

## Newcastle University, Global Partnerships Fund (GPF)

### 2024-25 Guidance

#### About Global Partnerships Fund

- The International Office (IO) Global Partnerships Fund is intended to enhance collaboration between Newcastle University and global partner institutions by providing financial support for new and existing activities. The fund enables NU staff to facilitate research or education collaboration, public engagement, global policy, and capacity building through partnerships.
- This is in support of our commitment to **collaborate across and for the world, working in global partnership to achieve more collectively than we can alone.**
- Priority will be given to activities which are intended to deliver our commitment to our core values, including Social and Environmental Justice, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and to key university strategies. In addition, activities with partners in DAC list of ODA countries, or activities that place student experience at the centre of the project will also be given priority.
- Up to £5,000 funding is available for each new project undertaken before 31 July 2025 in academic year 2024/25.
- **ODA eligible projects:** This year we have additional funding for ODA eligible projects, up to £20,000 per project. To be eligible, **project spend must be completed by 31 March 2025**, and projects **must be ODA compliant**, as defined at <https://www.newton-gcrf.org/funding-guidance/what-is-oda/>
  - Projects which are not ODA compliant, or in which project spending will take place after March 2025, will be considered for £5,000 Global Partnerships Funding.

#### A. Who can apply?

- i. Applications are open to NU colleagues across all faculties and departments in the following roles:
  - Professor or equivalent
  - Reader/Associate Professor or equivalent
  - Senior Lecturer/Principal Researcher/Principal Research Associate or equivalent
  - Lecturer/Senior Research Associate or equivalent
  - Post Doc/PhD Student/ Researcher/Research Associate or equivalent
  - Applications from **Early Career Researchers (ECRs) are particularly encouraged** as we recognise it can be difficult ECRs to secure external funding for initiating connections.
  - **Please note, this is not open to MRes, PGT or UG Students**
- ii. To be eligible, applicants must have either an open-ended or fixed-term contract/study commitment that extends until at least July 2025. If an applicant has a fixed-term contract that does not meet this requirement, they can still apply if their contract covers the project's scheduled dates and they have a co-applicant who is a Newcastle staff

- member with an open-ended contract. In such cases, the co-applicant will be responsible for reporting outcomes to Newcastle University's International Office.
- iii. Each individual can submit only one application per project or activity under this funding stream. However, there is no limit to the number of applications an individual can submit if they are involved with multiple projects. Each application will be given equal consideration by the panel. To ensure broader participation across Newcastle University, a maximum of one award will be granted per lead applicant. All lead and co-applicants must actively participate in the collaborative project described in the application.
  - iv. Previous recipients of the Global Partnerships Fund are eligible to apply again. If the funds are for a related or follow-up activity, applicants should explain how the proposed project in the new application builds upon previous outcomes.
  - v. Newcastle University promotes equality and diversity, and therefore encourages applications from individuals of diverse backgrounds, regardless of their career stage, age, disability, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or religion.

## **B. What is funded?**

- i. Projects which involve research, education, enterprise, or policy engagement activity involving one or more Newcastle University individuals and a 'global partner' that is, one or more colleague(s)/research team(s)/department(s), based at an overseas HEI, research institute, policy organisation, or international public/corporate/charitable organization. This could be collaborations initiated and run by individual academics or departments. Applicants may have worked with the selected partners in the past, or it may be a new collaboration.
- ii. Funds must be for new activity (not activity that has already happened or that is, in substance, covered by other research funds). The new activity can build upon outcomes from a previous project.
- iii. Activities for which the funds are allocated must take place before 31 July 2025 for AY 2024-2025
- iv. Given the carbon footprint of travel, applicants are invited to be creative in proposing collaborative activities that can be accomplished effectively via video or other creative technology solutions.
- v. **Example types of activities with a project might include:**
  - Organising a joint seminar/workshop with international partners (remotely or in person) which could lead to joint publications, future research collaborations, grant applications, or other follow-up activity.
  - Meetings, or preliminary scoping work and baseline research/data gathering, to underpin the preparation of a long-term collaborative partnership (e.g. preparation of a PhD summer school, future exchange agreement, etc).
  - Methods of remote collaboration are eligible for funding and encouraged where possible.
  - Hourly pay for research assistants and interns in support of a collaboration. Please note that teaching buyouts are not eligible.

- Undertaking a research, education and/or engagement-focused visit to a partner institution to co-develop shared future plans.
- Delivering a series of guest lectures at a partner institution
- Bringing an international/global event to Newcastle that would otherwise occur elsewhere.
- Refer to section H for Examples of projects that have been awarded GPF recently.

This list isn't exhaustive, and we understand that there may be other ways you wish to conduct the project.

### C. What cannot be funded by the Global Partnerships Fund?

- Activity that does not involve a global partner; activities that are solely UK-based/focused; work for which there is already a significant existing funding stream.
- Costings should be appropriate and relevant to the activity, for example the provision of alcoholic beverages for partners is not considered a valuable use of funds, unless it can be described how hospitality is critical for the building of this relationship or necessary/culturally significant for an event e.g. a public exhibition.
- Items that would normally be included in research or teaching grants. This seed funding supports and develops international collaboration and lacks the scale and resources to support the core components of a research or teaching project.
- Teaching time buyout cannot be funded under GPF.

### D. Focus of Activities:

While projects with any international partner are eligible for funding, we would particularly encourage applications relating to the following partnerships with institutions (including non-higher education institutions) that are located in a country or territory eligible to receive official development assistance as outlined by the [OECD's DAC List](#).

*In general, the Global Partnership Fund is designed to cover the costs of Newcastle University participants only; however, consideration will be given to projects requesting funds to support their partner's activities and/or costs if the partner is in a country or territory on the DAC list.*

### E. Assessment of applications

Applications will be assessed, and the scoring criteria will include:

**Strategic and values fit:** Demonstrate how the collaboration will contribute to university's core values such as social and environmental justice and/or one or more of the SDGs and/or other university strategies primarily Global strategy, Research strategy, Education refresh strategy.

**Partnership for mutual benefit:** Demonstrate complementarity between activities at NU and at partner institution(s) and benefits to both.

**Innovation and feasibility:** Demonstrate innovative approaches, especially in reducing carbon footprint using technology along with realistic and feasibility of project scope within the timeline and budget.

**Inclusivity and diversity, including student involvement:** Demonstrate efforts to include diverse backgrounds and promote inclusivity. In addition, involve students in a meaningful way and consider how the project supports student experience. Refer to examples section for reference.

**Expected impact and outcomes of the activity:** Demonstrable consideration has been given to the collaboration's future (financial) sustainability and a viable route(s) to future funding has been identified. Consideration to potential impact, including future funding, partnerships, publications, and networks or other research outputs, establishing a new network or developing an existing one.

In cases where this does not exist, the application will explain why this would not be necessary.

- Award recipients will be asked to provide a short report on impact and outcomes of the activity at the end of the project.

## **F. The online application process.**

- Apply for the Global Partnerships Fund via the form - <https://forms.office.com/e/Dzwq8HPN5a>
- You should provide a breakdown of the costs you're seeking to cover in the relevant section of the application form. For travel costs, please include realistic estimates. We encourage you to build in some contingency for expense fluctuations. The International Office will be unable to cover any shortfall of your budget, for any reason including currency fluctuation. All expenses must be calculated according to Newcastle University Travel and Expense Policy.
- Please ensure to check Newcastle University's Travel Policy while making your estimates.

## **G. Timeline**

- The application form for GPF will be open on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**
- The deadline for applications is 11:59pm on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**
- Applicants will be notified of panel decisions in **mid August 2024.**
- All activity must be concluded and paid for by **31<sup>st</sup> July 2025**
- Award recipients will receive GPF funds & full instructions will be provided at the point of confirming the awards.

## Queries

If you experience any problems making an online application, or have any questions about the GPF, please contact [sanjana.medipally@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:sanjana.medipally@newcastle.ac.uk) or [nicola.brooks@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:nicola.brooks@newcastle.ac.uk)

## H. Examples of projects that have been awarded GPF recently include:

Example #	Brief Description of the project
1	<p>Proposal to conduct two in person and one online workshop to enhance the depth and breadth of our existing collaboration between NU's Cities NUCoRE &amp; the Urban Academy (UA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Objectives: form interdisciplinary urban research consortium; create joint research proposals for 'Just Cities'; strengthen local partnerships; enrich student international experience; establish pathways for future collaboration.</li><li>- Includes a student component where NU PGT students work on a group project of an existing module along with students from Helsinki. Activity is supported by a PGR Intern.</li></ul>
2	<p>Proposal to enhance NU's readiness to engage in research relating to climate, water &amp; health in low-middle income countries in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand &amp; Vietnam).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Project owned by NUCoRE's – Water, Climate &amp; Environment Resilience</li></ul> <p>includes a component of student engagement of organising an online symposium with university students from all the above-mentioned countries &amp; NU.</p>
3	<p>Proposal to visit our strategic partner, University of West Indies, in person to initiate immediate opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Initial focus on blue economy and biodiversity SDGS,</li><li>- Prior online conversations and join activities have led to shared interests</li></ul>
4	<p>NU PhD student's proposal to deliver MinION nanopore sequencing workshop - along with their PhD Supervisor - in Thailand to train the Department of Fisheries' Scientists in the use of portable molecular diagnostic tools</p>
5	<p>Proposal to visit Harvard University to establish collaboration between the Energy Materials Laboratory at Newcastle and Rowland Institute at Harvard to exchange resources, equipment &amp; expertise. NU's recent breakthrough work with copper coordination polymers has been the catalyst to initiate the collaboration.</p>

1.	Partly funded NU PhD student proposal to host ' <b>I exist too, 2023</b> ' event that seeks to improve the visibility of LGBT+ population within the maritime industry in Panama
2.	Capacity building to the Department of Environmental Affairs in Malawi to enhance the capacity to manage 'Invasive Alien Species'
3.	Proposal from a Research Associate to hold research workshop with (and at) University of Cauca, Colombia to bring together research model of agroecological workshops with creative arts, Humanities & Social Science methods to examine potential for intercultural exchange.
4.	Proposal to visit University of Philippines to discuss opportunities for research and teaching, especially with a focus to identify project field sites for NU UG & MSc students' field work experience.
5.	To organise a flagship symposium on SDGs as part of the British Society of Gerontology to enable NU to develop research and teaching partnerships with colleagues from countries which are eligible for development assistance.
6.	To organise a workshop in India with colleagues from across Southeast Asia to develop research hypotheses & methodologies to apply for UKRI and National Institute for Health and Care Research funding calls.

**Additional examples that have been awarded the Global Partnership Fund.**