

RGHI INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AWARD 2023

1. Overview

The Reckitt Global Hygiene Institute (RGHI) is pleased to announce the launch of the RGHI International Collaboration Award (ICA).

The RGHI ICA is designed to support academic collaborations that advance evidence and understanding in the field of hygiene. The ICA will support research institutions to work in partnership to develop innovative solutions to improve hygiene practices. It encompasses basic research, clinical investigation, epidemiology, behavioural science, sociology, health economics and engineering.

To be eligible, the partnership must be between at least two academic institutions with at least half of the institution(s) being based in a low- or middle-income country and having a locally led research team. Eligible applications must address a pressing public health challenge related to hygiene and sanitation.

The aim of the ICA is to support equitable research partnerships that produce new evidence and result in the translation of research findings into tangible advances in hygiene practices around the world.

The RGHI ICA will provide a budget of up to \$750,000 over a 3-year period. The grant should include opportunities for career development and training for early career researchers in all collaborating institutions.

RGHI International Collaboration Award will be issued via a competitive, independent peer review process, to a global group of outstanding researchers. The funding will be run through the sponsoring academic institution in a manner consistent with global academic practice.

Please see Section 5 for more details on eligibility and Section 6 for more details on allowable costs. Guidance for applicants can be found in Appendix 1.

2. Background

Founded in 2020, RGHI aims to support high-quality scientific research addressing the links between hygiene and health. RGHI funds research which generates practical, high-quality scientific evidence and behavioural insights that will lead to the adoption of global sustainable hygienic practices and achieve enduring behaviour change:

- Expand the body of research around and advance the understanding of the links between hygiene and health
- Enhance the understanding of best-in-class hygiene science to encourage new hygiene standards
- Promote behaviour change to improve global hygiene and health
- Inform the global public health agenda

RGHI is funded by a grant from Reckitt Benckiser plc to provide funding for a multi-year portfolio of research grants which contribute to advancement, innovation, and knowledge sharing of hygiene research and practices.

The current portfolio of RGHI funded research includes 9 research projects and 10 outstanding Fellows, the portfolio covers a broad range of global institutions and research areas to advance the field of hygiene research.

3. RGHI research scope and areas of interest

RGHI has adopted the WHO definition of hygiene: "Hygiene refers to conditions and practices that help to maintain health and prevent the spread of diseases." And the WHO definition of health: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". Applicants to the RGHI ICA should consider these in relation to the relevance of their proposed study to the RGHI mission.

RGHI has an inclusive definition of hygiene, including hand hygiene, food hygiene, personal hygiene, menstrual hygiene, domestic and surface hygiene, and hygiene in institutions. The specific focus areas are intentionally broad, and applicants should propose a specific focus in line with partnership expertise and interests.

- Exploratory research related to the links between hygiene and health
- Hygiene interventions and their impact on hygiene behaviours, norms and habits
- Implementation research to inform sustainable and scalable approach to hygiene behaviour change
- Research focused on hygiene policy and system strengthening, including economic analysis and evaluation
- Methodological research

Thematic areas of interest include:

- Planetary health and climate change
- One Health e.g. Zoonosis, AMR
- Gender equity and social inclusion
- Hygiene behaviours beyond hand hygiene, e.g. Food hygiene

4. Equitable Partnerships

Ensuring awardees of the RGHI International Collaboration Award are in an equitable partnership is a key feature of this grant. Addressing power imbalances when conducting research between collaborating institutions is essential for ensuring mutual respect and fair allocation of resources.

At least 50% of the collaborating institutions in any application must be based in a LMIC. The aim of supporting equitable, international collaborations is to bridge knowledge and resource gaps in hygiene research, support the ongoing development of global hygiene research networks and, through engagement with relevant communities and policy actors, promote the sustainable implementation of research outputs.

These will only be achieved through effective international, cross-sectoral collaboration, therefore successful applications will demonstrate their commitment to implementing an equitable partnership by providing a partnership statement which can demonstrate open communication and mutual support among collaborators.

For further guidance and resources to support equitable research partnerships, the UKCDR [website](#) includes an overview and access to various toolkits.

5. Eligibility criteria

Who can apply?

The RGHI ICA is an open call for academics working in partnership based at research institutions, where at least half of the institutions in an application are based in an LMIC, and where hygiene and health research is being locally led.

The ICA is designed to support relationships and collaborations between universities and/or academic research institutes in Global South-South or Global South-North partnerships. The institutions which apply for the grant must be recognised research institutions with experience of implementing hygiene research projects. Eligible host institutions are universities or academic research institutes anywhere in the world.

Eligibility

- Applications must be submitted by a Principal Investigator (PI) based at a research institution
- Institutions can be based anywhere in the world and partnerships can be between 2 or more institutions. **At least half the institutions must be based in an LMIC country**
- The proposed project must align with the goals and priorities of the grant, as outlined in the RGHI research scope and areas of interest

Please note: Applicants can be the principal investigator on a International Collaboration Award or a Senior Research Fellowship, there is no limit to the number of research applications an institution can submit to the RGHI funding calls

6. Cost & Budget Guidance

The RGHI International Collaboration Award will provide up to \$750,000 for up to a 3-year period.

A budget template (provided) demonstrating equitable resource allocation between collaborating institutions and representative of the respective inputs of partners must be provided with the application.

Eligible costs include:

- Principal and co-investigator costs from all collaborating institutions
- Fieldwork/lab staff and expenses
- Training
- Research related travel
- Associated research administration costs

The following costs are not eligible for RGHI International Collaboration Award funding:

- Equipment over £5,000
- Non-research related activity costs
- Office furniture, such as desk
- Tuition and student fees
- Utilities such as water, electricity, or gas costs

7. Review process, criteria and timeline

RGHI International Collaboration Award will be made on the basis of a rigorous peer-review process with reviews conducted by independent scholars skilled in RGHI research topics. An independent expert panel will review all applications and will score applications based on the following criteria:

- Applicant's track record to date
- High-quality, internationally collaborative research project aligned with RGHI research scope
- Demonstrated plans for the project to strengthen capacity of all collaborators, their institutions and global hygiene research networks, and proof of mutual commitment to equitable working
- Potential for impact of the research project
- Value for money

Following the notification of an award, successful applicants will be required to liaise with the RGHI scientific advice and support team at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to ensure the project work plan and timelines are acceptable prior to the contract being issued.

Timeline

- 1st March 2023: Launch call for applications to RGHI International Collaboration Award
- 22nd March 2023: RGHI's Grant Management System (Foundant) opens for applications
- 29th March 2023: Information session for applicants
- 31st May 2023: Deadline for submissions
- Early June: RGHI office will check applications for eligibility and completeness
- June/July/August: Peer review of applications
- September: Collaborative research award selection committee
- October/November: Notification of candidates and award process commences
- December: Awards announced at RGHI Summit

8. Contracting

The award will be issued to the host institution which will be responsible for reporting and managing the funds. Contracting will comply with US requirements for scientific grants to institutions.

The host institution must agree to a due diligence process and meet US non-profit grant eligibility requirements.

Terms and Conditions

Terms and conditions of RGHI awards are available at:

<https://app.box.com/folder/144790064763?v=RGHI-Public-Policies>.

All applicants must be familiar with these Terms and Conditions at the point of application. You must ensure that the Grant Activities are carried out by you, the Grant holder and any Participants or Organizations in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.

Contact

Please direct questions to grants_admin@mail.rghi.org

Please ensure you have read our FAQs page for more information.

Further guidance can be found in Appendix 1 - 'Guidance for Applicants'.

There will be an information session for applicants on 29th March 2023 with further guidance including an overview and Q&A. Information on joining this session will be made available on the RGHI website.

APPENDIX 1: Guidance for Applicants

The application deadline is 31st May 2023.

All applicants are required to submit their application within Foundant, the RGHI grant management system. Applicants are encouraged to register and create an account as soon as possible so as to not cause any delays in the application process. Details of all elements required for an application to the RGHI International Collaboration Award scheme are provided below, please note, incomplete applications will be returned to applicants.

Lay Summary (Foundant)

Applicants should provide a summary of the research proposed, including key goals and outcomes for a general audience. Please note that summaries of funded projects may be made public on the RGHI website, therefore applicants are asked not to include any confidential information.

Case for support (upload attachment)

This can be up to 6pages and should include and should include the following sub-headings;

- Background to the proposed study
- Rationale for the collaboration to address the proposed research questions
- Summary of the investigator team's skills and experience to conduct the proposed work
- How the project addresses the RGHI priority areas
- Study aims and objectives
- Study design and proposed methodology
- Plans for involvement of relevant community and policy actors
- Analysis plan
- Timeline of activities for the 3year award

- Anticipated outputs and pathways to impact (including plans for peer reviewed research papers resulting from the project)

CV's of participating researchers (upload attachment)

The PI from each institution and up to 2 additional researchers that are named on the grant from each institution must submit their CVs using the CV template, available on the website, and upload it to the relevant section within the grant management system. CVs must not exceed 3 pages. Items should be listed in reverse chronological order with the most recent first. Further guidance is available within the CV template document.

Equitable partnership statement (Foundant)

This should be co-authored by the lead applicants from each institution outlining the motivation for the partnership and commitment to equity (maximum 3500 characters, including spaces)

Letters of support from each Head of Department (or equivalent) (upload attachment)

All participating institutions should submit a letter of support from their Head of Department (or equivalent) confirming support of their commitment to the partnership grant and explaining how this will contribute to knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening between their institutions.

Justification of resources (Foundant)

A detailed justification of resources must be provided with all applications. The justification of resources must not exceed 7000 characters (including spaces). Each item listed in the budget should be explained and justified within this section. Value for money is an assessment criteria and budgets must be fully justified and commensurate with the awards objectives.

Dissemination/public engagement (Foundant)

Dissemination and public engagement information should not exceed 3500 characters (including spaces). This section should include an outline of plans to engage with non-academic stakeholders as well as plans for the dissemination of findings to all stakeholders.

Budget template (Upload attachment)

Applicants must use the budget template available here and upload it to the relevant section within the grant management system. Please review the 'Costs and budgets guidance' on what ICA will cover.

Additional notes on Applications

- The application process will conform to local privacy and security requirements
- All grants must be complete on or before 1st January, 2027

Applications should be submitted through Foundant, RGHI's grant management system by 5pm EST on Friday 31st May 2023.