

# GLOBAL MINDS FUND

## Call 2024

### Short Research Stays (SRS)

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#### Announcement and application information

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Since 2017, the Federal Government allocates funds, through the office of VLIR-UOS, to the Global Minds Fund (GMF) of Ghent University. GMF operates as driver of change for sustainable development, by producing and valorising relevant knowledge and expertise through mutually beneficial partnerships with and between (non-)academic actors in Belgium and partner countries. Each year the Commission for Development Cooperation (WOS) is inviting proposals.

This call concerns:

**Short Research Stays (SRS)**

**Starting from 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2024**

**The deadline for submission is 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2024 at 23:59 Belgian time.**

## 1. Purpose

The UGent Global Minds Fund provides opportunities to the whole Ghent University community to collaborate with partners in the Global South in order to address the global challenges of sustainable development. GMF is designed as an 'innovator' programme that aims to (1) increase the production and application of innovative solutions to global challenges and (2) sustain, improve and expand equitable partnerships with actors in the Global South.

This call targets researchers who are affiliated with a higher education or research institution that is based in one of the 37 eligible countries in the Global South (see list below), and who wish to spend between 1 and 3 months as a visiting researcher at Ghent University in order to support and expand their ongoing research on sustainable development challenges.

The objectives of Short Research Stays are to:

1. strengthen the quality and relevance of research at Ghent University and its Global South partners on sustainable development challenges;
2. explore or enhance research-oriented partnerships with societal impact between Ghent University and higher education or research institution in the Global South.

Visiting researchers will receive a scholarship for the duration of their stay and will also be provided with office space and access to facilities (such as the library) as a Ghent University visitor. Awardees are expected to be present at Ghent University and to actively take part in its academic activities.

## 2. What to apply for

The short research stays fall in two categories. Each category is described in more detail below.

### Category A: development of specific research outputs

These SRS scholarships are meant for professorial staff, lecturers or postdoc researchers affiliated with a higher education or research institution in the Global South.

The main purpose of the research stay at Ghent University should be to produce a specific research output such as a research proposal, scientific article, research paper, working paper, book (chapter) and/or policy report.

### Category B: advancement or finalization of a (joint) PhD at Ghent University

This category of SRS scholarship targets visiting/exchange/joint PhD-students from the Global South that are enrolled at Ghent University. The following categories of PhD-students are eligible to apply:

- PhD-students that want to pursue an additional research stay at Ghent university to advance their ongoing doctoral research **AND** that spent **less than 21 months** at Ghent University for their doctoral research.

The application should indicate the total number of months that the candidate visitor was able to stay at Ghent University for the purpose of doctoral research.

- PhD-students that need a final research stay at Ghent university in order to complete their doctoral research.

Candidate visitors should demonstrate in their application why the research stay is essential to complete their PhD and present a realistic plan indicating when the thesis will be defended. No funding will be provided for the doctoral defence if the PhD has already been finished. The SRS needs to take place before the submission of the PhD manuscript.

### 3. Eligible promoters

Each application should be supported by at least one Ghent University professor or postdoc researcher who is called a promoter throughout this text.

**Ghent University promoters can support a maximum of 2 applicants on condition that they are of a different gender.**

In case of a category B proposal (PhD student), the promoter(s) of the SRS proposal should also be the (co-)promoter(s) of the candidate's PhD project.

Promoters without financial responsibility (budgethouderschap) 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.

### 4. Additional eligibility criteria

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

1. Following VLIR-UOS guidelines, the candidate visitor is a national and resident of one of the following countries:

Africa		Asia	Latin America
Benin	Morocco	<a href="#">Bangladesh</a>	Bolivia
Burkina Faso	Mozambique	Cambodia	<a href="#">Brazil</a>
Burundi	Niger	<a href="#">India</a>	<a href="#">Colombia</a>
Cameroun	Rwanda	Indonesia	Cuba
DR Congo	Senegal	Palestina	Ecuador
Ethiopia	South Africa	Philippines	Haiti
Guinee	Tanzania	<a href="#">Sri Lanka</a>	Nicaragua
<a href="#">Ghana</a>	Uganda	Vietnam	Peru
Kenya	<a href="#">Zambia</a>		<a href="#">Suriname</a>
Madagascar	Zimbabwe		

*\* Countries marked in blue are eligible for GMF activities since September 2022.*

2. The proposed research activities and outputs need to fit within the broader context of sustainable development challenges in the Global South, but there are no restrictions in terms of research fields or themes.
3. Visitors who already received a Global Minds Short Research Stay grant cannot apply again for this SRS call.
4. A brief curriculum vitae (CV) of the candidate visiting scholar (free format, maximum two pages) should be submitted together with the application form.

### 5. Budget and conditions

Per selected candidate, a short term allowance will be awarded for the total duration of the period of one stay (90 days at most). The amount is as follows:

- Minimum stay of 30 days: 1.500 EUR for the first 30 days.
- Stay longer than 30 days (with maximum of 90 days): a monthly allowance of 1.500 EUR (pro rata).

In addition, the selected candidate will receive 200 EUR to cover indirect (inter)national travel costs.<sup>1</sup>

This allowance covers both living costs (daily expenses) and accommodation costs and is paid from the day of arrival until the day of departure of the scholar. Additionally, an insurance fee will be covered from the GM budget (€2,7/day).

<sup>1</sup> These costs may be related to medical expenses (e.g. vaccinations), legalisation of documents, visa application fees, mailing costs for couriers, transportation to and from the embassy.

In principle, the Global Minds Fund does not provide the airline 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.

In exceptional cases, a motivated request for funding or reimbursement of the airline round-trip ticket can be submitted. This request will be evaluated by the selection commission, based on the provided information with respect to the ongoing funding of the candidate and the motivation why the travel cost cannot be covered by other funds than Global Minds (PhD research funding, Ghent University faculty, the affiliated institution in the Global South ...).

The scholarship must be used between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025.

No budget transfers will be possible to the next budget year.

A final report on the outcomes of the Short Research Stay will have to be submitted after completion of the stay.

## 6. Visa requirements

When applying for the Global Minds SRS grant, the premise is that you come for a stay of maximum 90 days, only to Belgium, with a **type C visa**.

Important considerations to keep in mind when applying for an SRS scholarship:

- the type C visa is only granted for **one stay per any period of 180 days**
- if you are already in Belgium with a type C visa, you cannot prolong your stay for 3 months
- if you are a registered Ghent University PhD-student, you can prolong your stay (and combine the SRS grant with another type of scholarship), but then you will need to apply for a long stay type D visa. This procedure needs to be started 2 months at least before the start of the SRS.
- when you plan to come to Belgium and you are not enrolled as a Ghent University (exchange) student, you can only come for a stay of 3 months per year. In this case, you cannot combine the SRS scholarship with another type of funding.

You can contact [globalmindssrs@ugent.be](mailto:globalmindssrs@ugent.be) to check your visa or stay permit situation/rights.

The Global Minds office is not responsible for your legal stay permit. It is the sole responsibility of the scholarship holder to ensure their visa application is submitted in time for them to be able to take up the SRS grant.

## 7. How to apply

Proposals should be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2024 23:59 Belgian time.

Applications must be submitted by the Ghent University promoter with the candidate visitor in copy of the application e-mail.

Applications are submitted via [GMaplications@UGent.be](mailto:GMaplications@UGent.be) (please use a pdf converted from the Word document and not a scanned pdf).

There is only one application form to be submitted, which can be downloaded [here](#).

The document must be named as follows: "Promoter's last name\_SRS\_2024\_application".

## 8. Assessment

Project proposals will be reviewed and selected by a selection commission composed of members of the WOS.

Proposals for SRS category A will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Criteria	Descriptors
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the research engages with a specific sustainable development challenge in the Global South</li> <li></li> </ul>
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the proposed activities are feasible and likely to contribute to the intended objectives and results</li> </ul>
Added value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>added value of the research stay is adequately demonstrated throughout the proposal</li> <li>the proposal adequately describes the objectives, expected outputs and follow-up actions</li> <li>the proposal identifies potential synergies/complementarities with other initiatives, partnerships, projects or research agendas</li> </ul>

Proposals for SRS Category B will be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

1. the application convincingly demonstrates the need for a Short Research Stay in order to advance or finalise an ongoing doctoral research project.
2. the application makes clear that the candidate has no other funding sources to spend at least 21 months at Ghent University for the doctoral research.

The selection commission draws up a ranking of eligible proposals. If an ex aequo situation occurs at the limit of the amount of applications that can be selected, priority will be given to:

1. Proposals that target a new GM country as indicated in the table on p. 3
2. Proposals involving Ghent University promoters who are not yet involved in Global South partnerships
3. Achieving gender balance with regard to the visiting scholars
4. Proposals with the highest potential to build a mutually beneficial partnership with a higher education or research institution in the Global South

### 3. More information

For more information about this call, please contact the GMF coordinator, Steven Schoofs, via [steven.schoofs@ugent.be](mailto:steven.schoofs@ugent.be).