

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FUND

2019

WHAT IS THE WUN RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FUND (RDF)?

The RDF provides grants of up to £10,000¹, for one year, to augment institutional funds in fostering research collaborations among academic staff (faculty members) at partner universities. The RDF supports work across four WUN Global Challenges that lie at the heart of our mission: Responding to Climate Change, Public Health (non-communicable diseases), Global Higher Education and Research, and Understanding Cultures.

Four Global Challenge Steering Groups identify priorities that are informed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The RDF provides a mechanism for the Steering Groups to stimulate research initiatives.

Grants from the RDF are intended to help stimulate larger collaborative projects that will strengthen WUN and make the collaborating partners competitive for major awards. Funds may be used to support such things as exploratory research initiatives, planning workshops, faculty exchanges and the formation of collaborative networks.

WHAT ARE THE ATTRIBUTES OF A STRONG PROJECT?

- 1 Projects should be academically rigorous, and address problems of consequence within the broad research domain covered by the Global Challenges.** Projects that address one or more 2019-20 priority areas identified by the Global Challenge Steering Groups, and/or involve collaboration across two or more Global Challenges, are particularly encouraged. More information about priority areas can be found at the bottom of this document.
- 2 Projects should establish or strengthen the collaborative linkages among member universities, and should engage at least three member universities in at least two countries².** Projects that engage newer members of WUN are especially encouraged.
- 3 Projects should help enlarge the impact and global recognition of WUN. Projects that have the following attributes are especially encouraged:**
 - They have significant outcomes that are likely to attract broad public interest.
 - They address problems that are aligned with major international funding initiatives from national governments and/or international agencies.

¹ Currency converter (set at 25 June 2019): GBP£1 = AUD1.83; BRL4.88; CAD1.68; CNY8.75; EUR1.12; GHS6.95; HKD9.94; KES129.99; MXN24.46; NOK10.18; NZD1.91; TWD39.56; USD1.27; ZAR18.20

² The collaboration may include non-WUN universities and external partners but must have an active core of WUN member universities.

4 Projects should be aimed at problems that the partnership can pursue with distinctive advantage. WUN is likely to have special advantage when the research problem:

- Requires distinctive constellations of talent that are best assembled (or can only be assembled) by drawing on multiple partners.
- Presents opportunities for comparative analysis, stemming from member universities' locations in different geographical and cultural contexts.
- Requires access to unique environments/resources possessed by one or more partners.

RDF support is intended to match that provided by the applicants' home universities. Institutions participating in an application must collectively commit cash support that, in total, equals or exceeds the sum requested from the RDF.

Note: Salaries of existing research staff are not acceptable as matching cash support. RDF support is not intended to replace other sources of funds for which a project might be eligible.

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS ASSESSED?

Applications are reviewed and ranked by a committee made up of at least six members of the WUN Academic Advisory Group, the Chairs of the Global Challenge Steering Groups and the WUN Executive Director.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- ✓ **Objectives** - the project falls within the scope of one or more of the global challenges, is of high academic quality, and addresses a new research problem or takes an existing WUN research program in a significantly new direction.
- ✓ **Teamwork** - the program involves a team of researchers drawn from a range of relevant regions and disciplines.
- ✓ **WUN Advantage** - the set of individuals involved, and/or the environment and resources available to them, confers a distinctive advantage in tackling the research problem.
- ✓ **Breadth of Impact** - the outcome of the project is likely to be of significant public interest.
- ✓ **Sustainability** - the research problem chosen lies within the scope of funding initiatives from national or international agencies, and project completion is likely to make the applicants competitive for such funds.

WHAT CAN RDF FUNDS BE USED FOR?

The RDF is intended as launch support. Funds may cover the costs of such activities as exploratory research initiatives, planning workshops, faculty exchanges and the formation of collaborative networks, and engagement with students via guest lectures or master classes.

The RDF does not support management fees, salaries or salary supplementation, purchase of capital assets, equipment depreciation, scholarships, course fees and bench fees. Where funds are to be used for air travel, only economy class fares are permissible.

HOW DO I APPLY?

The RDF is open to academic staff (faculty members) at WUN member universities. Applications must first be approved for submission through an internal review at the principal investigator's university and submitted to WUN with the sign-off of the local WUN Coordinator. Each member university may submit up to two applications on which its academic staff (faculty) are principal investigators. There is no limit on the number of applications on which an individual can be a co-investigator.

Applications, submitted online through the WUN online application portal, are due by Thursday, 31 October, 2019. Internal deadlines at many member universities university will be earlier. Web access to the online application will open on 31 July 2019.

Prospective applicants considering a submission should contact their Coordinator well before the application deadline. The Coordinator will be able to provide advice about eligibility, preparing the application, internal deadlines, and the university's internal review. Contact information for your local Coordinator can be found at the bottom of this document.

Applications must be accompanied by:

- ✓ **Program budget outlining key areas of expenditure (a common template will be provided).**
- ✓ **CV of the principal investigator (1 page maximum) with URL links to partner investigators.**
- ✓ **Letters of support from WUN partner universities confirming matching support, using the template provided as a download from the online application portal.**

Applications that are incomplete or received after the closing date will not be considered. **The outcome of the review will be announced on 13 December 2019.** For successful applicants, award funds in GBP will be deposited in February 2020 via bank transfer to the principal investigator's nominated university account after receipt of an invoice from the awardee's university, and the establishment of the project page on the WUN website.

WHAT ARE MY FINANCIAL, REPORTING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OBLIGATIONS?

Awarded funds should be expended within 12 months. Funds unspent at the conclusion of the 12-month award period may be recalled by WUN.

Principal investigators are required to submit a report after the initial year of the project and annually for the life of the project. This reporting is essential to tracking outcomes and WUN's return on its investments. WUN will send a reminder and link to the online survey annually. Investigators who fail to submit satisfactory reports will be ineligible for future WUN funding. Publications and presentations resulting from an RDF-funded project must acknowledge support from WUN.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2019-2020

Projects that address one or more 2019-20 priority areas identified by the Global Challenge Steering Groups, and/or involve collaboration across two or more Global Challenges, are particularly encouraged.

Global Higher Education and Research

- Transforming the higher education curriculum for the 21st century
- Strengthening the legitimacy and authority of the university in a changing world
- Critically examining/enabling global and local mobilities of people, ideas, programmes, knowledges in higher education

Responding to Climate Change

- Affordable and clean energy
- Climate-forced migration
- Climate-resilient food systems
- Responsible production, consumption, and disposal of plastics

Public Health (non-communicable diseases)

- Life course approach to health
- Health systems, policies, and frameworks
- Inequalities within and across countries
- Evidence based interventions for disease prevention and health promotion

Understanding Cultures

- Migration
- Heritage and Climate Change
- Decolonization
- Threat to Humanities