

# Global Challenges Research Fund: Cities & Infrastructure

## Frequently Asked Questions

*This document is being updated in light of questions which are being asked. Please keep referring to it.*

### General Scheme Queries

**1. What is meant by interdisciplinarity in this context?**

We are inviting excellent interdisciplinary proposals. It is up to the applicants to prove the interdisciplinarity of their proposals.

We see interdisciplinarity as including the humanities and/or social sciences.

Having said this, if you have a primary and secondary subject (or both) in eGap that is not from the humanities and/or social sciences, you would still be able to demonstrate the project's interdisciplinarity including the humanities and/or social sciences in the "Multidisciplinary Proposal" section and/or indicate interdisciplinarity by nominating humanities and/or social science participants in the "Other Participants & Roles" section of the application.

**2. When are the projects expected to start?**

Projects must start between the 1-29 September 2017, and run for up to 16 months.

**3. How many awards are available?**

Our current expectation is that around 8-10 awards will be made.

**4. Will there be another round of funding for this Programme?**

The Programme has been provided £3 million over two years from the Global Challenges Research Fund. The British Academy has no other funding available for future calls at this time.

**5. Is the funding to develop an interdisciplinary research agenda or can it be used to further develop an existing agenda?**

Either is possible as long as the project meets the requirements set out in the scheme notes.

**6. Is there a limit to the number of applications a research institution can support?**

No, there is no limit on the number of applications a research institution can support.

**7. Does the application need to address all the sub-themes: Planning, People, Infrastructure, and Habitat?**

No, the application does not have to address all four sub-themes. It must address at least one of the four sub-themes and can address more than one.

**8. Do applicants need a letter of institutional support?**

No, but we do require institutional sign off in the e-GAP system.

**9. Does the application require academic, in-text references?**

No, it does not require references.

**10. Can I upload a diagram or image to support my application?**

No, these are not required for this scheme. We expect you to articulate your proposal within the text boxes.

## Principal Investigator & Co-Applicant Queries

**11. Is there a limit on the number of applications a PI or a Co-Applicant can make?**

Principal Investigators can only be named on one application in this call. Co-Applicants can be named on no more than two applications.

**12. Is it required to have a Co-Applicant?**

No, there is no requirement to have a Co-Applicant under this scheme. However, one way to demonstrate the interdisciplinarity requirement is to have a Co-Applicant from a different discipline than the PI.

**13. Must Co-Applicants be based in the UK or overseas?**

Co-Applicants can be based in the UK or overseas provided they meet the eligibility criteria of a PhD and at least three years of postdoctoral experience (or equivalent research experience). The participation of Co-Applicants and other participants from ODA-eligible countries is encouraged.

**14. Can I name a non-academic as a Co-Applicant?**

The Co-Applicant must have a PhD and at least three years of postdoctoral experience (or equivalent research experience). If the project involves individuals outside of academia, these individuals cannot be Co-Applicants but can be named under the "Other Participants & Roles" section of the application.

## Other Project Roles Queries

**15. Is it a requirement to involve overseas researchers?**

It is not a requirement to include researchers from overseas, however, the aim of the Programme is to address the challenges detailed in the scheme notes in ODA countries and impact must be shown in such countries. The participation of Co-Applicants and other participants from ODA-eligible countries is therefore encouraged but not required.

**16. Am I required to engage industrial partners?**

No, this is not a requirement.

**17. Can I engage with NGOs or consultancy organisations?**

Yes, however, this must be fully justified in the application.

**18. What are the requirements for the postdoctoral research support?**

The postdoctoral research assistant must have a PhD (or equivalent research experience as well as not being registered currently as a PhD student).

## Budgeting Questions

**19. Is there any overhead provided for overseas institutions in the case of an overseas Co-Applicant, research, or clerical assistant?**

We cover 100% of overhead directly to the UK institution. Overhead for the overseas institution can be included in the overall project budget, if an agreement to that effect exists between the UK and the overseas institution. The UK institution will need to make arrangements to transfer funds to the overseas employing institution and monitor the grant's expenditure. At the end of the grant, the UK institution will be responsible for submitting a final reconciliation, including any funds transferred to the overseas institution. Please note that the £300,000 amount should be inclusive of all costs and overhead.

**20. Is there a requirement on how much of the award will fund the Primary Investigator's time?**

There is no maximum limit but the PI's time must be thoroughly justified in the budget. There is a minimum of 4 hours per week required for the PI's time.

**21. Will indirect costs be covered at 100%?**

Yes. Directly Incurred Costs, Directly Allocated Costs and Indirect Costs will all be funded at 100%. N.B. The £300,000 grant budget should include those costs including institutional overheads.

*Updated: 9 June 2017*