Top Tips from Successful Researchers:

Q. How do you find partners, being mindful of due diligence?

- Check the individual funder’s guidance on which types of organisations are eligible.
- Use the GCRF web site list of all countries and territories eligible to receive official development assistance (ODA).
- Make use of internal funding schemes to travel to meet partners and get to know them.
- Develop the relationship over time, don’t just connect and jump into a large research project without finding out how you work together first. What commonalities bind you together?
- Take stepping stones towards a bigger project. Demonstrate a track record to show the funder how you have successfully worked together on previous joint activities, to illustrate that the partnership is credible and sustainable.

Q. What are some of the challenges encountered and lessons learned?

- It helps to write the proposal together. Don’t just write the application and add your international collaborator as partner. Ensure they are fully involved in the writing process so that you share a similar vision.
- Allow time to understand the differences in how institutions work overseas. Find out whether there are counterparts at both institutions and who you need to contact for organisational approvals, finance, etc.
- Transfer of funds - Find out if finance systems at both institutions are compatible and, if not, how the budget can be managed at OBU.
- If agreements are needed, do they need to be translated, signed and stamped? Where possible, facilitate the process by sending the partner institution templates to adapt.
- Using different languages can be challenging. Have you fully understood each other?
- Working together in different time zones might make it difficult to have face-to-face conversations via Skype/Google Hangouts.
- Be mindful of cultural differences.

Q. What does the application need to demonstrate?

- What is the issue and what is the global challenge?
- How will you express the knowledge transfer?
- How will you ensure capacity building within the developing country?
- For Research Council applications – How will you create impact? Show how you will make academic impact, how you will build ECRs and explain the impact of your research in the real world. Partners can create impact themselves.

Q. Can you have a partner outside a university and a collaborator who is not a researcher?

- Depends on the funder’s requirements. Non-university partners can only be consultants for some funders.
- Due diligence is important in showing how you will transfer funding. The organisation and not the individual signs the agreement. Is it a credible organisation that you are entering into a legal relationship with?

Q. Calls for GCRF funding are becoming less frequent. Is it winding down?

- External calls are still being released and there is still commitment to continue funding.
• We will know more about funding priorities as the new government develops its policies.
• Make use of internal funding.
• In addition to internal GCRF support schemes, there are internal International Research Travel Awards with an open call and no deadline.