



**Institute for Global Innovation**  
**Call for New Emerging Themes**

The Institute for Global Innovation (IGI) was established to bring together diverse strands of research with the aim of developing and supporting multidisciplinary programmes that will have impact at a global level. The IGI has the following overarching vision:

*“To inspire, support and deliver world leading multidisciplinary research that seeks to address some of the world’s most pressing challenges, affecting humanity at a global level.”*

The Institute supports four main ‘Challenge’ Themes:

- Gender Inequality
- Resilient Cities
- Water Challenges
- 21st Century Transnational Crime

It also has four emerging themes currently. These are:

- Ageing and frailty
- Anti-microbial resistance
- Clean cooling
- Pollution solutions

**The call is now open for proposals to identify up to three new ‘emerging themes’ that may be developed over a period of time to become Challenge themes.**

Emerging themes will receive targeted support, including mentorship, support to develop major grants, and financial support (approximately £25k per year) for a period of three years. Financial support could be used to convene workshops and travel to develop collaborations, and /or establish projects to provide pilot data for large grant applications.

Emerging themes should aspire to be of sufficient scale to be considered ‘global’, but do not necessarily need to focus solely on issues facing Low and Middle Income Countries. The themes must represent areas of existing research excellence at the University, and demonstrate plans for a significant collaboration with external partners e.g. NGOs, charities, policy makers or industry. Emerging Challenge themes should draw on researchers from a range of academic disciplines that span at least *three* Colleges, and we will prioritise proposals that include that include or will develop strong and effective collaborations between STEM subjects and the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Emerging themes should consist of approximately 3-5 workstreams, each with a workstream lead.

As a result of IGI support, it is hoped that emerging themes would have the potential to be adopted as a full Challenge Theme which are expected to produce co-authored outputs, enhance the impact

of their research and secure significant external research funding. Our Emerging Themes researchers are also expected to contribute to a range of activities designed to promote the work of the Institute and multidisciplinary research more broadly. This could include delivering or arranging guest lectures, contributing to training or representing the Institute at events.

Emerging Challenge Theme leads are expected to have strong leadership skills, a collaborative approach to research and experience in developing and delivering world-leading research programmes.

The Institute is now seeking proposals for emerging challenge themes. In order to apply, please complete the following application form and return to Sue Gilligan ([s.gilligan@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.gilligan@bham.ac.uk)) by Friday June 5 2020 **at 13:00**.

Professor Hisham Mehanna, Institute Director, and Mr David Evans, the Institute Head of Projects and Partnerships, would welcome informal discussions with those considering applying.

Prof Mehanna: [h.mehanna@bham.ac.uk](mailto:h.mehanna@bham.ac.uk)

PA, Mrs Gemma Jones: [g.jones@bham.ac.uk](mailto:g.jones@bham.ac.uk)

Tel: 0121 414 6547

### Lead Applicant Details

The Emerging Theme lead will be expected to lead the programme, represent the work of the broader team and coordinate their activities. When assessing applications, we will consider the following attributes in challenge leaders (a professorial appointment is not a pre-requisite):

- A commitment to, and experience in, developing a world-leading research agenda
- Leadership skills and experience
- An open-minded, collaborative approach to research
- A strong track record of grant capture and potential to attract significant funding in the future
- Willingness to support the Institute in its mission to promote multidisciplinary research

Name

College

School/ Institute

**Contact details (phone, email)**

**Proposed Emerging Theme**, expressed in the form of high-level goal or goals (e.g. we will address traffic grid-lock in urban conurbations through novel multidisciplinary approaches to traffic flow monitoring, traffic planning, big data analysis, driver education, and legal remedies.)

**If your proposed Emerging Theme benefits issues facing Low and Middle Income Countries please outline below.** *(ODA compliant research seeks to investigate a specific problem or seek a specific outcome which will have an impact on a developing country or countries on the DAC list)*

Please outline below any support from or engagement with the Institute of Advanced Studies or the IGI already received in the development of the proposed theme or work streams.

## Team members

Please include the details of challenge team members based at the University of Birmingham. We anticipate each theme will consist of 3-5 main workstreams, each led by a team member. Please include members who would be contributing materially, and please indicate with (SL) those who are the stream leads.

Name

School/ Institute and College

Area of research
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### External partners

Please provide details of your key partnerships outside the University that are relevant to your application. These can include academic researchers at other universities, key contacts in business, policy or the charitable sector. Please only include details of those you consider 'core' partners.

Name	Organisation

### Project Details

***Two sides of A4 Maximum, minimum font size 11***

Please provide details of the proposed challenge you are seeking to address. This should include the following as a minimum:

- Details of the nature and scale of the global challenge you will address.
- Summary of the proposed research activity. Including: A brief description of up to five workstreams; the team members of each workstream; an overview of the unique perspectives your team will bring and how the team are ideally suited to address this challenge.
- The team's track record of research in this area, including: Grant income and number of 4\* publications over last 5 years; impact case studies longlisted for REF2021 and other indicators of esteem e.g. membership of relevant advisory boards or committees.
- What external partnerships does the team bring and what new partnerships do you hope to develop to deliver the research.
- Teams must demonstrate how their proposed collaborations will secure substantial grant income, and result in enhanced research outputs and impact. If relevant, please also indicate how existing grants currently support research in this theme.
- Brief description of likely support that you will be seeking from the Institute (i.e. pilot grants, workshops, travel budget, visiting fellows, teaching relief, logistical support). These do not need to be costed at this stage.

**Please begin your response on the following page.**