GLOBAL CHALLENGES DOCTORAL CENTRE POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER APPOINTMENTS

Call for staff-led project applications 2020

Introduction
Research England has awarded the University of Kent a QR grant from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries. As a part of this allocation, the University of Kent has established the Global Challenges Doctoral Centre (GCDC) to develop doctoral and postdoctoral research addressing the challenges of economic development and well-being faced by countries on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list.

The GCDC is delighted to invite academic staff members from across all Kent schools¹ to suggest six-month projects suitable for a postdoctoral researcher to conduct. The projects are required to meet a specific set of criteria to adhere to Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) stipulations and are intended to enhance the capacity of our academics and their partners to deliver world-class ODA compliant research and impact.

The scheme directly supports the University of Kent’s 2025 strategy, by investing in individuals and research groups to deliver high quality outputs and impacts, providing career and professional development for early career researchers working on global challenges, and supporting and incentivising international collaborations and networks.

The application deadline for academic staff members to suggest projects is midnight on Monday 18th November 2019, and a panel including the GCDC director and deputy director, the Dean of the Graduate School and the Associate Deans (Research and Innovation) will review the applications and award the projects.

Criteria
Applicants must demonstrate the project’s ODA compliance, how it adheres to the specified aims and challenges of the GCRF and how it supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals (please see specific guidance provided in Appendix 1). The project must be feasible within the given timeframe and demonstrate strong projected impact and outputs. Finally, the postdoctoral researcher will be expected to participate in and contribute to the development of Global Challenges Doctoral Centre (GCDC) activities.

¹ Please note that GCDC postdoctoral research awards are only available to scholars who will be based at the Canterbury or Medway campuses.
How to apply
Interested academics should submit the application form (available via the GCDC website) by midnight on Monday 18th November 2019 by emailing it to kentgcdc@kent.ac.uk. Please refer to Appendix 1 for specific guidance on completing the application form, and get in touch with kentgcdc@kent.ac.uk if you have any questions regarding the application process.

Funding
The grant will be the equivalent of a six-month Grade 7 (Spine Point 31) pro rata full-time salary (approximately £17,436 plus pension and NI contributions) given in the form of a budgetary adjustment to the host school. The funding must be spent by the end of the financial year (31 July 2020). Therefore, the postdoctoral researcher must be in post by 1 February 2020 at the latest. More information about salary scales is available on the Staff Guide here: https://staff.kent.ac.uk/employment/pay.

Postdoctoral application and selection process
Once the budget has been transferred to the successful applicant’s school, it will be up to the school to liaise with HR to advertise the appointment, shortlist and interview candidates. The school is welcome to open the position to international applicants, but this would be up to the school’s discretion in consultation with HR.

Roles and Responsibilities
The Principal Investigator (PI) will directly oversee the postdoctoral researcher and be available for guidance and support throughout the duration of the appointment. The PI will:

- Name a Co-Investigator who will support the PI and take responsibility for supporting the postdoctoral researcher in the event of the PI’s unforeseen absence.
- Ensure adequate administrative support within the host school to support the delivery of the proposed activities.
- Coordinate the appointment holder’s research and engagement in line with the plan outlined in the original proposal.
- Complete the report form in collaboration with the postholder and school at the end of the appointment and send to the GCDC (kentgcdc@kent.ac.uk) by 5 August 2020 at the latest. Please note that failure to submit the report by the deadline will impact the PI’s eligibility to receive awards from future internal GCRF/GCDC funding calls.

The Postdoctoral Researcher will:

- Deliver the plans outlined in the original proposal within the allocated time and budget, with the support of the PI.

The Host School will:

- Following confirmation of the award, liaise with the PI and HR to advertise the post, conduct interviews and hire the postdoctoral researcher in line with standard HR criteria and guidelines.
- Arrange an appropriate invitation to support a visa application (if necessary).
• Liaise with HR to administer the postholder’s salary (the funding will be a specified item on the school’s budget).

• Host the postdoctoral researcher – providing guidance on obtaining a staff ID, arranging access to Library resources, a University email account, a desk and a desktop computer.

• Record all expenditure in the University accounts by 31st July 2020. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that expenditure has been appropriately recorded.

The GCDC will:

• Arrange for the budgetary adjustment to be transferred to the appropriate school for the postdoctoral researcher’s salary.

• Liaise with the PI and postdoctoral researcher regarding the postdoctoral researcher’s engagement with the GCDC as outlined in the original proposal and agreed with the GCDC review panel.

• Contact the PI and postdoctoral researcher toward the end of the appointment for the report on the appointment.

The postdoctoral appointment period
GCDC postdoctoral researchers are expected to be based at the University of Kent (Canterbury or Medway campuses) for at least 50% of the contracted period. Although the funding is for a 6-month appointment, the panel will consider applications for a shorter appointment period as long as the rationale is clearly explained.

GCDC postdoctoral researchers are expected to engage with the GCDC and become integrated into the University of Kent’s research community, contributing towards research and impact activities as outlined in the original proposal. We are also keen to support applications that either build on previous GCRF-focused work or build possibilities for future GCRF funding.

Conditions of Funding
A report detailing the activities undertaken, outcomes to date and list of expenditure will be required by 5 August 2020 at the latest. A longer-term follow-up report will be requested within a year, in order that the Global Challenges Advisory Group can more fully evaluate the impact of Kent’s GCRF funding.

Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Call for staff applications circulated</td>
<td>Monday 21st October 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for applications from academic staff</td>
<td>Monday 18th November 2019 at midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicants notified of outcome</td>
<td>By Friday 29th November 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools liaise with HR to advertise post</td>
<td>Monday 2nd December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools work with HR to shortlist and interview candidates</td>
<td>December 2019/January 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral researcher in post</td>
<td>By 1 February 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>PI submits report on project</td>
<td>By 5 August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI submits follow up report on project</td>
<td>By 5 August 2021</td>
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Appendix I
Guidance on the application form

1. Kent applicants
   Please list the Primary Investigator (PI) as well as a Co-Investigator who will deputise for the PI should they be away. Both the PI and Co-I should be based at Kent.

2. Proposed dates of the appointment
   The applicant is asked to detail the post holders likely start and end date. Please note that the award is the equivalent of a full-time Grade 7 (Spine Point 31) salary for six months, and the funding must be spent by 31 July 2020. The GCDC expects that the postdoctoral researcher be in post by 1 February 2020 at the latest.

3. Short summary of the project and main aims
   Please summarise the project and its main aims, while clearly outlining how the postdoctoral researcher will fit within the wider project. The panel will closely assess the feasibility of the project.

4. Detailed timeline of the research and engagement activities undertaken
   Please provide a timeline outlining the activities to be undertaken by the post holder and when the activities will take place. The panel will closely assess whether the plan is sufficient/reasonable for a postdoctoral researcher to conduct within the time limitations.

5. External research funding
   Please indicate any additional funding from external sources used for this activity. Other funding sources can include external GCRF grants, grants from other external bodies, internal funds, etc. Please detail both the source and amount of each type of additional funding.

6. Non-Kent partners
   Please list all partner universities/organisations you will collaborate with for this project, being as specific as possible.

7. Consumables/mobility funding
   Applicants are asked to detail what mobility/consumables funding (up to £5,000) will be required for the appointment (if any). If additional funding is required, applicants are asked to demonstrate why this cannot be supported by the host school or an external funding source. This will not be used as a funding criterion, but the GCDC cannot guarantee that additional funding will be supported.

8. ODA Compliance
   To be eligible, the envisaged project – and the postdoctoral researcher’s contribution to the project – has to be ODA compliant. This means that the project must demonstrate where the proposed research will be relevant (i.e. an ODA-eligible country or countries) and how the research will improve lives in that country through addressing challenges relating to
social and economic development. Please refer to the OECD’s ‘Is it ODA?’ and UKRI’s ODA GCRF guidance. Questions to consider when writing the ODA compliance statement are:

- Is the project addressing the economic development and welfare of the country in question?
- Are the countries involved on the DAC List of ODA Recipients (the Development Assistant Committee of the OECD)?
- Is there a development need that my project or activity is addressing?
- Is this credible or is there evidence of the need?
- How would this project or activity be applied in the country?
- What would the impact of my project or activity be, and who would benefit?
- How does my project or activity contribute to sustainable development?
- Would this lead to a reduction in poverty in a developing country?
- What would success for this activity look like?
- How would success or impact be measured?

9. DAC nations
Please list the specific DAC list countries that will be involved in and benefit from the project and the postdoctoral researcher’s contribution to the project. Please list specific countries rather than regions, continents or other broad categorisations. Only list countries that will specifically be involved in and/or directly and demonstrably benefit from the activity. The DAC list can be found here.

10. Benefits to DAC nations
Please outline how the project and the postdoctoral research appointment will result in specific impacts on and benefits to DAC nations. These benefits must be specific rather than general (e.g. ‘increased uptake of x vaccine’ rather than ‘improved healthcare’ or ‘greater access to schooling for girls in y region’ rather than ‘female empowerment’). Benefits to DAC nations must demonstrably relate to the specific economic and welfare development issues faced by those countries. Although the impacts of research activity can take time to occur, benefits to DAC nations must be the primary outcome of the postdoctoral appointment.

11. Future impact and benefits to DAC nations
Please outline expected continued or new impacts and benefits for DAC countries stemming from this activity after completion, being as specific as possible. Please note that the panel will prioritise proposals that focus on the development of collaborative research activities that will potentially lead to high quality research outputs or applications for external research funding².

12. GCRF challenge area(s)
The project has to fit within the wider aims and specified challenges of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), and applicants are asked to indicate the broad challenge area and the sub-challenge area that the project supports. The GCRF aims are, inter alia, to promote challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and to strengthen capacity for

² Please note that the post holder should not directly assist in the development of bids. Activities such as bid writing meetings or assistance would be ineligible
research, innovation and knowledge exchange in the UK and developing countries. The GCRF challenge areas and sub-challenge areas are:

**Equitable access to sustainable development**
- Secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable marine resources and agriculture
- Sustainable health and wellbeing
- Inclusive and equitable quality education
- Clean air, water and sanitation
- Affordable, reliable, sustainable energy

**Sustainable economics and societies**
- Sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
- Resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change
- Sustainable cities and communities

**Human rights, good governance and social justice**
- Understand and respond effectively to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises
- Reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action
- Reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities

13. **UN Sustainable Development Goals**

Please detail which of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) the project meets and how. Guidance on the UN SDGs is available [here](#).

14. **Contribution to the GCDC**

GCDC postdoctoral researchers are expected to benefit from and contribute to the GCDC during their appointment. The Centre organizes an annual programme of training and events, and the post holder will be expected to take part in these activities as much as possible.

The PI is asked to detail how the postdoctoral researcher will specifically contribute to the GCDC. This could be in the form of delivering a workshop(s), lecture(s), and/or offering one-to-one mentoring to specific members of the GCDC PhD cohort.

The post holder will be asked to provide a short bio and picture for the website during their first week as well as contribute an informal blog post to be made available on the GCDC blog during their appointment.

Please contact the GCDC director, Dr Beth Breeze, if you have specific queries regarding this section: B.Breeze@kent.ac.uk.