

**UNIVERSITY GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP NETWORK (UGPN)
RESEARCH COLLABORATION FUND 2017
SIXTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

SUMMARY

The University Global Partnership Network (UGPN) exists to create a foundation for international collaboration enabling academics and students from some of the world's top universities to work together on issues of global importance. Its members are North Carolina State University (NC State), the Universidade de São Paulo (USP), the University of Surrey (UoS) and the University of Wollongong (UOW). The UGPN is now accepting proposals for the 2017 UGPN Research Collaboration Fund (RCF), which is the sixth cycle of this program. The RCF has been set-up to support international activities leading to high quality research collaborations between researchers at the UGPN partner institutions. Funding will be awarded on the basis of the scholarly merit of proposals and the availability of resources.

These awards are designed to go beyond pump-priming and early contact partner outreach. Proposals should involve substantive engagement that is expected to lead to high quality outputs, such as international research training for graduate students or early career faculty, publication of joint papers from collaborative research, joint research bids or, for the first time this year in recognition of the newly agreed framework, development of Dual PhD programmes between two UGPN partners. Proposals should be jointly submitted by faculty from at least two of the UGPN partner institutions. Projects funded during the first five cycles are listed online at: <http://www.ugpn.org/Research>

The deadline for submitting proposals is 5:00 pm 31 May 2017

THE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP NETWORK

The mission of the University Global Partnership Network is to develop sustainable world-class research, education and knowledge transfer through an active international network of selected universities collaborating in research, learning and

teaching to benefit global society. The UGPN focuses on two priority areas: (1) promoting global graduates: student experience and employability, and (2) promoting research with global impact. Further information can be found at www.ugpn.org.

THE UGPN RESEARCH COLLABORATION AWARDS

Goals of this award

- To promote and facilitate high quality and long term research collaboration between faculty / researchers at UGPN partners in areas of strategic importance;
- To facilitate the publication of high quality joint research papers;
- To facilitate the submission of high quality research bids.

Eligibility: applicants

- Proposals are invited from permanent faculty (permanent, tenured or tenure track) or research professionals at NC State (those who comply with Sponsored Programs eligibility requirements), USP, UoS and UOW.
- All proposals must involve collaboration between university-eligible faculty from at least two of UGPN partners, with trilateral and quadrilateral collaboration being particularly welcomed.

Funding

- Funding of up to US\$10,000 (or the approximate AU\$, £, R\$ equivalent) per participating institution in each successful proposal will be made available for travel and subsistence costs (i.e. up to a maximum of US\$20,000 for bilateral collaboration and up to a maximum of US\$40,000 for quadrilateral collaboration¹).

¹ By way of illustration, a successful bilateral bid may be funded up to a maximum of US\$20 000 – with US\$10 000 available from each partner.

- Planned expenditures should be in line with the financial policies of the participating institutions.
- Proposals that include match funding from other sources are encouraged.

Eligible costs

Eligible costs include:

- International and local travel
- Accommodation
- Subsistence

Staff costs are not eligible for inclusion. Funding for the use of a partner's laboratory facilities should not be included.

Timeline

- Call for project proposals issued on 28 April 2017.
- Submission deadline – 5.00 pm on 31 May 2017.
- Successful projects selected by 30 June 2017.
- Funded projects to be completed by 31 July 2018.

Indicative activities

Funding will support the travel and subsistence costs associated with researchers spending time at partner institutions. Proposals that include opportunities for the exchange of postgraduate and PhD students are encouraged.

Proposals may include collaborative activities such as:

- Workshops, guest lectures and high-level seminars on multidisciplinary research areas with global impact
- Video-conference seminars
- Development of joint industry-research collaborations with global impact
- Delivery of a joint publication or other output resulting from collaborative research or scholarship activities.

- Collection of preliminary data to augment a full proposal with potential for global impact to a funding agency
- Creation and support of resources such as websites, research collaboration sites, or other social networking tools to facilitate the dissemination of results
- Development of a discipline-specific Dual PhD program by two network partners.

The above list is indicative and is not intended to be comprehensive.

Format and Guidelines

Proposal Content: UGPN research grant applications are limited to six pages with one inch (2.54 cms) margins, 11 font in Arial or Times New Roman, or 12 font in Calibri and must include the following sections:

- **Cover Page** including the title of the project, principal investigator(s) contact information, duration of project, a 1,000 character synopsis of the proposed project, and a list of 5 key words. *Use of the cover page template provided online is strongly encouraged. (1 page maximum)*
- **Project Description:** specifically address who your collaborators are, objectives of the collaboration, how the proposed activities align with the goals of the RCF, ***especially the potential for global impact***. The description should include specific objectives and clearly articulate the activities or plan of work, which would be undertaken to achieve those objectives. It should be in sufficient detail that reviewers can evaluate the proposed plan according to the evaluation criteria. *Remember some reviewers may come from outside your discipline so use language that those lacking expertise in your area will understand. (4 pages maximum)*
- **Budget with Justification (1 page maximum)**

In addition, the following must be included in the proposal and does not count against the 4 page content limit of the Project Description:

- **Biosketch** (2 page maximum) of the PI(s) including Education, Professional Appointments, Synergistic Activities relevant to this grant application, and up to ten (10) publications related to this research or scholarship.
- **Letter(s)** from Faculty Deans (or their designees) or from sources of any matching funds.

Proposals should be submitted according to the format outlined above and available online at www.ugpn.org

Application Process

The proposal and supporting documents should be submitted, as a pdf document, to the following contacts at the respective institutions of the lead researcher (PI) as well as project collaborators.

- Mr David Dixon, NC State – david_dixon@ncsu.edu
- Ms Louise Lawton, Surrey – louise.lawton@surrey.ac.uk
- Mr Daniel Barcelos, USP –
<https://uspdigital.usp.br/mundus/editalintercambiopublicoListar?nivpbcao=D&codmnu=3144>
- Ms Vicky Wallace, Wollongong – research@uow.edu.au

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals that meet the eligibility requirements will be reviewed and assessed by review panels at each of the four universities. A joint committee consisting of representatives from the UGPN partners will make the final decision for awards.

Proposals will be assessed with reference to the following criteria:

- 1) **Relevance:** degree to which the project addresses a globally important challenge and demonstrates innovative, interdisciplinary and sustainable collaboration among UGPN partners;

- 2) Proposal Content: clearly articulates measurable goals, objectives and activities that are feasible (evidenced by a reasonable and justified budget) and align with the purpose of the RCF;
- 3) Impact/Sustainability: focus on achievable results that can lead to high impact outcomes and the potential to leverage future extramural funding;
- 4) Researcher Commitment: demonstration of the involvement of appropriately qualified researchers from at least two UGPN partners.

In making their decisions, the joint selection panel will seek to support a representative variety of research topics. The panel will particularly welcome proposals that involve three or more partners. Proposals that include mobility and participation of staff in training (PhD students or postdoctoral fellows), and the scoping of Dual PhD programs involving two partners, are strongly encouraged.

Reporting

Successful applicants are required to submit a two- to three-page final report no later than one month after the end of the grant period. Periodic status updates on the progress of the project may be requested, depending on the projected length of the project. The report should include information on:

- objectives proposed and activities undertaken
- project outcomes and achievements, including key findings and future plans
- a brief assessment by the lead researcher on the impact (positive and negative) on their research
- actual expenditure against plan.

Enquiries

Enquires should be directed to the lead contact within the relevant partner, as identified above in the Application Process section.

28 April, 2017