Statements on all GCRF applications, in line with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, and the UN 2018 report '[Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)' form a part of the research and policy landscape. Other recent major reports on wider issues of equalities, such as the [UN flagship Report on Disability & Development](#) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) [Disability Inclusion Strategy 2018 - 2023](#) provide further policy context in this regard.

Analysis of the current AHRC portfolio indicates that gender, equalities and inclusion is a field in which there is a rich research agenda and significant capacity for research across the arts and humanities to make distinctive and innovative contributions. This highlight notice is intended to provide an opportunity to critically reflect on progress to date; to further develop the innovative contributions being made by arts and humanities research across a wide range of disciplines, to enhance UK and LMIC arts and humanities and cross-disciplinary research capability in this field and to strengthen existing, and build new, international partnerships with researchers, NGOs and local civic and cultural organisations in LMICs. There may also be opportunities to engage with wider cross-disciplinary work supported under the GCRF, including the new Network Plus on gender and intersectionality (currently being commissioned) and a number of GCRF Interdisciplinary Hubs (e.g. the new [Gender, Justice and Security Hub](#)) and GCRF Growing Capability projects (e.g. [Global Gender and Cultures of Equality \(GlobalGRACE\)](#)) focused on specific aspects of gender and inequalities.

More widely arts and humanities research can contribute to a fuller understanding of local gender and equalities contexts, including historic, cultural, religious, linguistic, legal, economic, political and other factors, and the intersections between them. Without this understanding and effective engagement with the communities affected and their lived experience, measures or interventions aimed at addressing inequalities, marginalisation and exclusion risk being ineffective and even counter-productive and the intended wider impacts on the development of societies may not be achieved. Engagement with local expertise, organisations, creativity, heritages and knowledges plays a critical role in building such understanding of local contexts as well as vital resources for research innovation. Research networks can provide a valuable way of bringing together UK, LMIC and wider international researchers with diverse local/regional/cultural expertise, knowledges and perspectives, to co-develop future research agendas and explore the potential for future boundary-crossing research collaborations.

IV. Aims of the Call

A. Scope

This 2019 GCRF highlight notice is open to research networking proposals grounded in arts and humanities research expertise and perspectives which fall under one (or both) of the following main headings (see Research Areas and Context sections for further details of these areas):

- development challenges, contexts and areas that are under-represented in the current AHRC portfolio;
- addressing issues of gender, equalities, diversity and inclusion in international development.

To be eligible for consideration under this highlight notice proposals must meet the requirements for the highlight notice as outlined in this document, including ODA compliance requirements.

Proposals under this highlight are expected to be highly internationally collaborative and the development/enhancement of sustainable international collaborations, particularly in LMICs, is a key aim. This could include involvement of international academic co-investigators and/or collaborators as well as non-academic collaborators/partners in LMICs and/or organisations involved in international development and/or delivering education in LMIC contexts. We would strongly encourage the engagement of overseas or international development partners or local expertise/partners/practitioners in shaping and framing networking proposals from their early stages of development. We would expect to see evidence/discussion within the proposals submitted about how this international engagement has started, how this has shaped the proposed research networking agenda, the proposed activities and identification of participants, and how engagement will be sustained over the lifetime of the network (and, where appropriate, beyond).

In relation to networking activities it is important that there is evidence of a **sustained process of engagement/collaboration** with key LMIC/development partners/collaborators/professional or learning groups and/or of a longer-term legacy which extends beyond participation in single one-off networking events. Where appropriate this can include research networking activities that support the development of capacity/capabilities in developing countries.

The holding of networking events in LMICs is strongly encouraged where appropriate, particularly where this would facilitate greater/sustained involvement of LMIC collaborators and enhanced understanding of local contexts. However, it is recognised that this may be difficult in some contexts and that in some situations appropriate risk and safety assessments may need to be taken into account when deciding on appropriate locations for activities.

Proposals under the highlight notice should move beyond broad aspirations to engage with relevant partners and provide evidence that engagement/consultation with relevant partners in LMICs/development organisations has begun and has informed the development of the networking proposals.

In order to accommodate, where appropriate, the enhanced involvement of international co-investigators from LMICs, **applications under this highlight notice may include more than one co-investigator**, provided that any additional co-investigators beyond the normal limit of one are based in LMICs and will play a significant role in the overall leadership of the network.

B. Research Areas

Under this highlight notice we are seeking applications under either of (or intersections between) the following two headings:

1. **Networks addressing challenges, contexts and areas that are under-represented in the current AHRC portfolio** (particularly the AHRC's GCRF & Newton Fund portfolios), the interdisciplinary UKRI portfolio and in development research more widely. It will be for applicants to make the case that the proposed addresses an under-represented area, using UKRI Gateway to Research, UKRI GCRF webpages <https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/funded-projects/> and other search tools as appropriate to evidence their case. Examples of potential cases which might be made include:
 - a. Under-represented **geographical areas** amongst least developed, low income and lower middle income countries on the DAC list. For example, parts of Francophone, Lusophone and Central Africa and some small island states have been identified as under-represented within the portfolio. Further information on the current geographical distribution of AHRC GCRF projects can be found at: <https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/internationalfunding/the-global-challenges-research-fund/>. In addition, this could include gaps in coverage within some upper middle countries, for example peripheral provinces, regions characterized by high levels of extreme poverty or disadvantage or areas occupied by under-researched marginalised, migratory or displaced communities.
 - b. Under-represented **themes/challenges/topics** within the GCRF portfolio. For example within the 12 GCRF themes, and related SDGs, the three least well represented within the AHRC portfolio (and not subject to current targeted Collective Fund calls) are:
 - i. 'Sustainable production and consumption of materials and other resources' (& SDG 12 *Responsible Consumption and Production*),
 - ii. 'Clean air, water and sanitation' (& SDG 6 *Clean Water and Sanitation*) and
 - iii. 'Affordable, reliable, sustainable energy' (SDG 7 *Clean and Affordable Energy*),

and these, along with related cross-cutting challenges such as climate change (& SDG 13 *Climate Action*) and reducing waste, may offer opportunities for arts and humanities inter-disciplinary research innovation.

Other gaps in coverage of the SDGs (or specific target areas within them) or more specific gaps within GCRF themes could also be considered. Additionally we would welcome proposals that strengthen our portfolio examining the interconnections between development and specific research areas within the arts and humanities where potential for further work has been identified including: languages; faiths;

design; some fields within the creative and performing arts; and innovation in the digital and creative economies.

Given that significant commissioning activities are currently in progress under the GCRF Collective Programme addressing issues such as education, conflict prevention, humanitarian protection and food cultures we would not expect to fund networks primarily focused on these themes through this highlight notice, although proposals exploring intersections between these themes and other areas highlighted within this highlight notice would be welcomed.

- c. Under-represented **cultures**, languages and heritages within the GCRF portfolio, including those of some under-researched stateless, marginalised or indigenous communities.

The above areas are intended as examples only. Applicants should explain in a paragraph at the top of their case for support on what particular grounds they consider that their proposed network would address an under-represented area with the current AHRC GCRF portfolio.

Proposals are encouraged to consider issues around the potential legacy from networking activities in the proposed under-researched area, for example through research capability, partnership and/or agenda development.

2. **Addressing issues of gender, equalities, diversity and inclusion in international development.** These could focus on any 'characteristic', such as gender, race, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and the intersections between them, or other cultural, identity or socio-economic characteristics (e.g. tribal, language, class, intergenerational, etc.) that may contribute to the marginalisation, vulnerability, impoverishment, deprivation of human rights of, or discrimination against, particular groups in specific development contexts (these characteristics do not necessarily need to have 'protected' status in the relevant specific jurisdictions or contexts).

In line with the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development cross-cutting theme of 'no-one left behind' networks could seek to develop research innovation to uncover, understand and mitigate the risks of particular groups being 'left behind' by development processes in specific development contexts or explore global policy agendas around gender, inequalities, protection and rights in international development. They could also consider the challenges of conducting research addressing inequalities in specific cultural and development contexts, and the development of good research practice, for example in relation to issues such as research methods and creative practice, inequalities in power, subaltern voices, contested histories, translation across cultures, conflicting cultural values, ethics, activism, legal compliance, empowerment, risk, protection of participants, theories of change, data, monitoring and EDI impact assessment, etc.

AHRC expects to explore opportunities to bring together researchers working under this heading to share learning and experience.

C. Global Challenges Research Fund and Requirements for ODA Compliance

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) aims 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.

Further information about GCRF is available on [AHRC's website](#).

When assessing whether an activity is eligible for GCRF funding under this call, we will consider whether projects satisfy OECD criteria on eligibility. This will be done by assessing whether applications:

- aim to promote the welfare and economic development of a country or countries on the DAC list of ODA recipients
- are designed to address a development need, and
- focus on developing country problems.

Applicants will be required to submit an ODA-compliance statement and a gender equalities statement in line with UKRI requirements for GCRF funding. Further details are provided below.

It should be noted that activities in developing countries whose main purpose is to promote the culture or values of the donor (i.e. in this case the UK) and activities in developing countries (including the UK) relating to long-term support for or integration of migrants/ diasporas from developing countries are not reportable as ODA.

Applications which are not ODA-compliant will not be accepted under the highlight notice.

Where applications are not accepted under the highlight notice, if applicants wish the application to be considered through the standard networking scheme route a fresh application would need to be submitted which complies with the standard networking scheme funding limits and requirements. In some cases awards under the highlight notice may be recommended subject to revised/enhanced ODA-compliance statements being submitted.

In terms of the LMIC context, we are open to proposals based in any country(ies) or context(s) on the DAC list of ODA recipients, particularly those under-represented geographic areas highlighted in this call. Applications addressing under-represented themes/topics/ SDGs or the gender, equalities and diversity theme can focus on any eligible DAC list country(ies) and do not need to focus on under-represented geographical areas.

However, please note that given that a key aim for these Research Networking awards is to support

the long-term sustainable development of equitable partnerships with ODA-eligible countries on the DAC list, proposals focused primarily on upper middle income countries expected to graduate from the DAC list over the next few years are unlikely to be prioritized under this call; this includes: Antigua and Barbuda; Panama; Palau; Argentina and China. Partners from such countries could of course be included within research networks and such countries could be included in multi-country studies involving other DAC list countries or projects seeking to promote South–South/global learning. Proposals focused on other Upper Middle Income countries should pay particular attention to their impacts on reducing extreme poverty and inequalities in those countries and/or their potential contribution towards the development of other countries on the DAC list and/or to South-South or global learning.

V. Remit and Eligibility

Inter-disciplinary boundary-crossing proposals are welcomed, including those proposals that cross Research Council remits. Where proposals extend beyond the AHRC’s subject remit, they should ensure that they bring arts and humanities research expertise and distinctive arts and humanities research concepts, ideas and/or approaches centrally into the development of relevant cross-disciplinary fields. In order to be considered under this highlight notice **applications must draw significantly on relevant arts and humanities research literature, context and concepts or approaches and include significant research expertise within the remit of the AHRC.**

Unless otherwise stated, the eligibility criteria as published in section 3 of the AHRC [Research Funding Guide](#) will apply.

VI. Application Process and Format

In addition to meeting the standard requirements for applications to AHRC’s research networking scheme (as stated in the AHRC’s [Research Funding Guide](#)), in order to be considered under this highlight notice applications must also:

- 1) Include a statement at the top of the case for support outlining how the proposed networking activities fit within the scope of this highlight notice and within one or more of the Research areas outlined in this call.** It should also make clear how the research network will contribute to international development agendas or challenges and/or to the development (and welfare more broadly) of people in developing countries.

Additionally, where appropriate, the statement should summarise:

- key relevant research literature, evidence or reports about the importance or value of the research issues to be explored by the network for international development/LMICs, and if applying to address an under-researched area on what basis it is considered under-researched / how the network will add value to existing work;

and/or

- an account of how the proposal has been developed in consultation with, and to reflect the needs of, relevant partners in LMICs / development organisations and/or reflects

local development contexts, strategies, priorities, policies or practices.

2) Explain in the case for support how the proposed network will support the development of significant collaborations and sustained engagement with:

- researchers (and/or HEIs/research organisations) in one or more of the countries which appear on [the Development Assistance Committee list of ODA Recipients for 2014-16](#) (these can be countries under any category in the ODA list

and/or

- non-academic partners (e.g. cultural, creative, heritage and educational organisations, charities and NGOs, voluntary, non-profit, civil society, public or private sector organisations) in LMICs;

and/or

- relevant international organisations with remits that include supporting development in LMICs (e.g. international aid, development, humanitarian, or cultural exchange organisations).

Collaborators or network members could include overseas academic co-investigators, project partners or other project collaborators as appropriate but these collaborators should play a significant role in the development, intellectual leadership and pathways to impact activities of the network rather than just be listed as ‘participants’ in events and their role in shaping the proposed activities should be discussed in proposals;

3) Within the **Justification of Resources, include a breakdown of the total costs that are being claimed under the standard UK fund heading, and those that fall under the supplementary funding for international activities.**

4) Provide an **Impact Summary with a primary focus on users and beneficiaries in LMICs and/or of direct relevance to international development policy/practice. Applications must also include a Pathways to Impact attachment which describes the pathways and activities through which it is expected that the research network will make a contribution to:**

- the economic development of, and/or to the welfare (broadly defined) of people in, one or more LMIC

and/or

- international development policy or international development practice in LMICs.

Details should be provided of planned engagement with non-academic collaborators or partners in ODA recipient countries and/or with organisations concerned with supporting international development in LMICs (e.g. aid, humanitarian or development agencies, educational organisations or charities or cultural organisations etc.).

5) Submit an **ODA compliance statement** as an additional attachment, using attachment type 'Other', (one side of A4) providing a full justification for how the research network meets the requirements for ODA funding. The RCUK guidance suggests that in completing a statement on ODA compliance applicants use the questions below:

1. Which country/ countries on the DAC list [with the exception of Antigua and Barbuda, Chile and Uruguay which are expected to graduate from the next DAC list] will directly benefit from this proposal and are these countries likely to continue to be ODA eligible for the duration of the research?
2. How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?
3. 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?

6) Submit, as a separate attachment, using attachment type 'Non-UK Components', a **Gender Equality Statement** in line with UKRI requirements as specified in the [UKRI Website](#). Additionally applicants are encouraged, where appropriate, to extend the statement to cover intersecting and wider issues relating to equalities, diversity, identities and inclusion, and the UN Sustainable Development 'no-one left behind' agenda as well as to discuss any context-specific factors which need to be taken into account in addressing issues of gender and (in)equalities. We recognise that for applicants applying under the gender, equalities, diversity and inclusion strand under this highlight notice these issues will be central to the proposal and will be discussed in depth in the case for support, in such cases the Gender Equalities Statement may take the form of a summary of the issues discussed in the wider proposal and key practical steps taken to ensure inclusive participation, but should still provide sufficient assurance as a stand-alone document that such issues will be appropriately addressed.

7) Where possible, provide **letters of support from key partners or collaborators in LMICs and/or development organisations** which outline, from the partners'/ collaborators' perspective, how the activities would address a development need they have identified or which has been identified in relevant LMICs local contexts and/or how they expect to benefit from collaboration with the network and/or why they believe the activities would be of benefit to communities in LMIC contexts. **Letters of support must not exceed two side of A4.** However, we recognize that it may not be possible to secure letters of support from all potential collaborators in the time available.

Applications should be submitted through the Research Councils' Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>). A separate call for this highlight notice will be available for applications in Je-S from 14 June 2019 named 'Research Networking Highlight: GCRF International Development 24 September 2019'. In order to be considered under this highlight notice applications must be submitted by research organisations before **16:00hrs on 24 September 2019**. Please ensure you do not submit to the standard networking scheme 'Research Networking (open call)'.

Proposals relevant to this highlight notice can be submitted at any time from when the forms become available in Je-S up to **16:00 hours on 24 September 2019** and will be processed on receipt. Early submission ahead of the end of the highlight is encouraged to avoid possible delays in processing if large numbers of applications are submitted close to the end of the highlight period.

To prepare a proposal form in Je-S:

- log-in to your account and choose 'Documents' from the menu
- Then select 'New Document',
- 'AHRC' as the Council,
- 'Standard Proposal' as the Document Type,
- 'Research Networking' as the Scheme,
- 'Research Networking Highlight: GCRF International Development 24 September 2019' as the Call/Type/Mode
- and then 'Create Document'.

Je-S will then create a proposal form, displaying the relevant section headings. Using the 'Help' link at the top of each section will provide guidance relevant to that section of the form.

Note that clicking 'submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to AHRC. Please remember to allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the Call closing date.

VII. Guidance on Costs and Project Timescales

Unless otherwise stated, project costs, minimums, maximums and timescales as published in the AHRC Research Funding Guide will apply.

All applications under the highlight notice are expected to start no later than **15 January 2020**. Should successful applicants encounter unanticipated delays which make a start date on or before 15 January 2020 difficult they should contact the AHRC as soon as possible following the notification of the outcome of the application to discuss possible options. Projects may run for a maximum of two years (24 months).

Proposals addressing areas relevant to the highlight notice may continue to be submitted after the end of this highlight notice but they will not be eligible to access supplementary funding for the highlight notice or the higher funding limit for international activities. Such applications would have to apply through the standard networking call route on J-eS and fall within the standard funding limits (£30,000 for UK costs and £15,000 for international costs) and requirements of the Networking Scheme.

Applicants under this highlight notice are eligible to apply for up to £30,000 of supplementary funding

for international activities in addition to the normal £30,000 networking scheme limit. This is instead of the normal provision for up to £15,000 of supplementary funding for international activities. **The total limit (fEC) on applications under the highlight notice is therefore £60,000.** Please note this higher limit for supplementary international activities applies only to applications submitted under this GCRF highlight notice and meet the criteria for ODA-compliant funding under the Global Challenges Research Fund.

This additional provision for international activities is intended to extend the opportunities under the highlight notice which meet the following criteria:

- support the activities of international co-investigators based in LMICs (additional co-investigators may be included beyond the normal networking scheme limit of one where they are based in LMICs) or of collaborators in international development organisations (costs associated with international co-investigators may be funded at 100% fEC as detailed below and in AHRC's Research Funding Guide);
- increase or diversify participation by international development organisations (e.g. aid agencies, cultural organisations) and/or collaborators based in LMICs (researchers or non-academics) in research networking activities, including costs associated with supporting inclusive participation by LMIC community groups and addressing issues such as safeguarding, gender and wider equalities;
- support the organisation of research networking activities/events in LMICs;
- enhance pathways to impact aimed at supporting the development (and welfare more broadly) of one or more LMIC;
- support targeted knowledge exchange activities focused on non-academic audiences with interests in international development strategy, aid policy, or development practice and/or with service providers in LMIC contexts;
- enhance the dissemination of outcomes targeted at audiences in LMICs (including costs of producing outputs and/or conducting activities in different formats, media and languages in order to reach diverse audiences or communities in LMICs where appropriate).

All funding requested in excess of the standard limit of £30,000 must be directly attributable to international collaboration as outlined above and in AHRC's Research Funding Guide.

Please ensure that your Justification of Resources document includes a breakdown of the total costs that are being claimed under the standard UK fund heading, and those that fall under the supplementary funding for international activities.

Please note that, as stated in AHRC's [Research Funding Guide](#) (1.5.4), the following should not be included within any requests for supplementary funding for international activities above the standard scheme limit:

- additional UK Investigator time or administrative support in the UK spent supporting

the international collaboration (whether in the UK or abroad);

- costs of UK based workshops/exhibitions/educational activities involving international participants such as room hire or catering (however, travel and subsistence costs of overseas collaborators to attend workshops/events in the UK may be included within the additional international costs).

Some supplementary funding for international activities may be used to support international activities which do not meet these criteria (e.g. overseas events/collaborations in countries which are not on the DAC list of ODA recipients) within the normal £15,000 limit for such activities. However, where applications request supplementary international funding above this level (under the increased £30,000 limit for this highlight) we would expect the majority of the funding requested for international activities, and any funding in excess of the normal £15,000 limit, to be directly attributable to activities which meet the criteria outlined above.

VIII. Further Information on Eligible International Costs for this Highlight Notice

AHRC's standard international co-investigator and international funding policy applies but with some additional provisions for the costs of LMIC-led elements of applications and for equitable partnership work undertaken at an overseas organisation in Low or Middle Income Countries (i.e. all countries on the DAC list) as summarised in the following table:

Description	Research Councils Contribution (percent)
Costs incurred for overseas Co-Investigators and any locally employed staff, e.g. percent of actual salary based on time worked on the grant (entered in the Other Directly Incurred Costs section and ticked as exceptions on Je-S form).	100
Costs incurred by the overseas organisation and associated with the research, e.g. consumables, field work, translation costs, supporting inclusive participation, etc. (entered in the Other Directly Incurred Costs section and ticked as exceptions on Je-S form).	100
Costs incurred by overseas investigators or staff for travel and expenses (entered in the Other Directly Incurred Costs section and ticked as exceptions on Je-S form).	100
A contribution towards indirect and estates costs at overseas organisations in LMIC/developing countries is permissible, calculated at up to 20% of the total direct costs charged to the grant relating to the activities of the LMIC co-investigator(s), (entered in the Other	100

Directly Incurred Costs section and ticked as exceptions on the Je-S form).	
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Applicants should seek contributions from project partners, e.g. business, government and third sector organisations, where appropriate. In acknowledgment of the fact that some smaller third-sector organisations do not have the capacity to co-fund research activities, costs to support partners from third sector organisations (e.g. NGOs) are eligible under this call. This includes costs for staff salaries (no more than 1 FTE per annum), travel and subsistence, other direct costs and overheads. Costs will be funded at 100 percent fEC and should be entered as Other Directly Incurred Exceptions on the Je-S form. Total costs associated with third sector bodies' contribution should not normally exceed 30 percent of the overall cost of the grant at 100 percent fEC, however exceptional cases may be considered where the research impact activities require additional work by partners which fall outside their normal activities – a full case for any exceptions should be made in the Justification for Resources.

Key variations to the standard AHRC policy on international co-investigator policy for this GCRF call are:

- i) there is no 30% limit on total overseas co-investigator costs for individuals based in developing countries (on the DAC list), although a 30% limit applies to costs associated with overseas co-investigators who are not based in developing countries on the DAC list;
- ii) in addition to the costs for overseas academic co-investigators, costs for third sector/NGO partners may also be funded at 100% fEC, normally subject to 30% overall limit of the total cost of an award at 100% fEC; where the 30% limit is exceeded a full justification in terms of the intellectual and practical contribution to the research of the third sector partner should be provided. In addition, staff salaries at third sector/NGO organisations are not expected to exceed 1 FTE per annum.
- iii) A contribution towards indirect and estates costs can be made for overseas organisations within DAC list (LMIC) countries, calculated at up to 20% of the total eligible direct costs charged to the grant directly relating to the activities of the LMIC co-investigator; however, in line with the standard AHRC co-investigator policy, estates/indirect/overhead costs cannot be requested for international co-investigators employed by academic organisations which are not based in a DAC list country (i.e. research organisations located in developed countries and their subsidiaries). LMIC indirect and estates costs must be included within the overall £60,000 limit (at 100% fEC) for applications under this highlight notice. Please note that as indirect costs can be claimed for overseas co-investigators it is not possible to request direct costs to cover basic office and facilities (e.g. library access etc.) and minor/day-to-day consumables (e.g. photocopying, telephone calls, etc.) although major additional research related costs (e.g. linked to specific research methods such as survey/fieldwork costs or development of project-specific digital resources) may be requested as direct costs where appropriate.

Where projects involve international co-investigators or the sub-contracting of significant elements of the funding or research delivery to international partners, it will be a condition of funding that the UK Research Organisation undertakes appropriate due diligence and financial assurance, taking into account the developmental stage of partnerships and proportionate to the levels of funding involved. A further condition will be that they ensure that the partner organisations have in place contextually appropriate procedures for addressing issues of gender, equalities, diversity and inclusion, research integrity, safeguarding, data protection, fraud prevention and compliance with the other standard terms and conditions of UKRI grants.

Capital or infrastructure expenditure (e.g. basic office/laboratory/accommodation furniture or equipment, building/site construction, maintenance or refurbishment work, etc.) is not an eligible cost under this call although additional costs incurred by existing facilities or infrastructures relating to their use as a part of the research or in the archiving of project-specific research data/outputs may be considered. Costs for equipment purchase under £10,000 will only be considered on an exceptional basis where significant use of equipment is required primarily or solely for the proposed networking activity and/or where this is more cost effective than other options such as hiring equipment.

Given the ODA focus of this call on LMIC countries, costs for overseas co-investigators in high income countries should be kept to a minimum and fully justified in terms of the unique capabilities which they will bring to the research which are not available within the UK or LMIC partner countries.

The balance of intellectual, impact and engagement, leadership and costs between high income countries and LMICs will be considered in the assessment of proposals, recognising that this may vary according to the specific nature, focus and context of research networks. Please ensure budget breakdowns between high income and LMIC researchers and partners are justified and appropriate in respect to the equitable partnership aims of this ODA funding scheme.

Costs may be included to support inclusive participation in research networking activities, for example in terms of translation costs or support for carers. These may be incurred by either the UK or LMIC partners as appropriate. Where possible accessible venues and facilities should be selected; please note that infrastructure costs cannot be requested for example to make structural alterations to venues for improved accessibility.

Funding for PhD or masters studentships cannot be included in networking awards. However, involvement of students and early career researchers in networking activities and/or related training or capability building activities is encouraged and appropriate support costs (e.g. travel and subsistence) can be included within proposals.

IX. Assessment Process and Criteria

Proposals will be assessed and prioritized by an expert review panel who will make funding recommendations to the AHRC. The Panel will include members of the AHRC's ODA Peer Review College and other experts as appropriate. This will be a single stage assessment process by the Panel and there will not be a separate peer-review stage through which proposals are considered by individual peer reviewers prior to assessment panel. As a result we regret that we will not be

able to provide feedback on individual applications from reviewers and there will not be a PI response stage.

Proposals submitted under the highlight notice will be assessed on their quality and individual merits according to standard networking scheme criteria but with the Panel also asked to consider issues of fit to the highlight notice and ODA compliance.

X. Call timetable

Activity	Date
Application forms available on Je-S	14 June 2019
Deadline for submissions	16.00 hours 24 September 2019
Panel meeting	October/November 2019
Funding decisions to be issued	End November 2019
Start date of awards	No later than 15 January 2020

XI. Scheme Requirements and Post Award Reporting

Unless otherwise stated, the scheme requirements and post award reporting as stated in the AHRC Research Funding Guide will apply. Some additional award conditions and reporting requirements linked to ODA funding will apply and applicants will be required to report any substantive changes to awards which may affect ODA compliance (as outlined in the ODA compliance statement) to the AHRC at the earliest opportunity.

Award holders will be required to submit outputs, outcomes and impacts that arise from AHRC's funding through the Researchfish system. Information can be added to Researchfish at any point once the award has started but award holders will also be required to 'submit' this information to AHRC at one 'Submission Period' each year. Award holders will receive an email with log-in details shortly after their award has started. More details on Researchfish are available on the UKRI website here: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/research-outcomes/>

ODA transparency and reporting

As part of the Government's commitment to ODA transparency and in line with DfID ODA reporting requirements, UKRI is responsible for publishing information about UKRI ODA grants, including project titles and summaries via the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry and via DfID's national statistics.

The purpose of publishing information via the IATI registry is to make information about ODA easily accessible to governments, stakeholders and other relevant groups in beneficiary countries. All UKRI-funded projects from this programme will be published in this way. Please therefore write your project title and summary in such a way that they are meaningful and accessible to non-specialist audiences, following publication. We would be grateful if you would ensure that the project title and summary are written in plain English and avoid the use of jargon, acronyms, puns and plays on words.

Please also make clear in your project title and summary how your project is ODA compliant, for example by identifying the development challenge(s) being addressed, the aims of the project and the beneficiary countries.

XII. Contact Information

For queries about this call such as eligible activities and costs or remit of the call please contact AHRC at enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org or telephone: 01793 416060 (Monday to Friday 08:30–16:30).

For queries on using Je-S, such as creating and submitting the application form or Je-S account creation, please contact the Je-S Helpdesk on 01793 444164 or JeSHelp@je-s.ukri.org (Monday to Friday 08:30–17:00).

****End of Document****

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