2016 CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTENT (LOI) Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Research Development Fund (RDF)

**PURPOSE**
The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) office at the University of Alberta (UALberta) has opened a call for letters of intent (LOI) for the WUN Research Development Fund (WUN RDF).

**WORLDWIDE UNIVERSITIES NETWORK (WUN)**
The WUN includes 18 research-intensive institutions spanning 5 continents and creates new multilateral opportunities for international collaboration in research and graduate education. Research activities are focused into 4 Global Challenges:

- **Responding to Climate Change** (focus on global research platforms and resilience of human systems related to food & environment security)
- **Understanding Cultures** (focus on migration & population; two-way understanding of China; global digital cultures; and indigenous peoples & societies)
- **Global Higher Education and Research** (focus on demographic drivers for engaging disenfranchised parts of the population from different countries; factors that affect participation and achievement for the first in families to enrol in university; role of English language in access to higher education)
- **Public Health (Non-communicable Disease NCD)** (focus on lifecourse approach to healthy ageing; health of migrants; resilience of adolescents and health workers in different cultural contexts; and schools as a setting for reducing risk factors associated with NCDs)

RDF proposals are particularly encouraged to address one or more of these Global Challenges as well as one of WUN’s developing crosscutting themes in economics, big data, and regional programs of the Global China Group and the Global Africa Group.

**RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FUND (RDF)**
The WUN RDF offers **seed funding grants** of up to £12,000 (average £10,000) to launch longer-term research collaborations within the WUN Global Challenges. Programs may include exploratory research initiatives, targeted workshops, faculty exchanges, and the formation of collaborative networks, among other activities. Applications that incorporate a component for early career researchers and postgraduate students are encouraged.

The RDF project must engage at least 3 WUN member universities in at least 2 countries. The collaboration can include non-WUN universities and external partners but must have an active core of WUN member universities.

**Assessment Criteria:**
- **Objectives** – Program is of high academic quality and address a novel research problem or takes an existing WUN program in a new direction and is likely to have significant impact, is interdisciplinary and is international in scope.
- **Relevance** – Program aligns with WUN strategic objectives and WUN global challenges.
- **Teamwork** – Program involves researchers across relevant disciplines and regions and includes early career researchers and PhD students.
- **Outcomes** – Program results in external funding and academic publications or policy options.
- **Sustainability** – Programs builds long-term international relationships and has a solid plan to attract resources to support the project into the future

**UALberta Application Process and Deadlines:**
Contact the local WUN office for advice or further information. Feedback will be provided on the LOIs and the full proposals. Note, the LOI is an informal one-page overview of your proposed research idea. It should include which global challenge will be address and the suggested key partners involved.

- **August 5, 2016** – Submit a LOI to the WUN office at the UAlberta for selection of applicants invited to submit a full proposal.
- **August 15, 2016** – Successful LOI applicants will be notified.
- **October 14, 2016** – Successful LOI application to submit a full proposal to the local WUN office for review and ranking. A maximum of 3 applications will be selected.
- **October 28, 2016** – Local WUN office makes final submission of UAlberta led RDF applications
- **December 16, 2016** – Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposal by the WUN Secretariat. Funds will be available soon after. Awarded programs must be started within 6 months, with allocated funding expended within 12 months.

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