



UCL Guidance: GCRF Gender Equality Statement



UCL Guidance: GCRF Gender Equality Statement



What is Gender Equality?

Gender equality means that women, men and other genders should have equal rights and entitlements to human, social, economic and cultural development and an equal voice in civil and political rights. However, equality does not mean that everyone has to be the same. Women and others have the right to define for themselves the objectives of development and to seek outcomes which are not necessarily identical to those sought and enjoyed by men. UKRI wants to ensure that through GCRF and Newton Fund funding, inequality is not perpetuated; that the different rights and needs of all genders are recognised and addressed; and that women and men share the benefits of research and innovation projects.

Why is gender equality relevant to GCRF research?

Worldwide women are over-represented amongst the very poorest, have lower levels of access to education and are more vulnerable to violence and the effects of environmental degradation associated with climate change.

Extensive empirical evidence shows that if these gender specific experiences of poverty, violence and marginalisation are not tackled the SDGs will not be fulfilled (UN Women, 2018). Gender equality is a standalone goal as well as a key aspect of other SDGs. Commitments to ending gender inequality are also enshrined in international Human Rights frameworks such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Besides legal compliance, consideration of gender equality in UKRI official development assistance (ODA) funded research and innovation should be a priority in order to achieve the goals of poverty alleviation, economic development and welfare of developing countries. By empowering women and girls through research and innovation, UKRI can help promote lasting peace and stability and work towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It is also widely recognised that working in a development context, including through research and innovation, can affect gender equality and gender relations, and it is important that UKRI ODA research and innovation considers this and ensures that research does not negatively impact gender equality.

It is mandatory for all applications to UKRI GCRF and Newton Fund calls/competitions to provide a Gender Equality Statement. This statement must outline how applicants have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities, as required under the International Development (Gender Equality) Act. This should be no longer than one page, and should be attached as a 'non-UK Component' through Je-S. It is expected that some projects will have less impact on gender and gender relations and professional judgement of the applicants should be exercised to ensure appropriate consideration of the context and intended aims of the project. Applicants are able to reference other parts of your application within this statement, if relevant. **Applicants are required to address the below criteria**, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of their research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable.

Criteria to address while considering gender impact:

- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research and innovation and the beneficiaries of the research and innovation.
- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.

- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

What makes a sufficient Gender Equality Statement?

- Addresses all 5 mandatory criteria as outlined above
- Demonstrates how the applicant has taken meaningful and proportionate consideration as to how their project is likely to reduce inequalities between persons of different gender throughout the design, implementation and impact of the project
- Identifies opportunities for inclusion of women, men and others
- Reflects the proposal as a whole having conversation for reducing inequalities between people of different genders.

Assessment process

- Office check stage
- Peer Review
- Panel

Relationship between projects and gender

The below categories, adapted from the OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality and the French Development Agency, provide a useful framework for considering (at a high level) the relationship between a project and gender:

- The project risks exacerbating gender inequalities; or
- The project maintains gender inequalities or does not include any specific measure to reduce inequalities even though it may provide an opportunity to do so; or
- The project has limited impact on gender or potential negative impacts have been prevented through mitigation measures; or
- The project does not specifically aim to reduce gender inequality, but takes into account the different needs and interests of men and women or has engaged in dialogue on gender equality with counterparts in the research project; or

- Gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but is not the principal aim of the project; or
- The project’s main objective is gender equality, which is fundamental in its design and expected impact
- Integrating gender equality considerations into your GCRF project.

Numerous international development organisations provide sophisticated and detailed toolkits to ensure excellence in the integration of gender equality considerations into development-focused projects. They include recommendations on gender sensitive participatory methodologies, sex disaggregated data collection and analysis processes and gender sensitive problem analysis.

These toolkits share a commitment to a practice described by development practitioners as gender sensitive situational analysis whereby researchers gather information on local gender inequalities in partnership with local communities. These toolkits emphasise that researchers cannot reasonably assume that gender inequality is irrelevant or that their own cultural experiences of gender in/equality are relevant in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).

Researchers can use the scale outlined in the table below to identify where their research can or should be located.

Gender Research Rubric	
<i>Gender-blind</i>	Gender (the differentiated and intersectional experiences of women, men, and gender diverse groups) is <i>not</i> considered in the research project; not even in its conceptualization or its rationale.
<i>Gender-aware</i>	Gender is considered in the research project’s rationale, but is not an operative concept in the design and methodology.
<i>Gender-sensitive</i>	Gender is considered in the research project’s rationale, project design and methodology. Data is disaggregated by gender, and gender is also considered in the composition of the research team and reviewers. Gender-sensitive research does not (yet) extend to analysis and action to address gender inequalities.
<i>Gender-responsive</i>	Gender is considered in the research project’s rationale, design, and methodology and is rigorously analysed with a view to inform implementation, communication, and influencing strategies. Gender-responsive research does not (yet) address the underlying structural factors such as norms and power relations that contribute to gender inequalities.
<i>Gender-transformative</i>	Examines, analyses, and builds an evidence base to inform long-term practical changes in structural gender power relations and norms, roles and inequalities. Gender-transformative research should lead to sustained change through action (e.g. partnerships, outreach, and interventions, particularly with women’s rights organizations).

Figure1.1: Oxfam Rubric for integrating Gender in Research Planning. (Oxfam, 2019, p. 2)

Developing your Gender Equality Statement

It is helpful to consider the following five steps to work out the relevance of gender to your project and to enable you to complete UKRI's mandatory GE Statement:

- Understanding gender norms and the role of gender in the conceptualisation of the project
- Equal and meaningful opportunities for people of all genders to participate in the project
- Research and Innovation content
- Gender in impact and dissemination
- Monitoring gender equality outcomes and risks.

GCRF funding from Research England

Research England GCRF funding is administered differently to other UKRI GCRF funding. It is allocated to universities eligible to receive Research England funding, via a formula, in proportion to their mainstream quality related research (QR) funding allocations (including London weighting). Current funding, from academic year (AY) 2018-19 – AY 2020-21, will only be provided to institutions who have QR GCRF three-year institutional strategies that have been assessed as ODA compliant. This strategy process was completed in 2018.

As far as possible, Research England will collect further information on how far universities QR GCRF strategies align with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act through standard monitoring procedures. Future QR GCRF strategies will be required to demonstrate compliance with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act as well as ODA compliance requirements. Further guidance on the process for future strategies will be developed at an appropriate time. For further information, please contact Global Challenges.

GCRF funding from Innovate UK

As part of the GCRF, Innovate UK will run competitions that enable businesses to participate in finding solution to the global challenges highlighted through the UN's SDGs. The application and assessment process for Innovate UK led GCRF competitions/calls varies from other Research Councils. Innovate UK will ask applicants to consider the Gender Equality Act as part of an EDI focused question on the application process. Further call specific details will be provided on the Innovation Funding Service.