**GLOBAL MINDS FUND ANNOUNCEMENT 2020**

**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 Global South. 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 permanent call for proposals for two types of intervention:

1. University Development Cooperation capacity building: explorative mission or visit to prepare a UDC project proposal with a partner institution, located in a country that is included in the VLIR-UOS list of countries
2. Sensitizing events for the Ghent University community and its partners

**Because the COVID-19 outbreak made contacts with Southern partners more difficult due to travel bans or caused delays in PhD research or projects because of the closure of labs, impossibility of data collection or field research and so on, the permanent GM call has been enlarged towards a call for funding projects, students or researchers who have been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.**

This call is addressed to staff who did not yet attract VLIR-UOS or other UDC funding, and to staff who already attracted VLIR-UOS or other UDC funding and wish to expand their research topic or country or region (within a VLIR-UOS country).

This document concerns the following type of intervention:

**Part 1:**

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION CAPACITY BUILDING:

**Earliest starting date: 1 January, 2020 (retroactive costs possible)**

**First submission deadline: 15 May, 2020, 5:00 pm (Belgian time)[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Second submission deadline: 21 August, 2020, 5:00 pm (Belgian time)**

**Final submission deadline for proposals in 2020: 6 November, 2020, 5:00pm (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 for capacity building aims at qualitative proposals for UDC projects in research, education and/or or service to society. It provides funding to organise an explorative mission to and/or from a South partner to prepare a project proposal for funding agencies (VLIR-UOS, EU, World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation or others) and to enhance future collaboration in UDC.

**This second and third call also aim to fund extra costs of activities with the intention to limit the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak within a running PhD or research project.**

**2. Available budget**

Proposals can be submitted for maximum 7500 euro. Costs that can be covered by this fund are restricted by Global Minds VLIR-UOS guidelines (see financial guidelines on [www.ugent.be/globalminds](http://www.ugent.be/globalminds)) and general Ghent University rules.

**3. Eligibility Criteria**

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

Eligibility of candidates: promoter

ZAP members or postdoctoral researchers 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 proposal that will be submitted;
* he or she is allowed to act as budgetholder at Ghent University[[2]](#footnote-2);
* they have the required skills to successfully manage and lead the project;
* they are the (co-)organiser of the initiative;
* they meet the eligibility criteria for the external call (EU, VLIR-UOS, …) to submit the intended project proposal

A promoter can be awarded this type of grant (CB – permanent call) of the Ghent University GMF only once within the same calendar year.

For each Global Minds call, the selection committee will select the proposals that best meet the formulated objectives.

Eligibility: countries

The project must be organised with a partner institution in the South, that is located in one of the 31 countries of the VLIR-UOS list:

* **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.

Eligibility of candidates: local partner

The local partner must be located in one of the 31 countries of the VLIR-UOS list.

In case of an explorative mission to and/or from a South partner to prepare a project proposal for funding agencies, the local partner must be eligible for the external call.

Eligibility: implementation period

The budget must be spent between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020.

In case of further Corona delays VLIR-UOS will be flexible with implementation periods, and budget transfers to 2021 will be possible.

Eligibility: thematic area

All topics addressed must be **relevant to UDC.**

In case you plan to prepare a VLIR-UOS project proposal, the projects should align with the **thematic areas of the VLIR-UOS country strategies**. This country strategy represents the strategic niche for future VLIR-UOS cooperation in a specific country and contains a thematic focus and sometimes an institutional/regional focus. A strategy starts from the needs of the partner country, and in particular the national priorities in terms of poverty reduction and national policies for higher education. Furthermore it takes into account the interest in cooperation at the level of the Flemish higher education institutes, and its potential added value. More information on the country strategy of each country can be found in the background documents per country (see <https://www.vliruos.be/en/documents/129>.).

In case you plan to prepare a UDC project to be submitted to another funding agency, then the thematic areas of the VLIR-UOS country strategies are not relevant. One should of course take into account the eligibility criteria of the funding agency before designing a project proposal.

Eligibility: activities and related costs

The promoter 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.

Costs that can be covered by this fund are restricted by Global Minds VLIR-UOS guidelines (see financial guidelines on [www.ugent.be/globalminds](http://www.ugent.be/globalminds)) and general Ghent University rules.

Only activities that have been addressed in the grant application can be covered by this grant.

**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
* Free formats to be submitted:
	+ The call document for project proposals, if you plan to submit a proposal for another funding agency than VLIR-UOS and if available

This is a permanent call, proposals for 2020 can be submitted until 6 November 2020 (5:00 pm Belgian time).

A permanent selection committee deputed by the COS will evaluate the received proposals and pass its advice to the COS. The next submission deadlines for evaluation are 21 August and 6 November 2020 (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\_CBPC\_application”. Send the application form and annexes as separate PDF files[[3]](#footnote-3).

**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”.

Operational criteria:

1. The proposal should address topics relevant to the partner institution in the South and its country, but the scope of the call and proposal is not necessarily limited to UDC;
2. The potential to deliver a qualitative proposal for the intended call;
3. The potential to strengthen and/or expand the UDC capacity of the research group to which the applicant belongs;
4. The feasibility of the planned mission.
5. The urge to limit the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak within a running PhD or research project.

Selection outcome

All promoters will receive an e-mail with the selection outcome and feedback.

For proposals submitted by

* 15 May 2020, the outcome will be sent by 19 June 2020
* 21 August 2020, the outcome will be sent by 22 September 2020
* 6 November 2020, the outcome will be sent by 11 December 2020

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 by 31 January 2021. 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.

In case of an explorative mission to and/or from a South partner to prepare a project proposal for funding agencies, a copy of the submitted UDC project proposal must be sent to GMreports@UGent.be, by 31 December 2021 at the latest.

**7. Information**

For further general information, please contact the Research Co-ordination Office, e-mail: Elfje.Godderis@ugent.be , tel. + 32 9 264 95 03.

**Abbreviations**

GMF Global Minds Fund

UDC University Development Cooperation

COS Commission Development Cooperation

1. This is a permanent call with 3 deadlines in 2020. A selection committee will evaluate the received proposals and the selection will be submitted to every COS meeting in 2020. The next submission deadlines for selection are 15 May, 21 August and 6 November 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See article 1 Overhead Regulations <https://www.ugent.be/intranet/nl/reglementen/onderzoek/reglementen/overheadreglement.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Via File < Export < Create PDF/XPS document [↑](#footnote-ref-3)