THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

LSE Global Research Consortium Fund 2025/2026
Guidance for Applicants

The **Global Research Consortium Fund (GRCF)** is a pilot scheme under the Global Research Fund (GRF). It enables groups of LSE researchers to build long-term, high-impact collaborations with global institutions. The fund supports the creation of new partnerships that generate innovative, interdisciplinary research to address complex global challenges.

This scheme responds to the growing need for ambitious, consortium-based approaches that bring together diverse perspectives and expertise to tackle pressing global issues.

Please note that this Fund supports activities that involve a group of LSE researchers, extending beyond individual faculty. Individual PI-to-PI collaborations are supported through the Global Research Fund.

We are looking to fund projects that will:

- Develop ambitious interdisciplinary research consortia with international partners to address complex global challenges. Domestic partners may also be included, provided the consortium has an international dimension. Non-academic partners can participate as well, provided the collaboration involves academic institutions
- Build sustainable international research partnerships that extend beyond individual researchers.
- Address any global challenges; alignment with one or more of LSE's priority research themes is particularly encouraged:
  - Redefining democracy to improve lives globally
  - Reimagining markets and government for inclusive prosperity
  - Securing a sustainable future for people and the planet
  - Turning social exclusion on its head to build systemic inclusion
  - Harnessing AI and new technologies for public good
  - Advancing global health and wellbeing

Key requirements

- Must involve **at least three LSE PIs**. Cross-departmental teams are encouraged.
- Applying teams must have one **Lead PI**. If awarded, the project will be housed in their academic unit. The Lead PI will also act as the main LSE point of contact for the consortium.
- Must articulate a clear pathway toward defined goals, such as applying for external funding opportunities; contributing high quality, peer-reviewed co-authored research papers for publication in top journals in the relevant field of research and/or high-quality policy-related papers; establishing or developing research partnerships, research networks, hubs and strategic alliances, and creating collaborations that support pathways to impact underpinned by research with end users, policymakers, industry partners, and NGOs.

Eligibility of LSE PIs

- You must be a member of Faculty, Research and Policy Staff, and LSE Fellows as listed in LSE HR Role Profiles, including in practice roles.
- Education Career Track (ECT) staff are **not** eligible.
- You must have a contract of employment with their Academic Unit at LSE in place for the entire project duration and be able to demonstrate continued links with LSE into the future. Projects cannot be used to extend LSE contracts of employment.
- Current Students, Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA), Emeritus, and Guest Teacher role holders may **not** apply.
- You may only apply once per round across both schemes (GRF and GRCF).

Eligible activities

- Networking events fostering research collaboration
- Intensive workshops for brainstorming, co-creation, and developing large-scale interdisciplinary research programmes
- Inbound and outbound visits as part of reciprocal agreement; invited lectures and seminars to establish or enhance contacts between groups
- Proposal development targeting external funding opportunities
- Focused thematic conferences on cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, showcasing the work of the consortia and connecting with potential funders, such as foundations, investors, and government agencies
- Development of partnerships that support pathways to impact, ensuring translation through engagement with end users, policymakers, industry, and NGOs
- Capability-mapping and consortium development activities
- Hourly-paid admin or coordination support for events
- Travel, accommodation and subsistence

Ineligible costs

- Salaries / buyouts
- Indirect and estate costs
- Activities that duplicate existing PI-to-PI funding support
- Conference fees, subscriptions, insurance, or dependent cost
- Costs incurred before proposal submission

Funding and project duration

- Funding available: up to £10,000 per project
- Contributions from partner institutions and/or the host department or centre are encouraged to enhance project scope and sustainability, but are not a requirement
- Project duration: up to 12 months.
- A no-cost extension of up to 3 months may be requested if needed
- Awarded funds will be held in the Lead PI's host department or centre
- Due diligence on collaborating external partners may be conducted upon award. A short network agreement may also be required prior to the start of activities

Selection process

Applications will be assessed by an expert panel formed by senior LSE faculty from a range of disciplines.

Global Research Consortium Fund Criteria:
1. Academic Excellence and Innovation *The panel will consider the extent to which the consortium activities demonstrate importance, creativity, and potential impact in fostering research collaboration between LSE and external partners. There should be clear evidence that the consortium brings together novel and complementary perspectives - both within and beyond LSE - with a problem- and solution-focused approach.* **2. Sustainability and Growth Potential:** *The panel will consider the extent to which the consortium activities will have high impact and lead to a long-term partnership beyond the tenure of the award. This may include external joint funding proposals, identifying potential funders or schemes; and/or 2) contribute high quality, peer-reviewed co-authored research papers for publication in top journals in the relevant field of research and/or high-quality policy-related papers; and/or 3) developing long-term academic collaboration between LSE and the external partner.* **3. Institutional Benefits:** *The panel will consider the wider LSE benefits, including the value the partnership or consortium will bring to other LSE departments, centres, students, and staff by fostering networks with global partners.* **4. Value for Money:** *The panel will consider the efficient and cost-effective use of resources in relation to the expected outcomes.*

How to apply

Please submit your completed application form to **global@lse.ac.uk** with the subject line: **"Global Research Consortium Fund Application"** and include a one-page CV for the LSE Lead PI.

Important practical notes

- We request receipts so please keep documents of any monies spent.
- For accommodation and subsistence rates please consult LSE Travel, Subsistence and Personal Expenses policy and HMRC expense rates.; for accommodation for visits longer than three nights, please first check with the partner institution if they could provide support. We are only able to accept Club Quarter (LSE preferred rate) as the upper limit for hotel rates in London.
- For catering (including dinner), please visit LSE catering page for the most up-to-date costing information.
- For travel booking, please prioritise using the university-appointed travel agent.

Contacts for support

Queries about the GRCF should be sent to: global@lse.ac.uk

For support with identifying suitable external funding opportunities and developing external funding proposals, please contact your Research Development Manager: rescon@lse.ac.uk

For support with engaging non-academic partners (e.g. NGOs, industry, public sector), please contact the Impact Development Team: research.engagement@lse.ac.uk