

GLOBAL MINDS FUND

Call 2024

Research/Education Stays in the Global South for doctoral fellows

Announcement and application information

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 Working Group for Development Cooperation (WOS) is inviting proposals.

This call concerns:

Research/Education Stays in the Global South for doctoral fellows

Starting from 1st of September, 2024

The deadline for submission is 15th of May 2024 at 23:59 Belgian time.

1. Purpose

GMF 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.

The focus of this call is on proposals from PhD students enrolled at Ghent University that want to have a research- or education-oriented stay (between 1-3 months) with a partner organisation in the Global South.

The purpose of this call is to offer PhD students an opportunity to engage, exchange and collaborate with researchers and experts in the Global South in order to:

- a) strengthen or expand their ongoing research activities on sustainable development related issues in the Global South, or;
- b) integrate a focus on sustainable development challenges in the Global South in their ongoing PhD project.

Proposals should address a specific sustainable development challenge in the Global South. Furthermore, they should strive for an equitable and sustainable collaboration with partners and stakeholders in the Global South.¹

2. Who can apply

All PhD students that are enrolled at Ghent University at the time of the deadline for submission of proposals.

The call for proposals is primarily intended for PhD students that do not have the funding in their PhD project for the proposed activities.

If the PhD student's enrolment at Ghent University is stopped unexpectedly after the grant has started, the grant will be cancelled as well.

Successful applicants will not be able to apply again for a Research/Education Stay in the Global South.

3. Eligible promoters

Each application should be supported by at least one professor at Ghent University who is called the Ghent University promoter (and co-promoter) and a partner organisation in the Global South (called Global South partner).

The Ghent University promoter does not have to be the promoter of the candidate's PhD project.

Ghent University (co-)promoters can support a maximum of 2 applicants on condition that the applicants are of a different gender.

The additional conditions for Ghent University promoters are:

1. The proposal must be supported by a promoter who, at the deadline for this call, is affiliated with Ghent University either as:
 - a) a member of the tenured academic staff (Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel)
 - b) a visiting professor with at least a research appointment

¹ Ghent University endorses the '[Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings](#)' as general ethical framework for scientific research in partnership with, or conducted in, lower- and middle-income countries (Board of Governors' decision of 7 October 2022).

4. Eligibility Criteria

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

1. The application needs to fit within the broader context of sustainable development challenges, but there are no restrictions in terms of research fields or themes
2. The research or education stay should be for a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3 months
3. The proposed activities take place in one of the following countries:

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

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

4. The Global South partner can be a higher education institution, research/policy institute, government body, nongovernmental organisation (NGO) or community based organisation (CBO)
5. The Global South partner is based in one of the countries as listed in the table above
6. The Global South partner can be located in the same country in which the ongoing PhD research of the applicant takes place, but also in another country.

5. Budget and conditions

The maximum amount of the grant is € 7,500.

The grant must be spent between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025.

Costs that can be covered by this fund are restricted by VLIR-UOS guidelines and general Ghent University rules.

Only activity-related costs can be covered with the grant, which include operational as well as mobility costs. No scholarships or salary cost for the applicant can be covered with the grant.

PhD students that wish to apply for a Research/Education Stay in their country of residence will have to motivate the need for an international flight ticket and local allowance. Moreover, VLIR-UOS applies strict per diem guidelines for PhD students staying in their country of residence.

More details on the financial guidelines and eligible project expenses can be found [here](#).

The budget holder is required to keep track of the actual individual expenditures and record them in the Ghent University analytical accountancy system, with duly supporting justifications. The budget can only be used to achieve the project's objectives.

A narrative as well as financial report will have to be submitted after completion.

6. How to apply

Proposals should be submitted by **the 15th of May 2024, 23:59 Belgian time**. Submissions after the deadline will not be considered.

Applications must be submitted by the Ghent University promoter with the co-promoter (if applicable) and Global South partner in copy of the application e-mail.

Applications are submitted via GMapplications@UGent.be (please use a pdf converted from the Word document and not a scanned pdf).

The following documents need to be submitted:

1. application form
2. written statement from the Global South partner confirming the candidate's intention to collaborate
3. completed and signed ethics questionnaire
4. brief curriculum vitae (CV) of the candidate (free format, maximum two pages)

The application form and ethics questionnaire can be downloaded [here](#).

The document must be named as follows: "Promoter's last name_RES_application".

7. Assessment

Project proposals will be reviewed and selected by a selection commission composed of members of the WOS and are evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Criteria	Descriptors
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the proposal engages with a specific sustainable development challenge in the Global South that also addresses the needs of the Global South partner• the proposal convincingly argues that no funding is available in the ongoing PhD for the proposed activities
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the proposal aims for an equitable and sustainable collaboration with the higher education or research institution in the Global South• the proposed activities are feasible and likely to contribute to the intended project outcomes
Added value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• added value of the proposed project (in terms of research, education and/or service to society) is demonstrated for the applicant, Ghent University research group, and Global South partner• the proposal adequately describes the expected outcomes and follow-up of the proposed activities• the proposal identifies potential synergies/complementarities with other initiatives, partnerships, projects or research agendas

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. Achieving gender balance with regard to the candidates

8. More information

For more information about this call, please contact the GMF coordinator, Steven Schoofs, via steven.schoofs@ugent.be.