

Sussex-Ghana Strategic Fund

Programme Specification

BACKGROUND

This scheme is funded from the University's International Partnership Development Fund, with support from the University of Ghana.

The University's 2013 Strategic Plan *Making the Future* established an ambition to position the University globally through multi-faceted cooperation with a small cohort of institutional partners. One such institutional link that has emerged from this is between Sussex and the University of Ghana. Further information about current collaborations is available on request.

PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME

The Sussex-Ghana Strategic Fund is designed to cultivate or expand research and teaching collaborations to address global challenges, and to contribute to capacity building at both universities.

For faculty, activities could include inbound or outbound visits for the purposes of collaboration on research, teaching or student mobility.

For professional services staff, activities could include inbound or outbound visits for the purposes of job shadowing, research on good practice, or as part of professional services support for wider collaborations. In this way, the scheme supports the transfer of knowledge and good practice through learning from shared experience, the acquisition of new skills, and the capacity to deliver support to research, teaching and mobility initiatives.

Applicants are expected to demonstrate how activities might benefit both the individuals and institutions involved.

Eligible activities would include but are not limited to:

- Visits to engage with research groups to establish new contacts and explore possibilities for future collaboration;
- Preparation of collaborative bids to attract research funding;
- Facilitating internationally co-authored publications;
- Development of new interdisciplinary research programmes;
- International programme development;
- Student mobility programme development;
- Professional services exchange to contribute towards capacity building at both universities.

FUNDING

The maximum amount that can be applied for an outbound visit is £1,400. The maximum amount that can be applied for an inbound visit is £1,800.

Funding will normally be for a period of **up to 7 days**. Funds must be spent within the financial year that they have been allocated.

Funding is limited and we aim to maximize the number and range of activities that can be supported. As such, applicants are expected to strive for the greatest possible economies in achieving their objectives.

The Universities of Sussex and Ghana agree to fund the following items during each exchange period, up to limits as agreed with each exchange staff member prior to their visit.

For Sussex staff visiting Ghana:

Sussex will fund	Ghana will fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • economy class airfares • London airport transfers • travel documentation including visas etc. • reimbursement of subsistence costs at the current rates set by Sussex • vaccination costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accra airport transfers • accommodation for the period of exchange only

For Ghana staff visiting Sussex:

Sussex will fund	Ghana will fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • economy class airfares • London airport transfers • accommodation for the period of exchange only • reimbursement of subsistence costs or the provision of a stipend at the current rates set by Sussex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costs of travel documentation including visas • vaccination costs • Accra airport transfers

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications to the Fund should be prepared using the Sussex-Ghana Strategic Fund Application Form and sent to Hilmi Jaidin, International Partnerships Administrator, at M.Jaidin@sussex.ac.uk

It is expected that this form be completed for inbound visits by colleagues from the University of Ghana, with the support of their Sussex host. This in no way effects the local application procedures at the University of Ghana.

Applications will be accepted from 27 January 2017. The scheme will be closed once funding for that financial year has been exhausted.

REVIEW PROCEDURE

In the first year of this scheme (to 31 July 2017) applications will be considered at Sussex by the Assistant Head of International (Strategic Partnerships) at Sussex in conjunction with one or more of the following staff:

- the Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Interdisciplinary Research) for applications with a research component; or
- the Head of International Programmes for applications with a student mobility component; or
- the Director of International Recruitment and Development for applications to develop international teaching programmes; or
- the Director of the appropriate Professional Services Division for professional services exchange.

Applications will also require approval from the Dean of International Programmes at the University of Ghana.

REVIEW CRITERIA

For applications with a research component:

- appropriateness of proposed participants;
- potential for enhancing research quality;
- potential for generating high quality research outputs, e.g. collaborative research bids and joint publications;
- potential for generating research income; and
- scope for further development of this partnership / network once the initial funding period has ended.

For applications with an international teaching programme component:

- quality and rationale: how the initiative represents a flagship international programme;
- the student experience / the attractiveness of the initiative for students;
- viability and logistics; and
- the affordability and sustainability of the initiative – this may include reference to sponsors or external sources of funding for students.

For applications with a student mobility component:

- viability, including the affordability and sustainability of the initiative;
- how the initiative fits into University objectives for study abroad;
- quality of the programme, including how the initiative will provide an exceptional experience for Sussex students; and
- the student experience / the attractiveness of the initiative for students.

For applications with a professional services exchange component:

- value in terms of professional development;
- the opportunity to build capacity at either or at both institutions;
- the capacity for the initiative to strengthen the institutional partnership; and
- if appropriate, the value of support for research, teaching or mobility initiatives.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Successful principle applicants will be expected to submit reports detailing progress towards anticipated outcomes and outcomes to date. Reports will be shared with both partner institutions.

The International Office may publicise the activities supported by this scheme for University marketing purposes and applicants are expected to engage in this process.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to discuss your application, please contact the International Office lead for the University of Ghana:

- Peter Boddy, International Partnerships Officer, p.boddy@sussex.ac.uk