

Global Challenges Initiative – Newsletter (October 2017)

GCI is the University of Cambridge Strategic Research Initiative (SRI) for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

News

- [The Global Challenges Forum will become a Strategic Research Initiative](#) and will be renamed to Global Challenges Initiative on 1st October 2017.
- [UN General Assembly 72nd meeting, with speeches from many world leaders and a focus on discussing the SDGs](#), took place on 19-25th September 2017. The annual General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly is the occasion for world leaders to gather at UN Headquarters to discuss global issues.
- [The Humanitarian Learning Centre \(HLC\) has launched a report arguing that 'mass starvation' should be considered a war crime](#). "Famine: Lessons Learned" was produced as the world was responding to four potential famines simultaneously – in Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen and Somalia.
- [The world is running out of antibiotics, WHO report confirms](#). The report – "Antibacterial agents in clinical development – an analysis of the antibacterial clinical development pipeline, including Mycobacterium tuberculosis" – shows a serious lack of new antibiotics under development to combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance.
- [UK-China projects to develop next generation of offshore renewable energy technologies](#). Researchers from the UK and China will collaborate on five projects to develop the next generation of offshore renewable energy (ORE) technologies to enable the safe, secure, cheap and efficient provision of clean energy.
- [Brexit and UK International Development Policy](#). Global Challenges Forum's member Emma Mawdsley has co-authored an article that argues that "Brexit will accelerate existing trends within UK development policy, notably towards the growing priority of private sector-led economic growth strategies and blended finance tools".
- [Medical Research Council and Arts and Humanities Research Council join forces on global public health challenges](#). Congratulations to Professor Carol Brayne for the funded partnership award on "Pictures of ageing in Uganda; A partnership to explore demographics, phenotype and self-perception in a community of older people".
- [£2.85m for first National PhD Training Programme to tackle antimicrobial resistance](#). The first intake of the Antimicrobial Resistance PhD Training Programme will fully fund 18 students for four years in one of 16 participating universities across the UK, including University of Cambridge.

Funding opportunities

Global challenges- related funding calls closing in October:

Deadline	Call	Description
<p>- International Exchanges 2017 Standard Programme Round 3, namely in Asia: 17th October 2017</p> <p>- International Exchanges 2017 Cost share Programme Japan and Taiwan: 10th October 2017</p> <p>- International Exchanges 2017 Cost share Programme China: 13th October 2017</p>	<p>Royal Society International Exchanges Scheme</p>	<p>This scheme is for scientists based in the UK (or US for the Kan Tong Po programme) who want to stimulate new collaborations with leading scientists overseas through either a one-off visit or bilateral travel.</p>
<p>Cambridge's internal deadline: 1st October 2017; Leverhulme Trust deadline: 9th January 2018</p>	<p>Restricted call: Leverhulme Research Centres 2018</p>	<p>The aim of this call is to encourage new approaches that may establish or reshape a field of study and so transform our understanding of a significant contemporary topic. Applicants are therefore invited to be bold in compiling their bids. The Trust has a reputation for encouraging higher-risk research which is often therefore fundamental or curiosity-driven – so-called 'blue skies' – and pan-disciplinary.</p>
<p>4th October 2017</p>	<p>BBSRC-Brazil (FAPESP) joint funding of research</p>	<p>Research Councils UK (RCUK) and FAPESP, the State of São Paulo Research Foundation, have agreed a Memorandum of Understanding to welcome, encourage and support applications that may cut across their national boundaries and involve international collaborative teams.</p>
<p>Registration deadline: 11th October 2017; Application deadline: 11th October 2017</p>	<p>Innovate UK/ BBSRC/ EPSRC/ Newton Bhabha UK-India Industrial Waste Challenge 2017</p>	<p>Innovate UK, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) are investing up to £8 million in projects that use cutting-edge solutions to reduce industrial waste in India, as part of the Newton Bhabha Fund.</p>

11th October 2017	BBSRC Follow-on Funding Call	A Follow-On Grant enables researchers who have a sound understanding of the market opportunity for their intellectual assets to execute a defined programme of work of up to two years in length that has clearly defined and complementary technical and business plan development milestones. The aim of the programme is to help researchers maximise the societal and economic benefits of their research.
11th October 2017	British Academy The Humanities and Social Sciences Tackling the UK's International Challenges	The British Academy is inviting proposals from UK-based researchers in the humanities and social sciences to develop interdisciplinary projects which bear on our understanding of the UK's international challenges and opportunities (past, present and future). Proposals which relate to the themes of Conflict, Stability & Security; Europe's Futures; Justice, Rights & Equality; and Urban Futures are particularly welcome.
11th October 2017	British Academy Knowledge Frontiers: International Interdisciplinary Research Projects	The British Academy is inviting proposals from UK-based researchers across all disciplines within the social sciences and humanities to develop international interdisciplinary research projects with development impact, in collaboration with colleagues from the natural, engineering and/or medical sciences.
13th October 2017	Newton Fund/NERC/British Council Regional Latin America Biodiversity Programme	NERC and the British Council have announced a new Newton Funded Regional Latin America Programme to understand the role of biodiversity in underpinning ecosystem services and sustainable development. Countries included in this regional programme are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.
13th October 2017	EDCTP Clinical trials to reduce health inequities in pregnant women, newborns and children	The objective of this call is to accelerate the adaption and/or optimisation of treatment and prevention products (excluding vaccines) for PRDs in sub-Saharan Africa for use in pregnant women, newborns and/or children. This call is restricted to the following diseases: HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhoeal diseases and lower respiratory infections.
23th October 2017)	RAE GCRF Africa Catalyst	This capacity-building programme is under the remit of the Royal Academy of Engineering as a delivery partner for the Global Challenges Research Fund. The aim of GCRF Africa Catalyst is to strengthen professional engineering bodies in sub-Saharan Africa so that they can effectively promote the profession, share best practise and increase local engineering capacity, to help drive development.

24th October 2017	NERC/AHRC Exploring & Understanding Colombian Bio Resources	NERC and the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) are inviting research proposals under the Exploring & Understanding Colombian Bio Resources call. The overarching aim of this call is to gain a better understanding of socio-ecological systems in the Colombian regions of Boyacá and Cundinamarca, and their response to environmental change, including climate, land use and social or political change, and the underpinning role and value of biodiversity in these ecosystems.
24th October 2017	UK-India Newton-Bhabha Fund joint call on pulses and oilseeds	The Newton Bhabha Fund uses the UK's strengths in research and innovation to support greater scientific research capacity in India and build research partnerships between British and India research institutions leading to joint solutions to the challenges facing India in economic development and social welfare. BBSRC and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have announced a call for research into pulses and oilseeds, supported by the Newton-Bhabha Fund and the government of India.
25th October 2017	Newton Fund Researcher Links Travel Grants - UK and Peru	Researcher Links Travel Grants provide financial support for early-career researchers to undertake an international research placement to strengthen links for future collaboration, build research capacity in developing economies, and enhance the researcher's career opportunities.
25th October 2017	BBSRC/GCRF Translation Award	The GCRF Translation Awards call will fund activities that aim to achieve outcomes that deliver impact. The call aims to enable research outputs of current or previous BBSRC-funded (or other research council-funded research activity that falls within BBSRC remit) to be further developed into practical application, which delivers benefit and impact in developing countries.
25th October 2017	Department of Health/ UK Vaccine Network/ BBSRC "One Health" Approaches to Accelerate Vaccine Development	BBSRC, on behalf of the Department of Health and the UK Vaccine Network, has announced a £5 million call for 'One Health Approaches to Accelerate Vaccine Development'. This call forms part of the UK government's commitment to Official Development Assistance (ODA).

26th October 2017	AHRC-MRC Global Public Health: Partnership Awards Call 2	The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) offers a unique opportunity for the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC) to launch a global public health initiative that responds to the challenge of bringing together expertise in medical science and health interventions in developing countries, with arts and humanities research bringing an understanding of local knowledge and history, cultural and historical contexts and dynamics, community engagement, and trust.
31st October 2017	EDCTP Targeting control and elimination of NIDs through clinical trials	The objective of this Call for Proposals is to provide funding for clinical trials to accelerate the development of new or improved therapeutics for NIDs in sub-Saharan Africa. Proposals that are in line with EDCTP's strategic research agenda are encouraged.

The funding page of the GCF is updated regularly with these and other [funding opportunities](#) – namely [pre-call announcements](#), [responsive calls](#) and [awards](#) – relevant to the global challenges agenda.

Resources

- [Low and middle income longitudinal population study directory](#). A new Low and Middle Income Longitudinal Population Study Directory (LMIC LPS Directory) has been developed by the Institute for Fiscal Studies on behalf of the ESRC, the MRC and the Wellcome Trust.

Events

Global challenges- related events in October:

- [What's under the pot? Rural women and cooking energy in South Asia - Bina Agarwal \(Global Development Institute, University of Manchester\)](#) – **3th October, 12:00-15.00, Seminar Room S1, Alison Richard Building, University of Cambridge**. What constitutes a 'good' policy is conditioned not only by technology and financial factors but also by social norms and values, institutions, geopolitics, public trust and history. The talk is part of the "In Search of 'Good' Energy Policy" Research Group, which focuses on energy policy from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- [Leverhulme Trust Open Meeting](#) – **3th October, 14:30-15.30pm, Faculty of English, Sidgwick Site, University of Cambridge**. The Leverhulme Trust Board is visiting the University of Cambridge. During the visit, the Director, Professor Gordon Marshall will give a talk open to everyone and the session will be chaired by Professor Martin Millet, Head of the School of Arts & Humanities.
- [17th International Economic Forum on Africa](#) – **4th October 2017, 08.30-18:00, Room CC 1, OECD Headquarters 2, rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris**. The African Union Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in partnership with the French Development Agency, will explore questions related to the triple challenges confronted by Africa on the eve of its industrial revolution: create millions of decent jobs, protect the environment and substantially increase the productivity of its economies.
- [MASTS Annual Science Meeting 2017: "Sea Change – changing seas, changing times"](#) – **4-6th October, Technology & Innovation Centre, Glasgow**. The 2017 ASM will promote the latest

advances in marine science, good governance and using sound science responsibly, and revisiting the vision: "Clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse marine environments, managed to meet the needs of people and nature".

- [King's College Global Health Seminar - Neglected Tropical Diseases: the challenges of elimination in a changing world](#) – **5th October, 17:30- 19:30, King's College, University of Cambridge**. This inaugural talk is part of a termly series supported by King's College, Cambridge-Africa and Wellcome Trust-Cambridge Centre for Global Health Research; it will focus on crosscutting issues in global health within low-income countries.
- [Development i-Teams](#) – **Application deadline: 9th October 2017; Programme runs from October 17th to November 21st; University of Cambridge**. Have you ever wondered how new ideas can help people in the developing world? Are you interested in what Cambridge can do to help? If so, then our Development i-Teams programme is for you!
- [Flooding & business – what does research tell us?](#) – **9th October, 12:00- 18:30, 13th floor, Edward Boyle Library, University of Leeds**. The ARCC network invites you to attend a research synthesis workshop being held following the 7th International Flood Management conference. This is the first part of a synthesis programme to enhance the accessibility and uptake of research outputs to meet the needs of a diverse stakeholder community, and in a timely manner.
- [BNF 50th Anniversary conference: Who is shaping the food choices of the future?](#) – **12th October, 10:00- 16:30, Governors' Hall, St Thomas' Hospital, London**. This British Nutrition Foundation conference will bring together leaders in the world of food and nutrition to consider who (and what) is shaping the food choices of the future.
- ["Africa as a "Dissimilar" System? Knowledge Production on Africa in the UK" - Wale Adebaniwa \(African Studies Centre, University of Oxford\)](#) – **16th October, 17:00- 19:00, Room S3, Alison Richard Building, University of Cambridge**.
- [The future for international research partnerships: responding to Brexit, the Newton Fund and new relationships](#) – **17th October, 08:30- 13:00, Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell Street, London**. As the UK begins the process of leaving the European Union, and following the publication of a Department for Exiting the European Union policy paper on the future of EU partnerships in science and research, this timely seminar will look at priorities for international collaborations and partnerships in research.
- [Comparison of Air Pollution Trends and Policies in London and Beijing - Jacqueline Lam \(JBS, University of Cambridge and University of Hong Kong\)](#) – **17th October, 12:30- 14:00, Seminar Room SG1, Alison Richard Building, University of Cambridge**. What constitutes a 'good' policy is conditioned not only by technology and financial factors but also by social norms and values, institutions, geopolitics, public trust and history. The talk is part of the "In Search of 'Good' Energy Policy" Research Group, which focuses on energy policy from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- [How Open is Open Intellectual Property?](#) – **18th October, 12:30- 14:00, Seminar Room SG1, Alison Richard Building, University of Cambridge**. This theme lays the foundations for the future work of the "Open Intellectual Property Models of Emerging Technologies" Research Group by exploring the concept of Open IP and the legal, economic and social contexts that it inhabits. Key theoretical frameworks will be identified, explored and critiqued.
- [Open Technology Week 2017 - Synthetic Biology in Cambridge](#) – **20-22nd October 2017, University of Cambridge**. This three day event organized by Synthetic Biology in Cambridge will showcase and celebrate open and open source technologies for research and education.
- [Cambridge Student Conference on Conservation Science](#) – **application deadline: 20th October 2017, conference: 27-29th March 2018, University of Cambridge**. The Student Conference on Conservation Science series in Cambridge, Australia, Beijing, Bangalore, New York and Hungary is the only international series of conservation conferences aimed entirely at students. SCCS helps young conservation scientists gain experience, learn new ideas and make contacts that will be valuable for their future careers. Over the past 17 years, SCCS Cambridge has hosted over 2,800 delegates from 128 countries worldwide.
- [Before the Flood - with expert Q&A](#) – **20th October, 17:30- 20:00, Seminar Room 1, David Attenborough Building, University of Cambridge**. If you could know the truth about the threat of climate change, and what you as an individual can do, would you want to know? Join Cambridge

Global Food Security for a special screening of "Before the Flood", followed by the chance to quiz world-experts in environmental science and sustainability from the University of Cambridge.

- [Global Science, Technology and Innovation Conference 2017 – 23-25th October, Brussels, Belgium](#). The Global Science, Technology and Innovation Conference 2017 conference aims to accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of technological innovations that enable the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It provides a unique chance to join the global technological innovation community that is devoted to enabling transitions to less carbon and resource-intensive economic development models.
- [What's stopping your diet being more sustainable? – 24th October 2017, 17:00- 18:30, Department of Plant Sciences, Downing Site, University of Cambridge](#). A panel including Dr Jean Adams, Dr Chris Kaplonski, and PhD researchers Emma Garnett and Charlotte Payne will discuss their insights, chaired by Professor Sumantra Ray.

The [events](#) page of the CGF is updated regularly with these and other events relevant to the global challenges agenda.