

UK Research
and Innovation



UKRI-GCRF Collective Programme Climate Resilience Knowledge Manager call

Call Specification

Summary

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Department for International Development (DfID), are pleased to invite applications for a Climate Resilience Knowledge Manager grant.

Funding has been allocated from the [Global Challenges Research Fund](#) (GCRF) which is a £1.5 billion fund to support cutting-edge research which addresses the problems faced by developing countries and from DFID's [CLimate And REsilience Framework Programme \(CLARE\)](#). GCRF will address global challenges through disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and will strengthen capability for research and innovation within both the UK and developing countries, providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need. GCRF forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, and funds will be awarded in a manner that fits with [ODA guidelines](#). The CLARE Framework Programme is a multi-year applied research programme designed to replace the majority of DFID Research and Evidence Department's current climate research portfolio over the next year or so.

The role of the Knowledge Manager will be to support the [Network Development Scoping](#) teams, and the subsequent larger Climate Resilience Network Plus awards*, by:

- Building connections, encouraging and enabling research synthesis between projects
- Supporting the Network Development Scoping teams as necessary/appropriate
- Identifying and where possible helping projects pursue opportunities for the uptake of research results
- Preparing Programme publicity materials such as blogs and policy briefs drawing on project level materials
- Supporting programme level monitoring and evaluation activities in line with the logframe

*The **Climate Resilience Network Information** attachment provides further information about the specification of these awards.

The research will cover the compound elements of climate risk by revealing the interlinkages between policy sectors exposed to and propagating hazard, exposure and

vulnerability components of risk. These contributions directly support the SDGs, GCRF aims and the UK Aid Strategy.

Exceptionally, for this call, applicants from established overseas research organisations are eligible to apply in addition to those from UK organisations that are eligible for UKRI funding.

Applications are invited up to a maximum value of **£480,000** (100% FEC) and **39 months** duration. Proposals should be submitted via the Joint Electronic Submission system (Je-S) by the **deadline of 16:00 UK time on 29 July 2020**. The successful award will be expected to commence on **1 January 2021**.

Background and scope

The [Global Challenges Research Fund \(GCRF\)](#) is a key component in the delivery of the [UK Aid Strategy](#): tackling global challenges in the national interest. The fund aims to ensure that UK research takes a leading role in addressing the problems 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.

The Collective Programme under the UKRI GCRF umbrella is a series of calls designed to enhance the coherence, strategic focus and overall impact across the six strategic GCRF Challenge portfolios:

- Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure
- Education
- Food Systems
- Global Health
- Resilience to Environmental Shocks and Change
- Security Protracted Conflict, Refugee Crises and Forced Displacement

The programme is being delivered by UKRI and steered by the [GCRF Challenge Leaders](#). Interdisciplinary research excellence is central to the GCRF and Investigators from all disciplines are encouraged to apply for calls within the parameters of each call regardless of the primary discipline focus. This collaboration between DfID and GCRF will maximise scope for outputs to influence future programming and research to enhance the lives of people at risk living in developing countries through strengthening resilience to compound climate risks. All proposals received will be shared with other constituent parts of UKRI as necessary to assist with processing. The Climate Resilience Knowledge Manager call will be managed by ESRC on behalf of all UKRI research councils and DfID. Further information about the ESRC's approach to GCRF and details of other current GCRF calls is available on our [website](#).

Call details

A step change is needed in both adaption and the strengthening of resilience of the poor and marginalised to climate risks. Climate change has the greatest impact on these groups when

it interacts with other risk drivers and consequences including economic shocks, social or political conflict, population displacement, resource and environmental pressures as well as ecological collapse. Life for the poor and marginalised in rural and urban contexts exposed to climate change is dominated by decisions or forced acts that trade-off one risk for another, this is most extreme for women and children, those with disabilities and for ethnic or religious minorities exposed to social and political exclusion and violence. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) identify resilience as a key mechanism for Eradicating Poverty (SDG1) as well as a strategic element of Climate Action (SDG13).

The [UNDRR Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) is illustrative of a global demand for resilience to extend from the direct impacts of climate change to encompass the more challenging compound effects of climate change and development. The Framework recognises the increasing impact of disasters and their complexity in many parts of the world, and that many recent disasters have exceeded national response capacities.

DfID's [CLimate And REsilience Framework Programme \(CLARE\)](#) sets out an ambitious multi-year programme of applied research. The successful Knowledge Manager will support the evolution and outcomes from CLARE, providing a direct line of sight to development practice and to global policy impact. Beyond GCRF-DfID collaboration, close alignment with the UNDRR Sendai Framework and the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF) will provide an opportunity to inform global thinking and policy articulation.

We would encourage applicants to include a small support team to enable the successful Knowledge Manager to provide regular progress reporting to the funders; highlighting areas where directional changes may be required based on emerging evidence, in addition to supporting the Network grant holders (across both stages)*, mentoring on co-production methods, enabling interaction across grants and with associated GCRF and DfID activity.

*The **Climate Resilience Network Information** attachment provides further information about the specification of these awards.

Themes

The Knowledge Manager will support up to 8 Network Development Scoping awards which will lead to up to 4 full Network Plus awards. The awards will be structured around one or more of the following themes and it is expected that the successful Knowledge Manager will be sufficiently knowledgeable to be able to provide support in these areas;

- System behaviours and responses including the amplifying or dampening effect of external pressures
- Institutional capacity for decision-making across risk domains
- Managing complexity in disaster response and recovery

Role Specification

The Climate Resilience Knowledge Manager will have a clear mandate to ensure the programme maximises its impact through connecting and communicating with award holders and users, undertaking meta-analysis and other studies (as appropriate), together with co-ordination across projects to look for coherence and shared story lines. The Knowledge Manager will be accountable to the funders DfID and ESRC (on behalf of UKRI) by providing regular reporting and evaluation. The successful applicant will be expected to

have a good understanding of a variety of DAC list countries and how to link to geographically local networks (both academic and user) as well as international organisations that might have an interest in uptake of the research.

The position will be responsible for developing and communicating a 'bigger picture' view of the research being undertaken within the programme, and to identify ongoing and emerging gaps and continuing research challenges.

Key responsibilities:

- Build connections with Development Scoping Grant holders, end users and policymakers as well as intermediaries, developing opportunities to maximise the impact of the programme. This may include providing links and connections for the award holders into appropriate networks, fora and processes working in relevant areas; organising workshops and other events to bring relevant parties together to enable knowledge exchange and partnership formation, and; facilitate interactions between the various Network Development teams.
- Identify, facilitate and capitalise on opportunities for uptake of research results, including delivering meta-analysis to strengthen overall programme outputs and impact by delivering targeted briefs to key users and supporting associated dialogue
- Support the programme secretariat to ensure monitoring and evaluation to assist with high-level consolidation of reporting
- Prepare short written outputs, for example blogs, policy briefs and briefing notes, based on key messages about and from the Climate Resilience Programme and capture and disseminate case studies
- Support the Development Scoping grant award holders to develop their applications for future Network Plus awards

Assessment criteria

Applications to this call will be assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

- Previous experience in a similar role, particularly in multi-disciplinary contexts
- Demonstrable understanding of international development research, GCRF and ODA compliance
- Experience of managing research-into-use processes and of liaising and networking across academia, policy makers and practitioners in a range of developing countries; ensuring equitable, inclusive partnerships
- Ability to demonstrate strong leadership, mentoring, communication, networking and organisational skills
- Prior experience, or demonstrable capability, in programmatic level monitoring and evaluation
- Appropriate institutional support to help access relevant dissemination and communication networks
- Ability to create a link between the funded Climate Resilience projects and wider DfID and UKRI GCRF portfolios

Applications will be considered by a specially convened panel of academic and non-academic experts at a meeting in **September 2020**. The panel will be asked to assess the proposals against the role specification and the assessment criteria above and make formal shortlisting recommendations to the funders. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to an interview panel in **October 2020**. Funding decisions are expected to be announced shortly afterwards and awards are expected to commence on **1 January 2021**.

Funding

Applications are invited up to a maximum value of **£480,000 (100% fEC) and 39 months duration**. Please see Je-S Guidance for more information regarding costs and eligibility.

Eligibility

Lead research organisation – exceptionally, for this call, Applicants based at established overseas research organisations* **are eligible** to apply in addition to those from UK organisations that are [eligible for UKRI funding](#). Proposals may be submitted by individuals who are not established members of the proposed host institution. In these circumstances, by submitting the proposal the RO confirms that it guarantees to provide facilities for the applicant as if an established member of staff for the duration of the grant. The lead organisation will be responsible for the overall management of the award including control, disbursement and assurance of funds, including financial reporting of funds going overseas.

*From 2020/21, the UK's partnerships with **China and India** under the Global Challenges Research Fund and the Newton Fund will have a renewed focus on delivering global development impact. The UK will continue to work in close partnership with these countries on cutting-edge research, with the primary objective of delivering benefit to developing countries around the world, as well as secondary benefits in the UK, China and India. It is expected that international applicants from China and India will make a significant contribution to their own research costs, including covering their own overheads.

The ESRC does not allow the resubmission of previously unsuccessful proposals to any schemes, unless the applicant has been explicitly invited to do so.

Research Ethics

All GCRF projects must be underpinned by a strong research ethic based on mutual respect and understanding for different cultural, ethnic, social and economic beliefs and practices. Solutions to any development challenge(s) must be rooted in, and acceptable to, the institutions, communities and societies where they will operate.

Ethical issues should be interpreted broadly and may encompass areas where regulation and approval processes exist as well as areas where they do not. Applicants must ensure that the proposed research will be carried out to a high ethical standard and must clearly state how any potential ethical and health and safety issues have been considered and will be addressed, ensuring that all necessary ethical approval is in place before the research commences and all risks are minimised. More guidance can be found in the [ESRC Framework for Research Ethics](#).

Capacity Building

An important aspect of GCRF is capacity development, UKRI and DfID strongly encourage all proposals to this call to ensure that research capacity-building is considered as an integral

part of their application. The applicant must be able to articulate how they intend to enhance the quality and impact of the Climate Resilience portfolio, and how increasing capacity contributes to this. Examples of building capacity include:

- Identifying opportunities for those with relevant skills who have not previously worked on development relevant research projects to orient their research towards global issues
- supporting the grant holders and their teams with the development of their applications for future Network Plus awards
- assisting with the co-design of research and related activity, and implementation with developing country partner staff

Please note that studentships are not eligible under this call. Further information on capacity development in relation to GCRF is available on the [ESRC website](#).

Equitable Partnerships

Partnerships are a key pillar of the GCRF strategy. UKRI developed the following statement of expectation for research partnerships in consultation with researchers from East Africa. “Partnerships should be transparent and based on mutual respect. Partnerships should aim to have clearly articulated equitable distribution of resources, responsibilities, efforts and benefits. Partnerships should recognise different inputs, different interests and different desired outcomes and should ensure the ethical sharing and use of data which is responsive to the identified needs of society.”

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.

Due Diligence

As part of UKRI funding assurance, if the successful application is from a non-UK research organisation, the organisation will be required to complete a UKRI Overseas Due Diligence Questionnaire prior to funding being formally offered.

Safeguarding

UKRI condemns all forms of harm and abuse, including bullying and harassment. We take a zero-tolerance approach to harm and abuse to any individual employed through or associated with our programmes in all contexts; whether in humanitarian or fragile and conflict-affected settings, in other field contexts, or within the international or UK research and development community which we fund. We expect institutions to promote the highest standards in organisational culture and have in place the systems and procedures required to prevent and

tackle all incidents of harm and abuse. Applications must detail how they will identify and manage safeguarding risks and what policies and procedures will be in place to enable reporting and investigation of allegations when they arise.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to report to the funders at regular intervals, providing updates on the progress of the awards (across both the scoping and Network Plus stages) and any potential synergies identified. Regular monitoring and evaluation will be required in line with the logframe.

Application process

The closing date for proposals is **16:00 UK time on 29 July 2020**. No proposal received after this deadline will be considered for funding.

All proposals must be made through the [Joint Electronic Submission \(Je-S\) system](#), only those proposals submitted through the Je-S system will be accepted for processing. Proposals must be costed and approved by the relevant institutional authority at the research organisation before submission.

In order to use the Je-S system, applicants and their organisations need to register on the system a minimum of 1 week before the call closing date. Registration of both the applicant's organisation and their own details must be completed before the proposal can be formally submitted to the ESRC.

Care and attention must be given to completing the online form correctly. Proposals that are not completed correctly may be rejected by the ESRC office.

The ESRC may require applicants to amend parts of proposals, such as the length of attachments or the inclusion of missing mandatory attachments, as a condition of accepting the proposal for processing.

All applicants are strongly advised to follow the Je-S guidance for this call and consult the ESRC's [Research Funding Guide](#), which sets out the rules and regulations governing its funding.

What we will do with your information

UK Research and Innovation understands the importance of protecting personal information and is committed to complying with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR). It is committed to fostering a culture of transparency and accountability by demonstrating compliance with the principles set out in the Regulation.

GDPR sets out the rules for how organisations must process personal data and sensitive personal data about living individuals. It gives individuals the right to find out what personal data is held about them by organisations and to request to see, correct or erase personal data held.

UK Research and Innovation needs to collect and process personal data about the people (including employees and individuals) it interacts with to carry out its business effectively.

UK Research and Innovation is committed to ensuring that employees are appropriately trained and supported to achieve compliance with GDPR. Click [here](#) to read UKRI's full GDPR Policy.

Please be aware that by submission of a proposal, the applicants and organisations involved will be giving consent to the sharing of data between the funders involved in this activity – this is the Research Councils that are part of UKRI and DfID.

Commissioning timetable

March 2020	Call closes for Network Development Scoping grants
July 2020	Call closes for Knowledge Manager position
September 2020	Commissioning panel for Network Development Scoping grants
October 2020	Interview panel for Knowledge Manager
January 2021	Successful Knowledge Manager and Scoping grants start
September 2021	Call closes for Network Plus applications
December 2021	Commissioning panel for Network Plus applications
April 2022	Successful Network Plus applications start
March 2024	Knowledge Manager role and Network Plus grants end

Contacts

All queries or comments about this call should be addressed to:

climateresilience@esrc.ukri.org

Enquiries relating to technical aspects of the Je-S form should be addressed to:

- Je-S Helpdesk
Email: jeshelp@je-s.ukri.org
Telephone: +44 01793 444164

The Helpdesk is staffed Monday–Thursday 08:30–17:00, Friday 08:30–16:30 UK time (excluding public and other holidays).