



WUN Research Development Fund - Guidelines

The Worldwide Universities Network is a global alliance of research intensive universities drawn from the UK, Europe, North America, China and Australia. Central to WUN's mission is the fostering of international collaborative research. In particular, WUN is committed to the development of interdisciplinary research collaborations addressing recognisable global challenges.

The WUN Research Development Fund offers grants of up to £15,000 (average £10,000¹) from an overall fund in 2009 of up to £200,000 to support research collaborations in the following WUN *Global Challenges*:

- Adapting to Climate Change
- Furthering the Frontiers of Cultural Understanding
- Opportunities and Challenges of Globalisation

Grants are also offered to support research collaborations addressing the following emerging *Global Challenges*:

- Global Health – (Public Health – non-communicable disease)
- New Frontiers in Information and Communications Technology

Programs may include exploratory research initiatives, targeted workshops, faculty exchanges and the formation of collaborative networks, among other activities. Applications that incorporate a research mobility component for early career researchers and postgraduate students are encouraged.

The WUN Research Development Fund will not cover salaries or salary supplementation; equipment depreciation; scholarships; course fees and bench fees. The fund is designed to catalyse and augment the investment by WUN member universities in international research initiatives. Consequently an award from WUN should be matched by cash funding of equal or greater value, using the sum total investment of the program partners.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Quality** – programs are of high research quality and impact, innovative, inter-disciplinary, and international in scope. The program should preferably engage at least three WUN member universities in at least three countries. The collaboration can include non-WUN universities and external partners but must have an active core of WUN member universities.
- **Leadership** – programs are led by recognised academics with a demonstrated track record of research excellence and include early career researchers and PhD students. Programs should involve a team of researchers across a range of relevant disciplines and regions.
- **Sustainability** – programs will build longer term international relationships based on genuine commitment by the research partners, demonstrated matching cash and in kind support by the partner institutions and the potential to attract external funding.

¹**Note:** As a guide GBP £10,000 = USD \$16,523; EUR €11,404; AUD \$19,226; CAD \$17,822; RMB ¥112,856. As at 9 September 2009.

Applications will need to be accompanied by:

- Letters of support from all partner institutions, confirming matching support
- Detailed program budget (1 page maximum)
- Detailed program timeline (1 page maximum)
- CVs of principal investigators (1 page maximum each)

Application process

Applications must first be submitted to the Academic Advisory Group (AAG) representative at the principal investigators' university no later than **Friday 13 November 2009**. The AAG representative is responsible for reviewing, ranking and approving applications at his/her university prior to submission to WUN. A maximum of three submissions will be accepted from each WUN member university.

Applications along with all accompanying documents must then be submitted to WUN by the AAG no later than **Friday 27 November 2009**. Applications that are incomplete or received after the closing date will not be considered.

Applications will be assessed and ranked by a selection committee made up of the WUN Academic Advisory Group and the Chief Executive. The outcomes of the WUN Research Development Fund will be notified by 19 January 2010.

Financial and reporting obligations

Allocated funds will be deposited via bank transfer to the Principal Investigator's nominated university account in February 2010.

Awarded programs must be started within 6 months, with allocated funding expended within 12 months. Awardees will be required to submit a brief progress report at the end of 6 months to the Chief Executive (on a template to be provided), with a final report due at the end of 12 months. Unspent funds at the conclusion of 12 months may be recalled by WUN.

Principal Investigators are welcome and encouraged to participate in WUN initiatives and events as they arise, including the WUN AGM, the WUN Annual Report, Global Challenge workshops etc.