

International Collaboration Awards

1 Overview

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing or Low and Middle Income countries (LMICs). The Fund forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). ODA funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the [OECD Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#) list and is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective. All applications under this programme must therefore be compliant with these [guidelines](#).

Science, technology and innovation have long been linked to economic prosperity and societal well-being and today are seen as especially crucial for the health and wealth of developing nations. The UK science base can make a significant contribution to addressing these global challenges and the GCRF offers a real opportunity to make significant progress in many areas of science that will benefit developing countries.

As part of the GCRF, the Royal Society has launched an award to enable outstanding UK research leaders to develop international collaborations with the best leading researchers from around the world.

2 Objectives

The award is for three years and offers an exciting opportunity to foster and promote international collaboration between outstanding research groups in the UK and overseas, with a view to supporting work on global challenges and problems facing developing countries.

The objectives of these awards are to:

- Support the development of sustainable collaborative partnerships between outstanding researchers in the UK and the best research groups in developing countries to generate new approaches to the most significant and complex problems faced by developing countries.
- Strengthen research capacity in developing countries through collaboration, sharing of knowledge and skills and exchange of staff between research groups in the UK and their partners in developing countries.
- Attract outstanding international scientists from developing countries and their teams to work with the UK's best universities and research institutions.
- Support the research of the best UK scientists working in fields relevant to the Global Challenges to formulate new approaches to global development problems.

The scheme is **not intended** to supplement existing grants.

The proposed research must fall within the remit of the Royal Society (the natural sciences including engineering). The Royal Society does not cover social sciences or clinical medical research.

Global Challenge Areas:

Proposals should address the [GCRF research agenda](#) for enabling change focusing on one or more of the following areas:

Equitable Access to Sustainable Development

1. secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable marine resources and agriculture
2. sustainable health and well being
3. inclusive and equitable quality education
4. clean air, water and sanitation
5. affordable, reliable, sustainable energy

Sustainable Economies and Societies

6. sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
7. resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change
8. sustainable cities and communities
9. sustainable production and consumption of materials and other resources

Human Rights, Good Governance and Social Justice

10. understand and respond effectively to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises
11. reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action
12. reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities.

3 Award

Duration of funding: Awards are available for three years. Should the budget not be spent at the end of the award period, applicants may be able to apply for a no-cost-extension of up to 12 months.

Value: The maximum award value cannot exceed **£225,000 for a three-year period (up to a maximum of £75,000 per year)**. The grant can be used flexibly on activities directly relevant to supporting collaboration between the applicants and their research groups.

The following costs will be provided annually for three years:

- **Small pieces of equipment** of no more than £10,000 per item
- **Research Support** may be used to pay for:
 - Consumables
 - Costs for organising conferences, workshops or seminars (max £3,000 per year)
- **Travel and subsistence** may be used to pay for:
 - The cost of travel, subsistence and visas for the UK and overseas partner and their research group, including PhD students.
- **Salary (or contribution) for research assistance.**
 - The UK research assistance costs will be paid at 80% of the full economic cost; Overseas research assistance costs will be paid at 100% of the full economic cost*
 - Please enter in the figure for the overseas and UK research assistants' salary and overheads (if applicable) in the budget table at 100% FEC.

***The award does not provide FEC, contribution to overheads or administrative costs for any other budget line other than those relating to Research Assistance.**

The award will be paid to the UK institution in the first instance. Both applicants need to identify the most efficient method to transfer funds to the overseas institution. Payments of up to a maximum of £75,000 per year are made at the beginning of each year of the award. Payments for year 2 and 3 will be processed on receipt of a satisfactory annual report.

Ineligible costs: other overhead costs including animal breeding, housing and maintenance; internal (within your host organisations) facility access charges; publication costs; renovation and refurbishment costs; premises costs and costs of protection of intellectual property; PhD fees or studentship costs; FEC, contribution to overheads or administrative costs other than those relating to the Research Assistant.

4 Eligibility: Who can apply?

The UK applicant and overseas co-applicant must both be research leaders of international standing with an established track record in their field of research. You must demonstrate evidence of leading a strong research group as well as leadership within the research community, in particular making a substantial contribution to the identification and execution of independent research. As a guide, we would expect both applicants to have at a minimum 8 years of active post-PhD research experience.

The UK and overseas co-applicant must hold salaried positions at a university or not-for-profit research institution for the duration of the award. If this is not in place, your employing organisation must provide a guarantee of salary support for the duration of the award.

Partnerships with a country on the OECD DAC list are expected; if this is not the case, applicants must demonstrate in the proposal how they will interact strongly with and benefit the DAC country/ies in question.

5 Timing

The award must start in December 2018. The award is for a continuous period of three years.

6 Proposal Eligibility

Proposals must address research questions or projects relevant to Global Challenge areas as highlighted earlier and be directly and primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries. All research applications must comply with eligibility requirements for Official Development Assistance for funding from the [Global Challenges Research Fund](#).

Applications are particularly welcome from collaborators conducting research in scientific fields that are not traditionally associated with global challenges. In particular, we welcome collaborative applications that will employ interdisciplinary approaches to address key research problems relevant to these challenges.

7 Assessment criteria

Successful applications should be strong in all respects but the assessment panel will give consideration to:

- how the proposed research, collaboration and integrated expertise of the two groups will address global challenge(s) directly and primarily relevant to developing countries
- the potential application(s) of the research work
- the quality, originality and novelty of the proposed collaborative research (e.g. initiating or developing specific investigations related to the research, entering a promising new or modified field of research, or taking advantage of developments in apparatus offering improved techniques in a new line of research) and the feasibility of producing the desired results
- whether the research aims are achievable and the likelihood of success
- the track record and expertise of the applicant and co-applicant in their respective fields

The following scheme notes set out the application process of the International Collaboration Awards scheme.

Please read through the entire document before proceeding

Timetable

Applications deadline	3 May 2018 15:00 (UK Time)
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By submitting an application via the Royal Society's Flexi-grant® you agree that the information provided in your application may be shared with third party organisations for GCRF analysis and evaluation purposes. If successful, The Royal Society will contact you for reporting and evaluation purposes throughout the course of your funding.

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3. Application Guidance Notes

Using Flexi-Grant®

Applications can only be submitted online using the Royal Society's Grants and Awards management system (Flexi-Grant®) via <https://grants.royalsociety.org>. Support, FAQs and troubleshooting can be found via <http://royalsocietyapplicantsupport.fluenttechnology.com/support/home>. If you have not previously used Flexi-Grant®, please follow the registration process from the Flexi-Grant®, homepage.

Paper-based applications will not be accepted.

Before completing the online form, all applicants should check that they comply with the eligibility requirements and ensure all necessary information is presented in the application. These requirements are strictly adhered to and applications without all the necessary information, or evidence to show the assessment criteria are met, will be rejected.

ORCID identifier

All applicants applying to the Royal Society will be required to obtain an ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) identifier before they can commence their application. ORCID maintains a registry of unique researcher identifiers and a transparent method of linking research funding, research publications, research data and any other research outputs to these unique identifiers. You can register for an ORCID identifier via <https://orcid.org/register>.

Further information about the Grants and Awards Management system can be found via <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/flexi-grant/>.

Completing the application form

The application can be completed by using the navigation tabs on the application summary page, with each page categorised as follows:

Summary

Eligibility Criteria

Contact Details

Lead Applicant Career Summary (UK applicant/team leader)

Co-applicant Career Summary (overseas co-applicant/team leader)

Research Proposal

Use of Animals in Research

Financial Details

Applicant Declaration

Head of Department Support (of the overseas applicant/team leader)

Head of Department Overseas Support (of the UK applicant/team leader)

Inviting Participants

To complete and submit the application form, the lead applicant is required to provide supporting statements from the UK applicants Head of Department and overseas co-applicants Head of Department. These individuals can be invited through the participants tab displayed on the application form summary page. Under this section of the form you will find each of the required participants as described above displayed. Please select invite and enter the e-mail address of the person who you wish to invite to provide the relevant statements, and send the invitation. Once the recipient has accepted your invitation, their status will be displayed as 'active'. Upon completion of their section of the application form, their status will be displayed as 'complete'. You will not be able to submit your application form until the status of all participants' shows 'complete'. You can monitor the progress of your participant's activity through this section of the application form, and issue reminders is required.

Once participants have completed all their sections of the application form, please remind them to select 'Save & Submit' on the application form page or select 'Submit your contribution' on the summary page.

Re-opening the Application form to Participants

On the occasion that an invited participant accidentally submits their section of the application form prematurely, the lead applicant has the ability to re-open the application form for the participant. To do this, the lead applicant should return to the Participant tab on the application form summary page. You will find a 're-open' button alongside the name of any participant who has completed their section of the form. Once you click this button, the form is reactivated and available for participants to amend.

Research Support Role

The Research Support role displayed under the participants tab is an optional role, which allows you to invite an individual from the relevant UK Host Organisation research support team to review and amend the application prior to submission. The primary purpose is to ensure that the requested finances have been recorded correctly for this specific grant programme. As this is an optional role, it will not affect your ability to submit your application for approval.

Further guidance and support can be found through the [applicant and approver knowledge base](#).

Please note that questions with * are mandatory fields, which is typically the majority of questions. You will only be able to submit your application for approval by the Host Organisation once all sections of the application form have been marked as complete, and your participants have marked their work as complete (please check the status of participants under the participants tab on the application form summary page). Late applications will not be accepted.

In the following table each box represents a page of the application form; the left-hand column contains the questions within each of these pages as set out in the form; the right-hand column contains useful guidance on its completion.

Please read these guidance notes carefully as you complete the form.

Please note the Lead Applicant must be the researcher based in the UK

Summary	
Summary table	<p>The summary page of the application form provides instructions for submission of your application for approval from the Host Organisation. In addition you are provided with an overview for each section of your application form, and the approximate length of time it will take to complete each section.</p> <p>The summary page also allows applicants to manage and invite participants (e.g. Heads of Department) who will partake in the application form. Instructions for inviting participants can be found under the 'participants' tab on the application summary page.</p> <p>Note: you will only be able to submit your application for approval by the Host Organisation once all sections of the form have been completed.</p>

Eligibility Criteria	
Eligibility Criteria*	Confirm that the lead applicant and co-applicant meet the eligibility criteria. Details of the eligibility criteria can be found on page 3.

Contact Details	
Title, Names, address, organisation and country*	<p>Review and complete your personal details accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in processing your application.</p> <p>Under this section, you should edit the contact type of the participants who will partake in your application form. The system default contact type is set as 'collaborator'. To amend the contact type of your Head of Department, click 'edit', and under the contact type field, select the 'Head of Department'.</p> <p>Organisation: this table will automatically display details of the intended Host Organisation 'marked by a tick' which you selected previously, and your current organisation if different from the organisation where the award will be held and administered.</p>
Email address*	This field defaults to the account in which the application has commenced, and is where all correspondence pertaining to the application throughout the application process, and in the event of the application being successful, will be sent.

UK Applicant and Overseas Co-applicant Career Summary	
Full name *	Please enter your full name, including title below. (Overseas applicant only)
Title of Current Position*	State the title of your current position. <i>(maximum 20 words)</i>
Current Employer*	Enter the official organisation name of your current employer.
Host Organisation*	Select the organisation where the award will be held (UK Applicant Only)
Current Department*	Enter details of your current department name (e.g. Department of Astrophysics).
Current Position Start Date*	Enter the date when your current position started.

Current Position end Date*	Please enter the date when your current position is expected to finish. If you are on a permanent contract please enter 31 December 2050.
Contract Type*	Please select your current contract type from the list below.
Subject Group/Area*	Select the subject group/area(s) that most closely reflects your area of research from the drop-down menu and tick box options.
Applicant Qualifications*	<p>List all your qualifications in reverse chronological order. The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence for your academic merit as possible.</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your qualification information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
Applicant Career History*	<p>List all your posts and the dates in reverse chronological order. The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence for your academic merit as possible.</p> <p>Please provide full details of any periods of part-time working, career breaks, extended sick leave or maternity/paternity/adoptive leave as your eligibility may depend on the accuracy of this information.</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your career history information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>
List your key and/or relevant publications*	<p>Provide details of authors, titles and references for up to five of your best publications in refereed journals, in reverse chronological order. You should choose not only the best but also those most relevant to the application to support your case. <i>(Maximum 250 words)</i></p> <p>Note: if you have an existing ORCID identifier, you can retrieve your key publications from your profile to complete this section of the application form.</p>
Field of Specialisation*	Enter details of your field(s) of specialisation. <i>(Maximum 20 words)</i>
Summary of Your Current Research*	Provide an outline summary of your current research. Please also include a brief comment on the strength of your organisations. <i>(Maximum 200 words)</i>
Country*	Select the country where your current employer is based. (Overseas applicant Only)
PhD Awarded Date*	Please enter the date that you were awarded your PhD. If you have not received your PhD, please enter your expected completion date.
PhD Institution*	State the name of the institution where you were awarded or are completing your PhD.
PhD Country*	State the country in which you were awarded or will be awarded your PhD
Applicant Research Funding History*	<p>Please list all your current and previous research funding in reverse chronological order. The depth of information you provide is up to you, but this will represent you under assessment and so it is worth including as much good evidence for your academic merit as possible.</p> <p>Note: You can retrieve your qualifications and career history information from your profile to complete this section of the application form using your ORCID identifier.</p>

Research Proposal	
Project Title*	Give the full title of your proposed project. <i>(Maximum 20 words)</i>
Start Date*	Please enter the proposed start date of the project. Start dates must commence in December 2018.
Subject Group/Area*	Select the subject group/area(s) that most closely defines the research area of the research proposal from the drop-down menu and tick box options. This will enable us to allocate the application to the most appropriate assessment panel.
Abstract*	Please provide a scientific summary of your proposed project. This should be a summary of your research proposal, briefly outlining the background and summarising the aims of your project. <i>(Maximum 400 words)</i>
Global Challenge Areas*	Select the primary Global Challenge Area that your research proposal will address. A secondary Global Challenge Area can be selected if your proposal will address more than one of these themes.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) *	Select one or more Sustainable Development Goals that your research proposal will address
Lay Summary*	Provide a lay summary of your proposed project. This should be understood by a layperson. Explain why you have chosen to work in this subject area and what it is about your proposed research that you find particularly exciting, interesting or important. Please also explain the potential impact or wider benefits to society of your research. <i>(Maximum 250 words)</i> Please explain the potential impact of your research on addressing the global challenges facing developing countries, avoiding specialist terminology.
Research Proposal*	Please upload your proposal as a PDF file. PDF files must be no longer than 3 sides of A4 , portrait orientation, be titled and the text size cannot be smaller than Arial size 10. Your research proposal should provide a general description of the proposed research to be carried out. This should include, but is not limited to, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear specification of the context and research objectives of the proposed study. • description of the methodology to be used • indication of milestones/timescales
Previous Contact*	Please provide details of any previous contact with the overseas-based co-applicant and indicate whether you have met them personally
Multidisciplinary proposal*	Please indicate whether your proposal covers more than one of the following subject groups: physical sciences; biological sciences; humanities or social science. If so, please indicate which subject groups it covers, e.g. 'My proposal covers biological sciences and social science.' Please enter N/A if your proposal falls within one subject group only.

Data Management and Data Sharing	
<p>The Royal Society supports science as an open enterprise, and is committed to ensuring that data outputs from research supported by the Royal Society are made publically available in a managed and responsible manner, with as few restrictions as possible. Data outputs should be deposited in an appropriate, recognised, publically available repository, so that others can verify and build upon the data, which is of public interest.</p> <p>The Royal Society does not dictate a set format for data management and sharing plans. Where they are required, applicants should structure their plan in a manner most appropriate to the proposed research. The information submitted in plans should focus specifically on how the data outputs will be managed and shared, detailing the repositories where data will be deposited. In considering your approach for data management and sharing, applicants should consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What data outputs will be generated by the research that are of value to the public? • Where and when will you make the data available? • How will others be able to access the data? • If the data is of high public interest, how will it be made accessible not only for those in the same or linked field, but also to a wider public audience? • Specify whether any limits will be placed on the data to be shared, for example, for the purposes of safeguarding commercial interests, personal information, safety or security of the data. • How will datasets be preserved to ensure they are of long-term benefit? 	
Outline of data management and data sharing plan*	If the proposed research will generate data that is of significant value to the research community, then please provide details of your data management and sharing plan. <i>(maximum 200 words)</i>
Overseas Field Research *	Will you be conducting field research overseas?
Overseas Field Research (Upload only)	<p>Please upload documents related to the following (if applicable):</p> <p>1. Permission Any mandatory documents that show local support has been assured by way of permission from the government concerned to travel to and work in the country.</p> <p>2. Collection of specimens Any mandatory documents that show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific permission has been obtained from the host country to collect and to export specimens and material. • The director of the museum or other decision makers where these specimens will be deposited has indicated his/her desire or willingness to have such specimens and material

Use of Animals in Research	
<p>The Royal Society is committed to supporting the development of alternative methods to reduce and/or replace the use of animals in research. Applicants proposing to use animals in their research must ensure that the use of animals falls within the regulations stipulated in the Animals (Scientific Procedures Act) 1986 and subsequent amendments. Additionally, applicants should continually be aware of developments in best practice, and adopt the principles of the <u>3Rs</u> (https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs) when designing and conducting experiments on animals.</p> <p>As a funder of research, the Royal Society take its responsibilities towards the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures Act) 1986 seriously, and requires applicants to consider the questions below when preparing grant applications that include the use of animals.</p>	
Does your proposal involve the use of animals or animal tissue? *	Select 'Yes' or 'No'. If you have selected 'Yes' it is mandatory to complete all of the relevant questions on the Use of Animals in Research page.

ODA Compliance	
As this funding call is being supported as part of the GCRF all applications must include a statement demonstrating how they are ODA compliant and will promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries as the primary objective. Further information on ODA compliance under the GCRF is available here .	
Which country/countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal? *	Tick the relevant country/countries
How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development problems of these countries? *	Please provide a statement. (200 words max)
How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list? *	Please outline the appropriate pathways to impact to ensure that the developing country or countries benefit from the research during and after the lifetime of the award. (300 words max)

Financial Details	
Budget Table*	<p>The following costs (up to £75,000) will be provided annually for three years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small pieces of equipment of no more than £10,000 per item • Research Support may be used to pay for: Consumables and conference, workshop or seminar costs. • Travel and subsistence may be used to pay for the cost of travel, subsistence and visas for the UK and overseas partner and their research group, including PhD students. • Salary (or contribution) for research assistance. The UK research assistance costs will be paid at 80% of the full economic cost; Overseas research assistance costs will be paid at 100% of the full economic cost* <p>Please enter in the figure for the overseas and UK research assistants' costs (if applicable) at 100% of the full economic cost. If awarded we will calculate the UK research assistant at 80% FEC.</p>
Justification for Consumables (inc. fieldwork)*	Please fully justify your request for consumables, including expenses for fieldwork. A small sum may be paid for essential local labour in the overseas location (fieldwork) and is to be included in this section.
Justification for Travel (inc. subsistence)*	Please provide justification for the amount requested. Travel and subsistence for the applicant and/or members of their team, and if applicable the collaborating team in the DAC list country.
Justification for Equipment*	Please fully justify your request for equipment. No more than £10,000 per item
Justification for Salary*	Please provide justification for the amount requested. Specify if the research assistant will be employed in the UK or overseas. When entering the figure in the budget table for the overseas and UK research assistants' costs (if applicable) please input 100% of the full economic cost. If awarded we will calculate the UK research assistant at 80% FEC.
Justification for Animals*	Please fully justify your request for the purchase of animals and/or animal maintenance.

Financial plan*	Provide a financial management plan for the project. This should include proposed financial transferral mechanisms to the overseas institution (<i>Maximum 1500 words</i>)
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<p>Applicant Declaration*</p> <p>Please declare that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have read the Terms and Conditions of Award under which Royal Society grants are awarded and, if a grant offer is made, you agree to abide by them. • You have access to the necessary facilities to enable you to deliver the research proposed, and will continue to have access to the facilities for the duration of the project. • You have agreed with your Head of Department that you will be afforded sufficient time and resources to deliver the research project as described in this application.
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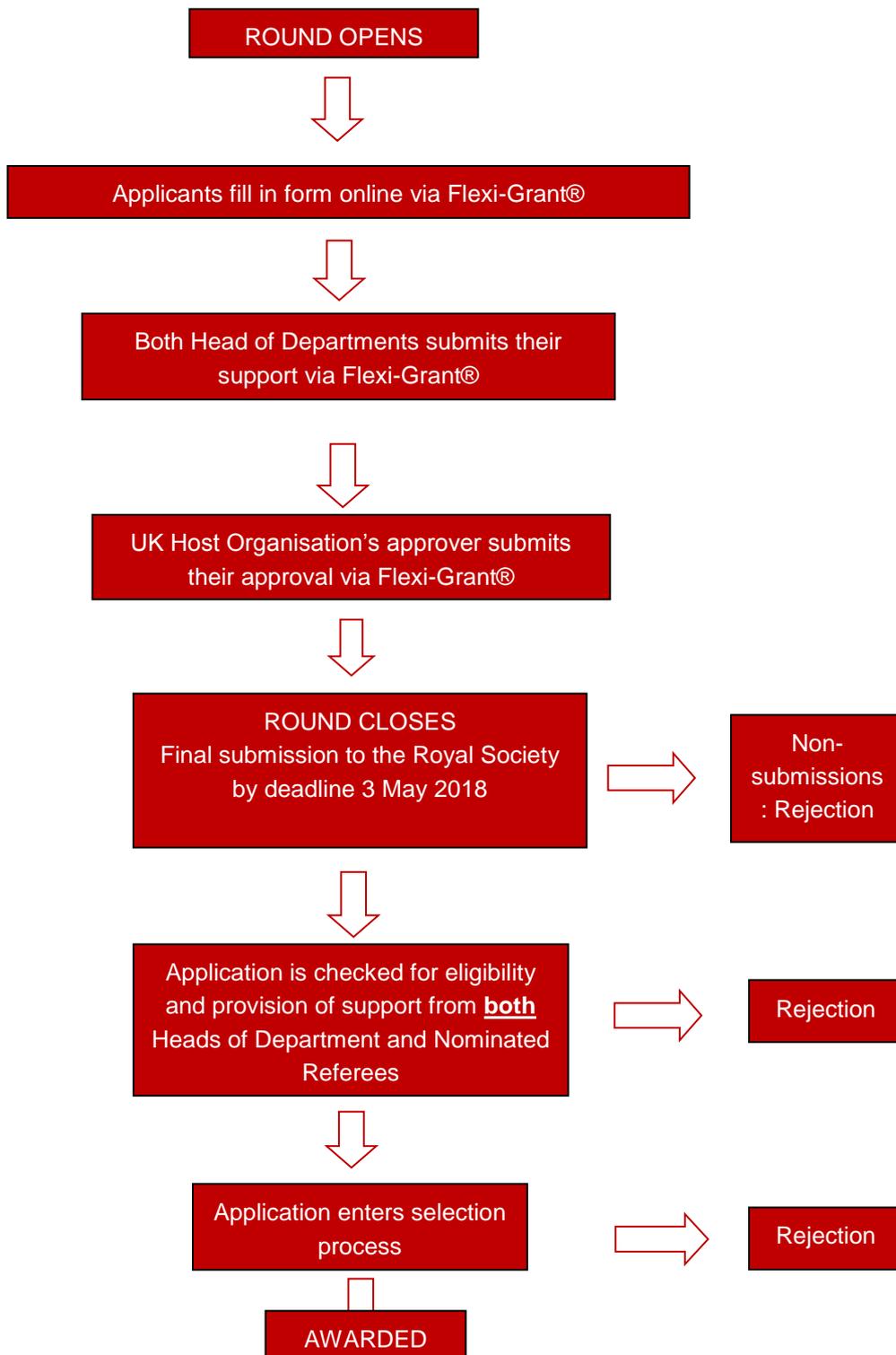
<p>UK Applicant and Overseas Co-applicant Head of Department Support*</p> <p>You should invite both Heads of Department from the overseas and UK organisation to provide a statement of support by following the instructions under the participants tab on the application form summary page. Please check that they are able to supply their statement by 3 May 2018.</p> <p>Please Check which email address your Head of Department would like to use, as they may already be registered on Flexi-Grant® and mistakes may lead to a delay in processing your application.</p> <p>The head of department is expected to detail your suitability for the department and also set out their intentions for your career progression at the host organisation.</p>
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4. Review Process

- All applications to the International Collaboration Awards are reviewed and assessed by two members of the selection panel who have the most appropriate scientific expertise using the criteria detailed on page 6.
- Shortlisted candidates will be sent for Independent Review
- A Panel Meeting will take place to finalise the recommendations for award
- It is expected that applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email approximately 6 months after the application deadline.

Please be assured that the Royal Society specifically requests anyone involved in reviewing applications to consider them in confidence.

Appendix 1: Application Submission Process Flow Diagram



Enquiries

Any enquires about this Scheme can be made using the contact details below. Before contacting us, please check whether your question is answered by these scheme notes or the 'Questions' page on the website:

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6-9 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AG

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Tel: +44 (0)20 7451 2291