Calls for proposals: addressing research needs triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic

Proposals are invited for projects that address time-sensitive research problems arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. WUN will consider proposals falling with the scope of the four Global Challenges, for work on research problems whose value depends on being able to collect or analyse data obtained during the pandemic, and on which the collaboration of WUN partners confers real advantage.

Application Guidelines

1. **Funding:** Up to a maximum of £10,000. There is no requirement for co-funding. We expect to fund between 5 and 10 proposals.

2. **Project length:** 12 Months.

3. **Closing date:** Applications will be accepted at any time until **15 May 2020**. Applicants are encouraged to submit at their earliest opportunity to Dr Aoiffe Ficklin, WUN Program Manager (aficklin@wun.ac.uk). Proposals will be reviewed as they are received, and therefore the funding pool may be fully expended before this deadline.

4. **Collaboration:** Projects must involve at least 3 WUN member universities in 2 or more countries.

5. **Use of Funds:** Funds are intended to support projects whose value depends on their being launched quickly. Funds may be used to cover the costs of such activities as exploratory research initiatives, data collection and the formation of collaborative networks. Funds may not be used for travel, management fees, salaries (with the exception of limited support for postgraduate research assistance, if critical to the project), purchase or depreciation of capital assets, scholarships, course or bench fees.

6. **Proposals:** Proposals should be no more than 3 pages in length, and should address the following questions:
   - What is the problem—how does the project address a problem arising from the pandemic, and why does it need to be started now?
   - What is the project plan?
   - Who will form the team and how is this collection of talent particularly suited to ensure best outcomes for the project?
   - What special value is added by assembling a team drawn from WUN researchers?
   - What will be the impact of the project, for WUN members and/or for society?
   - How will funds be spent?

Application Review

Applications will be reviewed in consultation with the relevant Global Challenge Steering Group(s), to ensure that support WUN provides is well directed. Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:
   - Is the project time-sensitive, and best tackled immediately?
   - Does the collaboration of WUN partners confer a distinct benefit in tackling the problem?
   - Is the proposed workplan realistic?
   - Does the team have the experience, skills and resources to deliver the planned work?
   - Are the costs well justified?
   - Does the proposal make a clear case that the research is likely to have impact, with impact understood in broad terms and in relation to the area of research proposed.