GLOBAL MINDS FUND ANNOUNCEMENT 2021-2022

Announcement and application information

Since 2017, the Federal Government allocates funds to Ghent University through the office of the VLIR-UOS to further develop and expand its University Development Cooperation (UDC) capacity. By integrating development issues into education and research, the Global Minds Fund (GMF) strives to foster global citizenship and solidarity in society to better respond to global challenges.

This Global Minds Fund is a new approach designed as a programme that will increase the capacity of Flemish universities in knowledge, scientific approaches and technologies to sustain, improve and expand their collaboration with partners in the South (developing countries). A further aim of the programme is to sensitize academics and students to issues related to UDC.

Ghent University has therefore drawn up rules and regulations for the Global Minds Fund. This year, the Commission for Development Cooperation (COS) issues a call for proposals for four types of intervention:

1. Operational grant for doctoral and postdoctoral fellows
2. University Development Cooperation capacity building
3. Short Research Stays
4. Sensitizing events for the Ghent University community and its partners

The Global Minds Fund is addressed to all staff and students, whether new to the field of UDC or already active in it.

This document concerns the following type of intervention:

Part 2:

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION CAPACITY BUILDING AT GHENT UNIVERSITY

Earliest starting date: 1 October, 2021

Submission deadline: 6 September, 2021, 5:00 pm (Belgian time)

1. Definition & objectives

GMF Ghent University provides funding for initiatives that enhance the university's research and/or teaching capacity with respect to development cooperation. This call reaches out to all Ghent community members, academic and non-academic staff and students, to propose scientific or educational oriented initiatives.

The call for capacity building at Ghent University aims at:

1. Innovative teaching methods on development issues to be implemented at Ghent University
2. Development of new Ghent University research topics in UDC
3. Sustaining and expanding existing research collaborations in UDC context at Ghent University
4. Increased contact with academic partners in the Global South to strengthen the UDC capacity at Ghent University
5. Increased contact with other development actors through joint initiatives to strengthen the UDC capacity at Ghent University

The following examples might inspire aspirant applicants:

- Visit to or from an either existing (eg alumni) or a new partner to explore possible research or education collaboration (seed money), eg as preparation for a project proposal for a funding agency (VLIR-UOS, Gates Foundation …)
- Network events with development cooperation partners (private sector and/or NGOs and/or academic), stimulating new research and/or educational initiatives
- Academic valorisation of results of ongoing or finalised projects (e.g. publications or PhDs)
- Seminars organized in Belgium that are relevant to development and focus on capacity building in UDC at Ghent University
- Guest lectures by (international) academic or field experts in development cooperation for students and/or staff and/or community
- Staff training on how to increase success rates of relevant development proposals (VLIR-UOS, Europaid …)
- Explorative mission and/or staff training on how to improve student mobility (e.g. traineeships) with the South
- Investment in the Ghent University alumni network in the Global South to enhance UDC in the North and South

Moreover, an overview of previous selected proposals GMF Capacity Building can be found on the website https://www.ugent.be/globalminds.

2. Available budget

Proposals can be submitted for one of the following budget categories:

1. Category A up to €7,500 (e.g. explorative missions, guest lectures, staff training, …)
2. Category B up to €15,000 (e.g. conference) for which the co-financing of minimum €7.500 is required
3. Category C up to €20,000 for a (inter)faculty explorative mission *(NEW)*

Proposals selected will be granted a contribution, according to their respective category. This grant is meant as an incentive to fund eligible types of costs of necessary and relevant activities to develop and complete the project selected. Costs that can be covered by this fund are restricted by Global Minds VLIR-UOS guidelines and general Ghent University rules.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Proposals that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be rejected.

Eligibility of applicants

Promoter

Professors, researchers, lecturers, ATP staff and students affiliated with Ghent University can apply to this call on the condition that:

- they remain affiliated with the institution for at least the scheduled duration of the project;
- they have the required skills to successfully manage and lead the project;
- they are the (co-)organiser of the initiative.

A promoter can apply for different calls of the Ghent University GMF within the same year. For each Global Minds call, the selection committee will select the proposals that best meet the formulated objectives.

In proposals for a (inter)faculty explorative mission, the proposal should be endorsed by the dean (as representing the faculty) and a COS faculty representative. The COS faculty representative will act as budget holder.

Budget holder

The budget holder is the person who is mandated to make financial commitments on behalf of the institution. This person can but is not necessarily the same person as the promoter. Students, PhDs and ATP staff who are promoters of an initiative need to appoint a budget holder or will be appointed a budget holder by the Research Co-ordination Office. The promoter will be responsible for implementing the initiative.

Applicants new to the field of University Development Cooperation are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility: implementation period

The grant must be spent between 1 October 2021 and 31 August 2022. No budget transfers will be possible to the next budget year. Only activities that have been addressed in the grant application can be covered by this grant.
The next call for grants starting in September 2022 is planned to be launched beginning 2022.

Eligibility: countries

A capacity building initiative can be organized in Belgium and can initiate or strengthen a collaboration with a partner in the South. In the latter case, at least one of the collaborators must be a national or resident of one of the 31 countries on the VLIR-UOS list of countries:

- **Africa**: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe.
- **Asia**: Cambodia, Indonesia, Palestinian Territories, Philippines, Vietnam.
- **Latin America**: Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru.

Important remark: If you plan to prepare a new South Initiative or Team Project (VLIR-UOS South Programmes), be aware that within the next 5-year-programme (2022-2026) project proposals with the following **17 countries** will be eligible: Benin, Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru.

Eligibility: thematic area

The topic addressed by the initiative must be **relevant to UDC** and must expand Ghent University's UDC **capacity**.

Eligibility: activities and related costs

The promoter or budget holder is required to keep track of the actual individual expenditures and record them in the Ghent University analytical accountancy system, with duly supporting justifications. The budget can only be used to achieve the project's objectives.

4. Application procedures

Applications for GMF Capacity Building must be submitted in English using the forms provided at http://www.ugent.be/globalminds:

- Imposed formats to be submitted:
  - Annex 1: Application form
- Optional free formats that can be submitted:
  - Specified programme of the initiative, e.g. for a conference, if already known.

Applications for the Global Minds Capacity Building call must be received by 6 September 2021 (5:00 pm Belgian time).

Applications must be submitted electronically to GMapplications@UGent.be (please use a pdf converted from the Word document and not a scanned pdf). The document must be named as follows: "Promoter's last name_CBGMF_application". Send the application form and annexes as separate PDF files[1].

5. Selection

Selection commission

Projects will be selected by the Commission for Development Cooperation (COS).

Selection criteria

The recommendation will be based on evaluation of the proposal's **development relevance**. This relevance relates to "the extent to which the proposals' objectives are consistent with beneficiaries' requirements, country needs, synergy opportunities, global priorities and partners' and donors' policies (VLIR-UOS, 2017)[2]".

Operational criteria:

1. The relevance of the proposed initiative to UDC capacity building: does the project strengthen or expand Ghent University's UDC capacity? Proposals regarding an (inter)faculty explorative mission, need to target staff (ZAP, post-doc) new to the field of UDC and explore new partnerships in VLIR-UOS countries. A mission can only be financed if at least 1/3 of the participants have no or little experience with UDC.
2. The potential to deliver applicable results: applications for VLIR-UOS projects or other development funding, higher inscription rates of international students, expansion of expertise to other research fields …
3. The proposal fits into at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)[3]
4. If relevant, the proposal has clear added value or complementarity with regard to other initiatives already carried out, eg Ghent University research activities, ongoing south projects (VLIR-UOS funded or otherwise), etc.
5. The proposal looks for synergy with other development intervention/actors (and in particular with other Belgian ANGs[4] strategic goals as formulated in the Joint Strategic Framework (JSF) per country)

Priority will be given to proposals focussing on education initiatives and/or including concrete cooperation initiatives with ANGs.

[1] Via File < Export < Create PDF/XPS document

[2] VILR-UOS Selection System – Policy and guidelines – version 03.02.2017, p. 8

3 More information on https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs

4 ANGs: non-governmental/state actors as defined by the Belgian Ministry of Development Cooperation. These actors elaborated Joint Strategic Frameworks in 31 countries of Belgian development cooperation activity.

Selection outcome

All promoters will receive an e-mail with the selection outcome by 30 September 2021. Details on the feedback procedure will be mentioned in that e-mail. A list of the candidates selected will be published on the Ghent University website.

6. Final report and sharing

A final financial and narrative report on the project achievements, must be submitted.

The financial report for expenses made in 2021, must be submitted by 31 January 2022. The financial report for expenses made in 2022, will be due in fall 2022, together with the final narrative report.

Reports must be presented on the required forms, which will be available on the University website http://www.ugent.be/globalminds. The reports must be sent electronically to GMreports@UGent.be. The narrative report will be made available for the Ghent University community on http://www.ugent.be/globalminds.

7. Information

For further general information, please contact the Research Co-ordination Office, e-mail Veerle.Devriendt@UGent.be, tel. + 32 9 264 30 35.

Abbreviations

GMF	Global Minds Fund
UDC	University Development Cooperation
COS	Commission Development Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals