# Call for Exchanges

**SUPER GCRF PhD Researcher Exchange Scheme**

The Scottish Universities Partnership for Environmental Research Doctoral Training Partnership (SUPER DTP) has been awarded funding from NERC under its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion CDT/DTP Flexible Funding Award. Since a proven mechanism of increasing DEI awareness is “to share direct experience across cultures”, SUPER-funded doctoral candidates will have the opportunity to develop their intercultural understanding and communication skills as well as expand their doctoral research in a diverse and inclusive international environment through networking and collaborations.

Pairs of students will share reciprocal visits (approx. 2 weeks each way or longer if funds allow) to each other’s organisation to shadow and share experiences of working life and culture. Exchanges must take place between July 2022 and December 2022. Exchanges should be between a SUPER HEI and an institution of a developing economy[[1]](#footnote-2) (i.e Countries in Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Western Asia, and Latin America or the Caribbean).

There is no restriction on the subject area (within the broad scope of SUPER research), but applicants are encouraged to consider subjects relevant to [UN Sustainable Development Goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals), and the proposals will need to demonstrate the potential benefits of the grant for both the recipient and their collaborators.

The maximum sum provided by this scheme would be £10,000 per award. It will be the responsibility of the recipient of the grant and their host institution(s) to ensure that the exchanges comply with all necessary travel and work conditions that apply in their respective countries. Applicants will need to identify risks, mitigations and contingencies with respect to the successful delivery of the stated aims, objectives and outputs of the proposed exchange (e.g. in the event of any continued COVID related restrictions).

The scheme will promote mobility between Scotland and international research partners with the aim of strengthening existing, and seeding future, research relationships. Participants will be expected to demonstrate the impact of their exchange. Proposals that will result in clear outputs such as the generation of a proposal, research results or publication are encouraged.

Wider Context

The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) was launched in the UK in 2016 to help reduce poverty by generating knowledge and technology to address improvement challenges and advance development for the poorest people and countries. The fund addresses the United Nations sustainable development goals, and aims to maximise the impact of research and innovation to improve lives and opportunity in the developing world. Many supervisors in the SUPER DTP network are engaged in GCRF research.

The recent R&D [People and Culture Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-and-development-rd-people-and-culture-strategy) (2021) highlights the strategic importance of the UK as a

Collaborator, and it is important for the UK to globalise research and innovation in an increasingly competitive international environment. As such, the UK must do more to make the most of its world-class research and support its researchers to stay at the cutting edge of research and innovation, forge international collaborations and encourage international talent to work in the UK.

The UK research community and its outputs are enhanced by the international collaborations that are in place, and it is imperative that the next generation of researchers have the opportunity to build international relationships and access professional development opportunities, including training and research projects abroad. This will help ensure the UK’s long-term ability to attract international talent and form wide-reaching collaborations. Current PGRs must have the opportunity to undertake challenging, novel and interdisciplinary research, but also to gain the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver impact internationally, where many challenges exist. To be effective and world-class, our researchers must form part of a connected, sustainable, inclusive and collaborative research community, which spans disciplines and borders.

**Eligibility**

PhD students must provide an e-mail from their Primary Supervisor supporting their application. In addition, the host institutions must confirm their willingness in principle to host the visiting researcher for the proposed purpose and duration.

**Submission and Selection**

Applicants must complete the application form below and submit it by email to [superdtp@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:superdtp@st-andrews.ac.uk) by **1200 (BST) on Tuesday 7th June** 2022. Applications arriving after the submission deadline will not be considered.

Proposals will be scored through a process of double-blind review by at least two independent reviewers. Our intention is to conclude the proposal assessment and final selection process within three weeks of the submission dealine for applications.

Successful applications will be notified by email before end of June.

**Eligible costs**

You may request up to £10,000 for each reciprocal exchange (i.e. £5k for the SUPER PGR and £5k for the reciprocal exchange of the international visitor). SUPER aims to support a minimum of three proposals.

This grant funding is principally to support physical exchanges of applicants. Funds can be used to pay for all directly incurred costs, for example, travel, accommodation, medical and travel insurance, visas and entry permits, networking events and training. We will also allow you to claim for modest research costs (up to a maximum of 10% of the budget). Funding can be used to reimburse applicable fees and stipends. Exceptional additional costs (e.g., childcare) will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Awards will be made at 100% of direct costs. No other indirect costs will be paid.

While not excluded, it is anticipated that host insitutions will waive bench fees. Applicants are encouraged to seek additional support in cash or in-kind.

Successful applicants are responsible for ensuring any visa and insurance requirements for the host country are met, and for compyling with any border-entry requirements.

Receipts for all expenditure related to the grant may be requested as evidence of expenditure by the grant awarding body.

If successful, funds will be transferred to the relevant SUPER Institution. Funds must be spent by 31st December 2022.

SUPER reserves the right to claw back funds should the grant not be used in accordance with these T&Cs and any unspent funds must be returned to SUPER.

Should an exchange be deemed by the SUPER Directorate, in consultation with the recipients, to be unviable, the unspent funds will be returned and may be made available to other fundable applications.

**Requirements**

Each partnership pair will produce a joint assessment of the exchange within four weeks of the end of their exchanges, focussing on DEI issues and guided by a proforma provided by SUPER. The report or parts thereof may be used to promote the activities of SUPER.

All successful applicants will be expected to represent, promote and formally acknowledge the sponsors (SUPER, NERC & UKRI) during the course of their exchanges and in any subsequent related outputs.

This award is subject to ongoing review due to the current COVID-19 situation and the impact it may have on the ability to deliver the activities.

SUPER will contact the awardees and/or their supervisors to gather additional post-exchange impact

information. This information must be provided on request.

Any changes to planned exchanges must be approved by SUPER.

Contingency plans for your exchange, that account for returning COVID-19 restrictions that could impact on your travel, must be considered and outlined in your application

### Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicants Name** |  |
|  |  |
| **University & Department** |  |
| **Full address** | XXX Street Name  Building XYZ  City,  Postal Code |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Phone number** |  |
|  |  |
| **PhD Students Only**  **Name, title and contact info of primary supervisor** | Provide name, title and contact information |
|  | . |
| **Proposed Reciprocal Host Insitution Details** | . |
| **Name and Title of Host organisation primary research contacts (PI and PGR)** | Provide name, title and contact information |
| **University & Department** |  |
| **Full address** | XXX Street Name  Building XYZ  City,  Postal Code |
| **Email addresses** |  |

### Exchange overview

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Exchange** title (200 characters max) |  |
| **Anticipated exchange start date** (no earlier than July 2022) |  |
| **Anticipated exchange end date** (no later than December 2022) |  |
| **Project Location(s): Identify location(s) where exchange will be undertaken** (with title/address) |  |

**Exchange Abstract (Max 300 words)**

|  |
| --- |
| Briefly describe the exchange using language accessible to a non-specialist. The abstract may be published on the SUPER website for successful exchanges. |

**Exchange summary (Maximum 1 page – Arial, font 11, single space)**

|  |
| --- |
| Briefly describe the exchange objectives, activities and anticipated outcomes. Please detail the agreement with your collaborator regarding use of facilities and resources including whether you have secured any match funding (in-kind or cash). Describe the wider benefits of the exchange to you as an applicant, your institution, the DEI agenda and the SUPER community. How will you maximise these benefits? How do you plan to ensure a sustainable collaboration in the longer-term and maximise opportunities and impact in the future? |

**Relevance to Sustainable Development Goals (Max 200 words)**

|  |
| --- |
| Briefly describe how the proposed exchange aligns with any of the UN SDGs, |

**Contingency plans (Max 200 words)**

|  |
| --- |
| Briefly describe any risks, mitigations and contingencies with respect to the successful delivery of the stated aims, objectives and outputs of the proposed exchange, and in particular if Covid restrictions emerge that mean you cannot travel. |

**Budget**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item Number** | **Description** | **Cost per Unit** | **Number of Units** | **Total Amount (£)** |
| **1** |  |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  |
| Add more rows if needed |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total requested** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **In-kind contributions\*** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **In-cash contributions** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grand Total** (Total requested from scheme + In-kind + Cash) |  |  |  |  |

\* Matched funding will be considered as an additional beneficial factor, including in-kind commitments. It is encouraged but is not compulsory.

|  |
| --- |
| Please attach letters/emails confirming:   1. The host institutions agree in principle to accept a visiting researcher for the purpose and period of the exchange if awarded. 2. That your Primary Supervisor agrees in principle to your application and is content for you to undertake the proposed research/collaboration for the period of the grant if awarded.   Please append a CV of no more that 2 pages in length for both PGRs involved in the exchanges and the two principal research contacts of the host institutions. The CVs should highlight those aspects which may be particularly relevant to the proposed research/collaboration and include any relevant recent publications (last 5 years). |

1. The reciprocating non SUPER PhD student must be from an OECD DAC listed country - <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)