

GLOBAL MINDS FUND ANNOUNCEMENT 2021

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 3:

Short Research Stays

Earliest starting date: 1 January, 2021

Submission deadline: 15 December, 2020, 5:00 pm (Belgian time)

1. Definition & objectives

Ghent University wishes to provide funding to junior and senior researchers from one of the 31 VLIR-UOS countries who wish to spend a short research stay (SRS) at Ghent University to support and expand their ongoing research on development-related research issues.

The visiting scholars will be given an office space and access to facilities (such as the library) as a Ghent University visitor.

Awardees are expected to be present at Ghent University, to take part in its academic activities and to contribute to its intellectual community.

The call for Short Research Stays aims at strengthening Ghent University's capacity in UDC through:

1. Valorisation of existing research collaborations
2. Expansion of existing research
3. Increased contact with academic partners in the Global South

The short research stay should take place in 2021, for minimum 1 month and can last up to 90 days at most. **Possible output categories** are a research or project proposal (in a broad sense), a scientific article or research paper, or a PhD finalization.

1. Research or project proposal*

Often, researchers have established contacts with other researchers abroad, but do not find the time to jointly prepare competitive research or project proposals. The SRS scholarships are therefore available for researchers wishing to prepare a research proposal, or broader to prepare a concept proposal for possible (new), tangible partnerships or new projects within existing partnerships. An exploration or initiation of a PhD proposal also fits in this category.

2. Scientific article or research paper

Researchers often do not have sufficient time to write a scientific article or a research paper, although all the necessary research data to do so are available. The SRS call offers the possibility of spending maximally 90 days at Ghent University, to permit writing one (or more) scientific articles or research papers on the basis of available experimental data. The purpose is to submit this paper or article to a scientific journal for publication, or to an international conference for presentation. The journal or conference in which one wants to present one's work, should be known beforehand.

3. PhD finalization

Some PhD candidates with a research focus on UDC have not finished their PhD within the duration of funding. These researchers, close to the finalization of their PhD, are offered an additional period of maximally 90 days at Ghent University. The researcher should present a realistic plan indicating when the thesis will be defended and why a research stay at Ghent University is essential to finish the PhD within this short period. No funding will be provided for the return ticket for the defense in case the PhD has already been finished.

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

2. Available budget

Per selected candidate, a short term allowance will be awarded for the total duration of the period of one stay (90 days at most), following the VLIR-UOS Allowances and Guidelines (see https://www.vliruos.be/en/documents/guidelines_and_forms/131), as well as insurance (€0.88/day).

Allowance:

- Minimum stay of 30 or 31 days: fee of 1400 EUR
- For stays from 32 days – 90 days: monthly fee of 45,1613 EUR per day

The Global Minds Fund does not provide the airline return ticket. The ticket can be provided by the Ghent University faculty, or the affiliated institution in the South or the visitor. This topic should be discussed and settled between the Ghent University promoter and the visitor in advance.

No conference participation will be reimbursed.

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:

1. The applicant has obtained at least a Master's degree before applying for the short research stay.
2. The applicant is affiliated with a university, research institute, government body or NGO in his/her home country.
3. The applicant does not receive any scholarship at the start of the SRS scholarship. Specifically for applicants of partner universities within ongoing VLIR-UOS projects (IUC, TEAM, SI, JOINT, NETWORK, GLOBAL MINDS ...), the call is only open for visitors affiliated with departments in the South which are not involved in the projects.
4. The candidates shall not be staying in Belgium or Europe at the start of the SRS. People wishing to prolong their stay in Belgium are hence not eligible.
5. Recipients of a Ghent University Global Minds Short Research Stays Grant are not eligible to submit a second application, as the grant can be awarded only once.
6. Each application should be supported by at least one Ghent University professor who is called a promoter (and co-promoter) throughout this text.
7. The applicant is 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.

Eligibility: implementation period

The grant must be spent between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021. No budget transfers will be possible to the next year.

Eligibility: thematic area

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>.

The research activities should lead to one of the targeted outputs, as described in topic 1:

- Research or project proposal*
- Scientific article or research paper
- PhD finalization

The research topic addressed must be **relevant to UDC**. No further restrictions will be imposed on the fields of research.

***Important remark:** If you plan to prepare a new South Initiative or Team Project (VLIR-UOS South Programmes), be aware that there is a **new list of 17 countries** to work with in the next 5-year-programme (2022-2026): Benin, Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Indonesië, Philippines, Vietnam, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru.

Eligibility: activities and related costs

The research coordination office will transfer the allowances to the candidate, respecting the VLIR-UOS guidelines.

4. Application procedures

Applications for GMF Short Research Stays must be submitted by the Ghent University promoter, in English using the forms provided at <http://www.ugent.be/globalminds>:

- Imposed formats to be submitted:
 - o Annex 1: Application form
- Free formats to be submitted:
 - o Brief curriculum vitae (CV) of the candidate. Each CV must only contain information relevant to this proposal, and therefore consist of two pages at most.
 - o If applicable, favourable ethical recommendations or evidence of a bio-safety dossier

Applications for the Global Minds Short Research Stays call must be received by 15 December 2020 (5:00 pm Belgian time).

Applications must be submitted electronically to GMaplications@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 files¹.

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 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".

¹ Via File < Export < Create PDF/XPS document

² VLIR-UOS Selection System – Policy and guidelines – version 03.02.2017, p. 8

Operational criteria:

- 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 Ghent University research group to which the applicant will belong during his/her Short Research Stay?**
- The proposal meets the needs of (direct and indirect) beneficiaries
- The proposal fits into at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)³
- 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.
- If applicable, the proposal takes into account its negative/positive environmental impact
- If applicable, the proposal takes into account its negative/positive impact on the policy level
- of the proposed output categories: the proposal should aim at a research or project proposal (in a broad sense), or a scientific article or research paper, or a PhD finalization (as defined in topic 1).
- of the qualifications of the applicant for the Short Research Stay
- of the overall quality of the proposal
- of the motivation and feasibility of the research plan

Selection outcome

All promoters will receive an e-mail with the selection outcome by 15 January 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 by 31 January 2022. 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.

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

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