GLOBAL MINDS FUND ANNOUNCEMENT 2020

Announcement and application information

Each year starting in 2017, the Federal Government will allocate 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 of which the goal is to 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. Sensitizing events for the Ghent University community and its partners
4. Short Research Stays

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

This is the call for Operational Grants for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows.

Part 1:

OPERATIONAL GRANT FOR DOCTORAL AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS
Incentives/topics related to University Development Cooperation issues

Earliest starting date of the grant: 1 January, 2020

Submission deadline: 1 October, 2019 5:00pm (Belgian time)

1. Definition & objective

Ghent University wishes to provide funding to PhD students as well as young postdoctoral fellows to either support and expand their ongoing research on development-related research issues or to promote the inclusion of a development cooperation dimension in their ongoing research as well as initiate university development cooperation research within their department.

These Operational Grants will take the form of a budget that will need to be reported on and that should be used for operational (sampling, questionnaires, ..) and mobility costs. With justification, staff costs in the South can also be accepted. No scholarships or salary cost for the applicant can be asked from the budget.

The activities that will be funded need to relate to at least one VLIR-UOS country (see below).

2. Available budget

The maximum amount of the grant is € 12,500.

3. Eligibility Criteria

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

Eligibility of applicants

To be admissible for this call, all of the following requirements must be met:

- Doctoral fellow applicants must be enrolled at Ghent University as a PhD student at the time of the deadline for submission of proposals (thus enrolled for AY 2019-2020).
- Postdoctoral fellow applicants must have an appointment at Ghent University or hold a postdoctoral fellowship from the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) at the time of the deadline for submission of proposals. This appointment must allow them to continue their research at least until the end of the grant period. The call targets early career post-docs, with a PhD degree obtained max. 5 years prior to the date of the deadline of submission.
- If the PhD student's enrolment or the postdoctoral fellow's appointment is stopped unexpectedly after the grant has started, the grant will be cancelled early as well.
- Each application should be supported by at least one professor who is called a promoter (and co-promoter) throughout this text.
- UGent Global Minds Operational Grant recipients are not eligible to submit a second application, as the grant can be awarded only once.

Applicants from research groups not yet active in University Development Cooperation are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility: implementation period

The grant has to be spent by 31 December 2020, no budget transfers will be possible to the next year. Only activities that have been addressed in the grant application can be covered by this grant.

The next call for grants starting in 2021 is planned to be launched by mid-2020.

Eligibility: countries

The research activities for which financial support is requested within this call and to be reported on should take place in or be relevant to (relate to problems in) at least one of the following countries (VLIR-UOS list of 31 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.

Eligibility: activities and thematic areas

The research activities should increase Ghent University's capacity in knowledge, scientific approaches and technologies to start, improve, sustain, and/or expand collaboration with partners in the South (VLIR-UOS list of countries). The main goal of these activities must comply with the principles of the Global Minds Programme designed by VLIR-UOS. These principles were addressed to the universities and can be found on http://www.ugent.be/globalminds.

With the OPR initiative we want to support those that focus clearly on an additional and developmental related activity within the frame of a running PhD or postdoc project.

To evaluate the aspect "additional" a copy of the running PhD or post-doc grant or the running project that is the basis for the PhD or post-doc needs to be included as an annex. In case there is no such project, any document that relates to the ongoing PhD (like the PhD enrolment form) or postdoc research can be added.

As an illustration we give some generic examples of OPR grants that have been positively evaluated in the past:

- Ex1 : Flemish/EU PhD students that hold an FWO/BOF/IWT/EU/… grant for a PhD related to research of a certain method/approach/problem/… that has a link (or a link can be made) with a development related issue. The OPR project wants to explore if there research topic could also hold possibilities for future research in a VLIR-UOS country.
- Ex 2: a PhD student from an OESO/DAC country that has a full BOF/EU/… scholarship at UGent on for example a food safety issue, or a health topic in Europe, but that same problem is also occurring in a VLIR-UOS country and the OPR grant is requested to explore this further.
- Ex 3: the PhD is a student of a VLIR-UOS country that is performing a sandwich PhD at UGent. A mission is planned to another VLIR-UOS country then the one he/she is national of, to link the ongoing PhD focussing on a topic in his/her own country to a situation in another country.
- Ex 4 : the applicant wants to disseminate results from a study that was done at UGent to a country in the South where the results of the study could be relevant and new research possibilities can be explored. For example a study was done on a food borne disease in a certain country (either North or South), but in a VLIR-UOS country that same disease is also a problem and a mission could determine if further research should be done.

Eligibility: costs

For the Operational Grant, the 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

The applications for Operational Grants must be submitted in English.

Applications for Operational Grants must be submitted using the forms provided at http://www.ugent.be/globalminds.

A copy of the following optional annexes must be included in the application if relevant:

- If some of the research activities will take place in one of the VLIR-UOS countries, a written statement from the partner university/institution accepting the applicant's intention to conduct research in collaboration with that university/institution/organization
- if applicable, favourable ethical recommendations or evidence of a bio-safety dossier

Applications for Operational Grants must be received by 1 October 2019 (5:00 pm Belgian time).
The deadline must be strictly respected; late or incomplete applications will be rejected without review.

Applications must be submitted electronically to GMapplications@UGent.be (please use a pdf converted from the Word document and not a scanned pdf[1]).

The document must be named as follows: "Applicant's last name_ Applicant's first name_OPG_application". Send the application form and annexes as separate PDF files.

When sending the application, please make sure both the promoter and co-promoter are included in the e-mail, either as sender, or in CC.

5. Selection

Applications for Operational Grants will be selected by the Committee for Development Cooperation (COS).

Selection Criteria

The recommendation will be based on evaluation

1. of the development relevance of the proposed research activities or the potential implementation of its results on the long term. Development 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 research activities for University Development Cooperation capacity building: **does the project strengthen or expand the UDC capacity of Ghent University or the research group to which the applicant belongs?**
   2. The proposal meets the needs of (direct and indirect) beneficiaries in the South
   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.

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

5. The proposal looks for synergy with other development intervention/actors (and in particular with other Belgian ANGCs[4] strategic goals as formulated in the Joint Strategic Framework (JSF) per country)
6. If applicable, the proposal takes into account its negative/positive environmental impact
7. If applicable, the proposal takes into account its negative/positive impact on the policy level

2. of the relevance of the proposed research activities to the applicant's ongoing research project
3. whether the proposed project is an additional activity of the ongoing research, this implies that the activity for which funding is requested was not foreseen in the original PhD project.
4. of the qualifications of the applicant for the Operational Grant

Selection outcome

All applicants and their promoters will receive an e-mail with the selection outcome. Details on the feedback procedure will be mentioned in that e-mail. A list of the applicants selected will be published on the Ghent University website.

6. Final report

A final scientific/scholarly report, must be submitted by 21 January 2021. It will present the current state of affairs of the research project. The scientific/scholarly report must be presented on the required forms, which are available on the Ghent University website http://www.ugent.be/globalminds. The reports must be sent electronically to GMreports@UGent.be.

7. Information

For further general information, please contact the Development Cooperation Office, e-mail Nancy.Terryn@UGent.be,

tel. + 32 9 264 98 14.

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.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

1 General and administrative information (topic 1 and 4 in the form)

Ghent University promoter

The proposal must be supported by:

1) a promoter who, at the deadline for this call, is affiliated with Ghent University either as:
   - a member of the tenured academic staff (Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel)
   - a visiting professor with at least a research appointment

   or by:
2) a senior assistant, senior lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, full professor or senior full professor within the integration framework at Ghent University who holds a PhD degree. In this case, it is compulsory to add a co-promoter (see 1.4) who belongs to category (1) of promotership.

Budget holder

If the applicant is a doctoral fellow, this promoter acts as the sole authorized person for the Operational Grant budget and as spokesperson. This promoter carries the responsibility for proper implementation of and reporting on the project.

Postdoctoral fellows are allowed to act as the authorized person for the Operational Grant budget and as spokesperson. They carry the responsibility for proper implementation of and reporting on the project. Only in cases where the postdoctoral fellow leaves Ghent University before the end of the grant, the promoter will take over the responsibility for reporting on the (partially) completed project.

Ghent University co-promoter

Co-promoters have no access to the budget for this grant. As is evident in the project description and the plan of work, the co-promoter must make a real contribution to coordination of the proposed research activities. If the promoter belongs to **category (1) of promotership**, a co-promoter is **optional**. At the deadline for this call, the co-promoter must:

- belong to one of the categories of promoters
- have an appointment at Ghent University, the University Hospital, VIB Ghent, IMEC Ghent and/or Vlerick Leuven Ghent Management School or at one of the University Colleges ("hogescholen") of the Ghent University Association and hold a PhD degree.

The status of the co-promoter (including the type and duration of their appointment) and the home institution must be specified in the application forms.

2 Possible ethical and/or bio-safety implications (topic 4.3)

Indicate whether the Operational Grant proposal may possibly have ethical and/or bio-safety implications.

If the applicant's Operational Grant proposal is approved, then a positive recommendation from the competent ethics committee in the relevant field of study and/or evidence of a bio-safety dossier will need to be submitted before the project can begin. The promoter will be responsible for submitting the ethical advice and/or evidence of a bio-safety dossier in time. If the ethics committee issues a negative opinion on the project, as a rule the Operational Grant project cannot be set up. Only if the Operational Grant proposal is changed and the ethical and/or bio-safety implications are no longer relevant - without altering the feasibility or innovation of the Operational Grant project - the modified Operational Grant project can be carried out.

For the bio-safety dossier, please mention the code (Txx-xxxx) and the number of the activity as registered with the Office of the Environmental Coordinator. It is not necessary then to enclose the bio-safety dossier as an annex. More information

about the bio-safety dossier can be obtained at www.ugent.be/intranet/nl/op-het-werk/veiligheid/milieu/bioveiligheid or from the department of environmental affairs, e-mail milieu@ugent.be.