
The Praxis Project, School of Education, University College Cork (UCC)
Call for Applications
Grants of €4500, for Interdisciplinary Teams in Global Citizenship and Development (GCDE)

1. Introduction

Purpose of the Call

The Praxis Project, housed in the School of Education, UCC, is offering four grants of €4,500 each (divided over two years: €2,250 in 2025 and €2,250 in 2026). These grants are designed to support interdisciplinary staff teams in developing and implementing innovative projects in Global Citizenship and Development Education (GCDE).

These projects will align with UCC's mission to foster a globally aware, critically engaged, and socially responsible university community. All funded teams will collectively participate in a research study to critically explore the concept of partnerships in GCDE.

The research will address the following key questions:

1. What defines a good international partnership in the context of GCDE?
2. How can partnerships foster mutual learning while addressing global and local challenges?
3. What are the benefits of such collaborations for all stakeholders?
4. How do cultural, social, and political contexts shape the outcomes of GCDE partnerships?
5. How can GCDE-focused partnerships promote equity, justice, and sustainability?

What is the Praxis Project?

The Praxis Project, funded by Irish Aid and housed in the School of Education at UCC, aims to promote Global Citizenship and Development Education (GCDE) across teaching, research, and community engagement. It fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, builds partnerships with organizations, communities, and institutions in low-income countries or regions, and promotes education that addresses pressing global challenges.

The project advances global political, economic, social, and environmental justice, social responsibility, and equity, empowering UCC students and staff to act as informed global citizens.

The Praxis Project has established partnerships with:

- **Palestine:** organisations focusing on health, education, and environmental justice under occupation.
- **Malawi:** University of Malawi, emphasising indigenous knowledge, youth civic engagement, student activism, and critical thinking.
- **Peru:** Indigenous women's organisations and Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, addressing themes such as internal migration, the devaluation of indigenous knowledge, and racism in higher education.

These partnerships aim to explore critical issues such as:

- Internal migration and its links to the devaluing of indigenous knowledge and assimilation to Western development paradigms (Peru).
- Youth civic engagement, student agency, and activism (Malawi).
- Health, education, and environmental justice under occupation (Palestine).

The Praxis Project is committed to supporting innovative projects and partnerships that align with its principles of justice, equity, and sustainability.

The Praxis Project is funded the Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs.



Research Questions

1. What defines a good international partnership in the context of GCDE?
2. How can partnerships foster mutual learning while addressing global and local challenges?
3. What are the benefits of such collaborations for all stakeholders?
4. How do cultural, social, and political contexts shape the outcomes of GCDE partnerships?
5. How can GCDE-focused partnerships promote equity, justice, and sustainability?

2. Detailed Information

Definition of Global Citizenship and Development Education (GCDE)

The Praxis Project's understanding of Global Citizenship and Development Education (GCDE) is:

Global Citizenship and Development Education (GCDE) is an educational approach that directly addresses key human development and human rights issues, locally and globally. It aims to cultivate awareness and understanding of these issues from a justice- and rights-based perspective, consistently linking the local and global to highlight their interconnectedness.

At its core, GCDE explores critical dimensions of human development, including individual and collective values, ideas, understandings, and skills, while critically examining the causes and effects of poverty and injustice. It encourages informed public enquiry, discussion, and debate on pressing social, political, environmental, and economic challenges, fostering ethical decision-making and active participation.

Grounded in educational theory and practice, GCDE prioritizes action-oriented learning, critical thinking, and experiential methodologies. It challenges assumptions, broadens perspectives, and engages learners with diverse and contested viewpoints, inspiring transformative learning and active global citizenship.

Through its focus on justice, rights, and critical inquiry, GCDE seeks to empower individuals and communities to work collaboratively toward a more equitable and sustainable world.

Purpose of the Grant

The grant aims to:

1. **Advance Best Practices in Partnerships**

- Explore international partnerships grounded in critical pedagogy, social justice, postcolonial perspectives, and human rights.
- Promote equitable, impactful collaborations aligned with GCDE principles.

2. Strengthen Interdisciplinary Collaboration

- Support interdisciplinary teams at UCC in advancing GCDE.
- Encourage new partnerships within GCDE's framework.

3. Align with Strategic Goals

- Promote projects that align with UCC's Global Engagement Plan.
- Foster research and education initiatives that address pressing global challenges.

Purpose of the Research

This research project aims to critically explore the concept of global justice partnerships within the context of GCDE. The central objectives are to:

- Define what constitutes a meaningful partnership in GCDE.
- Evaluate the value of such partnerships for GCDE, including their impact on learning and practice.
- Identify lessons learned throughout the process and assess the benefits for all stakeholders.
- Reflect on how partnerships can embody principles of social justice, equity, and postcolonial theory.
- Develop a framework for effective, equitable, and impactful partnerships in higher education.

By working collaboratively with partners in Palestine, Malawi, and Peru, and engaging in practical pilot projects, the research will produce actionable recommendations and a strategic framework for long-term partnerships that advance GCDE principles.

Grant Details

Each grant will provide:

- **€4,500 total funding**, divided as €2,250 in 2025 and €2,250 in 2026.
- This funding is for project implementation, research, or educational activities (see below).

Who can Apply?

We welcome applications from all UCC staff:

- ✓ College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences
- ✓ College of Business and Law
- ✓ College of Science, Engineering and Food Science
- ✓ College of Medicine and Health
- ✓ Other UCC Research centres or formal/informal staff networks and research clusters.
- ✓ Any other staff members in administrative, technical, maintenance, security, policy or management positions.

Applicants may apply as individuals or as part of a team. However, all participants should be open to forming or joining interdisciplinary teams with others. Individual applicants who demonstrate the relevant expertise and motivation may be invited to collaborate with other applicants to form interdisciplinary teams.

Requirements for Teams and Individual members

- You can apply as an individual and be allocated to a team. It is envisaged that each team will comprise 5 to 10 members from UCC and approximately 5 members from partner countries. Each team will have one or two lead academics in UCC and two appointees in their partner country.
- Teams must include members from at least two disciplines, with representation from diverse perspectives.
- Teams must include representation from at least one UCC College. Our aim is to create a truly interdisciplinary study.
- Applicants must either have completed the Praxis Project Digital Badge or commit to completing it in early 2025.
- Lead Participants must hold a PhD or equivalent qualification.
- Inclusion all staff members may form part of the team, and early-career researchers are encouraged to participate to support their professional development.
- Praxis Project affiliates who have previously contributed to the development of this research study will be given special consideration during the evaluation process. However, all applicants, including affiliates, are required to submit a full application to be considered for funding."

Required Expertise

Teams should include expertise or strong interest, relevant to GCDE themes, such as (but not confined to):

1. **Malawi:** Encouraging active citizenship by third level students, civic engagement, democratic education, youth activism critical thinking, critical media analysis, youth work. Also indigenous knowledge and education.

2. **Peru:** Influence of Western discourse in higher education. Valuing indigenous knowledge, including Irish indigenous knowledge, language, folklore etc. Rural to urban migration. Feminist perspectives. Women's studies. Law. challenging colonial narratives and address global issues like climate justice and inequality.
3. **Palestine:** Health, education, and environmental justice under occupation. Community resilience. Refugee lives and rights.
4. **Languages:** e.g. Spanish, Arabic, indigenous languages (Malawi, Peru).
5. **Staff with an interest in Pakistan**, in any discipline, are encouraged to contact Gertrude.cotter@ucc.ie to discuss possible synergies.
6. **New partnership proposals:** for new partnership proposals we are open to all disciplines. Applicants proposing new partnerships must align with GCDE principles. Initial partnership must already be in place at time of application.

All disciplines are invited to apply, even if your discipline does not appear to obviously fit the descriptions above. We are interested in interdisciplinary approaches to this study.

Grant Administration Notes

- The grant is awarded to teams, not individuals.
- The full grant amount will be transferred to one department, either that of the lead applicant or a designated team member responsible for leading the research. However, all those selected to form part of the four teams, will be deemed to have been awarded this interdisciplinary grant.
- The lead researcher is expected to ensure full transparency and agreement among team members regarding the use of funds. All expenditure must align with the specified criteria.

3. Application Process

Two Stage Process

The application process for the Praxis grants consists of two stages:

Stage 1: Online Expression of Interest

Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI) and Survey Deadline: 2nd February 2025

Notification of stage 1 application results: 12th February 2025

We invite all interested UCC staff to submit an **Expression of Interest** via this link:

https://ucc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_737koCfiwp6GtkW

Deadline for Expression of Interest: 2nd February 2025

The purpose of the survey is to gather information about interested applicants, identify potential interdisciplinary teams, and assess alignment with the goals of the Praxis Project and GCDE principles.

Details of the survey questions can be found in **Appendix 1** below. Based on the survey responses, suggested interdisciplinary teams will be notified and invited to proceed to Stage 2.

Stage 2: Shortlisted teams will be invited to submit a **full joint application** by 16th February 2025. Further guidance will be provided at this stage. **Full Project Proposal Deadline: 23rd February 2025**

Please note that successful participation in Stage 1 does not guarantee success at Stage 2, as proposals will be competitively assessed at this stage.

Project Start Date: Approx. 5th March (Note: some of the preliminary work is already underway but successful applicants will join the process during the first two weeks of March).

Stage 1

The **Expression of Interest form** is designed to:

- Identify individuals and teams with relevant expertise and motivation.
- Assess interest in collaborating on the emerging Praxis Project partnerships (Malawi, Palestine, Peru) or proposing new partnerships.
- Explore how applicants align with GCDE principles and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Encourage all interested staff to participate in Stage 1 and contribute to this exciting opportunity to advance Global Citizenship and Development Education at UCC.

Stage 2:

The **Full Project Proposal** will require:

- A structured outline of the proposed project, including objectives, methodology, and alignment with GCDE principles.

- A description of team composition, ensuring interdisciplinary collaboration.
- A detailed timeline and budget justification.
- Explanation of how the project aligns with one of the Praxis partnerships or proposes a new partnership.

Full details will be provided to those who are successful at Stage 1.

Applications will be evaluated on their alignment with GCDE principles, potential impact, feasibility, interdisciplinary collaboration, and adherence to submission requirements.

Evaluation Criteria for Stages 1 and 2

Stage 1: Expression of Interest Evaluation Criteria

EOI submissions will be evaluated based on the following:

Alignment with GCDE Themes

Does the applicant's expertise, discipline, or interests align with GCDE themes and principles?

Willingness to Collaborate

Is the applicant open to interdisciplinary collaboration and working with diverse perspectives?

Relevance to Partnerships

Does the applicant express interest in and/or have expertise relevant to the partnerships in Palestine, Malawi, Peru, or a new GCDE-aligned partnership?

Commitment to GCDE and Praxis Goals

Has the applicant demonstrated an understanding of GCDE principles and the Praxis Project's aims?

Willingness to complete the Praxis Project Digital Badge if not already completed.

Balance of Experience and New Engagement

Does the applicant bring prior GCDE or partnership experience, or are they a new participant with demonstrated motivation?

Stage 2: Full Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Shortlisted teams will submit a full proposal, evaluated based on:

Alignment with GCDE Principles

Does the proposed project align with GCDE's justice-oriented and rights-based approach?

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Does the team include members from at least two disciplines?

Are perspectives from diverse areas of expertise represented?

Innovative and Feasible Objectives

Are the project's goals innovative and clearly defined?

Are the objectives achievable within the grant timeframe (2025–2026)?

Relevance to Partnerships

Does the proposal leverage existing Praxis Project partnerships or propose a compelling new partnership aligned with GCDE principles?

Team Composition and Inclusivity

Does the team include early-career researchers, administrative staff, or technical staff to encourage inclusivity and development opportunities?

Potential Impact

What is the likely contribution of the project to GCDE knowledge, education, and practice?

Will the project deliver tangible, impactful outputs for both UCC and the partner communities?

Budget Justification

Is the proposed allocation of funds (€2,250 per year) appropriate and aligned with project objectives?

Allowable Use of Funds

The grant of €4,500 (allocated as €2,250 in 2025 and €2,250 in 2026) is designed to support interdisciplinary teams in achieving their project objectives within the framework of Global Citizenship and Development Education

(GCDE). Funds must be used in ways that align with the project goals and the principles of GCDE. Below are examples of allowable expenditures:

1. Research and Administrative Assistance

- Hiring research assistants to support data collection, analysis, or report writing.
- Engaging administrative support to coordinate meetings, communications, and logistics related to the project.

2. Project Implementation Costs

- Expenses directly related to the delivery of the project, such as:
 - Organising workshops, training sessions, or events.
 - Developing teaching resources, multimedia materials, or case studies.
 - Translation services for multilingual engagement with partners.

3. Materials and Equipment

- Purchasing supplies and materials needed for project activities, including:
 - Printing and publishing educational resources.
 - Small equipment required for workshops or project implementation

4. Partnership Development

- Supporting collaboration activities with Praxis partnerships in Palestine, Malawi, and Peru, or establishing new partnerships through:
 - Digital collaboration tools and platform subscriptions.
 - Facilitating online workshops or webinars.

5. Dissemination and Outputs

- Costs for developing and distributing project findings, such as:
 - Publishing teaching resources or academic articles.
 - Creating multimedia outputs, including videos or digital presentations.

Important Notes on Budget Use

1. Accountability and Transparency:

- The lead department receiving the grant must ensure transparency in how funds are allocated and spent.
- A clear budget plan must be submitted as part of the proposal, and final financial reporting is required.

2. Prohibited Expenditures:

- Overhead costs, such as general departmental expenses, unrelated to the project.
- Personal expenses of team members or activities unrelated to the project.

3. Flexibility:

- Teams may adjust specific expenditures during the project as long as changes align with the approved project objectives. Any reallocation of funds must be communicated and approved by the Praxis Project Coordinator.

4. Sustainability and Impact:

- Teams are encouraged to prioritise expenditures that ensure long-term impact, such as the creation of reusable resources or methodologies.

Assessment Committee

The assessment committee for this grant call will comprise members of the **Global Engagement Committee at the School of Education**, alongside staff who have been actively involved with the Praxis Project but will not be applying for this particular grant. This ensures a fair and transparent evaluation process, free from conflicts of interest.

Chair:

The committee will be chaired by **Dr. Gertrude Cotter**, who will oversee the initial assessment stages in collaboration with the **Head of the School of Education**.

Committee Members:

The specific names of the committee members will be announced after Stage 1 applications are received, to ensure that no potential conflicts of interest arise.

The committee will bring a wealth of expertise in **Global Citizenship and Development Education (GCDE)**, interdisciplinary research, and community engagement, ensuring the evaluation aligns with the principles and objectives of the Praxis Project.

Role of the Committee:

1. **Stage 1:** Review Expressions of Interest (EOIs) and propose interdisciplinary teams.
2. **Stage 2:** Evaluate full project proposals based on the criteria outlined in the funding call.
3. Provide feedback to applicants where necessary and ensure alignment with GCDE principles and Praxis Project goals.

The committee will act with fairness, transparency, and a commitment to upholding the values of the Praxis Project.

4. Responsibilities of Grant Recipients

The four successful teams are required to:

1. Align Projects with GCDE Principles

- Ensure that all projects adhere to the core principles of Global Citizenship and Development Education (GCDE), emphasising justice, human rights, and sustainable development.
- Projects must avoid a 'charity model' and instead be grounded in theoretical frameworks such as social justice, post-colonialism, human rights, critical pedagogy, critical intersectionality, or critical eco-feminism.

2. Participate in Research Meetings, Project Development and related Activities

- Implement an mutually beneficial pilot project with partners.
- Attend and report to monthly team meetings and cross-team meetings every two months.
- Share progress in a seminar during Year 1 and present findings at a research symposium in Year 2.

3. Produce Tangible Outputs

- Deliver a collaborative project with tangible results by December 2026, such as:
 - Reports on work activities of the project

- Case studies
- Teaching resources
- Multimedia educational materials
- Collaborate on a peer-reviewed academic journal article for submission for publication in 2026.

4. Engage with Existing or New Partnerships

- Collaborate with Praxis Project partnerships in Palestine, Malawi, or Peru, or propose a new partnership aligned with GCDE principles.
- Build meaningful relationships with partners and deliver mutually beneficial outcomes.

5. Commit to the Praxis Digital Badge

- Participants who have not already completed the Praxis Project Digital Badge in GCDE must commit to completing it in early 2025.

6. Ensure Transparent Use of Funds

- The grant (€4,500) will be allocated to one department, with expenditure decisions made collectively by the team.
- A final financial report must be submitted.

5. Indicative Timeline for Team Activities (March 2025–December 2026)

This timeline outlines the key activities and milestones for the interdisciplinary teams awarded the Praxis Project grants. It ensures alignment with the goals of the Praxis Project and Global Citizenship and Development Education (GCDE).

Year 1: 2025

March 2025: Orientation

Orientation meeting for all awarded teams and partners to discuss project goals, expectations, and deliverables.

Team-specific planning meetings to refine objectives, timelines, and outputs.

April–May 2025: Initial Implementation

Begin collaborative project activities, such as research, development of materials, and community engagement.

Schedule and conduct regular team meetings (bi-monthly or as needed).

Submit first progress report at the end of May.

June 2025: Cross-Team Seminar

All teams participate in a Praxis Project seminar to share initial progress, challenges, and lessons learned.

Opportunity to refine methodologies based on peer and expert feedback.

July–August 2025: Continued Implementation

Conduct in-depth activities, including pilot testing, data collection, or resource development.

Submit second progress report by the end of August.

September–October 2025: Mid-Year Review

Teams present interim findings or outputs during a Praxis Project review session.

Adjust plans and address challenges collaboratively with partners and stakeholders.

November–December 2025: Wrap-Up for Year 1

Finalise initial outputs, such as draft resources, case studies, or reports.

Submit end-of-year progress report by mid-December.

Plan Year 2 activities, including specific outputs and dissemination strategies.

Year 2: 2026

January–February 2026: Planning and Preparation

Teams finalise Year 2 implementation plans and update timelines as needed.

Develop outlines for the collaborative academic journal article.

March–May 2026: Advanced Implementation

Complete major activities, such as resource finalization, advanced community engagement, or additional data collection.

Submit a progress report by the end of May.

June 2026: Research Symposium

All teams present their findings and outputs at the Praxis Project research symposium.

Discuss collaborative insights into partnerships and GCDE with peers, partners, and stakeholders.

July–August 2026: Analysis and Reflection

Teams analyse outcomes and reflect on the project’s impact.

The research study must be complete by the end of July 2026

September–October 2026: Dissemination

Begin drafting the collaborative academic journal article.

Publish and share project outputs, such as resources, case studies, or multimedia content.

Submit a final report detailing project outcomes and lessons learned by the end of October.

November–December 2026: Project Conclusion

Finalise and submit the collaborative academic journal article for publication.

Participate in a closing Praxis Project meeting to share reflections and recommendations for future work.

Ongoing Responsibilities (March 2025–December 2026)

- Monthly Progress Reports: Submitted by the lead for each team.
- Bi-Monthly Meetings: Teams meet regularly to discuss progress and next steps.
- Cross-Team Engagement: Participation in Project events and meetings.

Appendix 1: Online Expression of Interest Form

Stage 1 application can be found here: https://ucc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_737koCfiwp6GtkW

The following is a list of questions on this form:

Expression of Interest: Praxis Project GCDE Interdisciplinary Grant Application Stage 1

Start of Block: Section 1: Applicant Information

Q1 Full Name of lead applicant.

Q2 School or other Centre/Department

☐ College of Arts, Celtic Studies, and Social Sciences (1)

☐ College of Business and Law (2)

☐ College of Science, Engineering, and Food Science (3)

☐ College of Medicine and Health (4)

☐ Other Please specify (5) _____

Q3 Job Title

Q4 Email

Q5 Are you applying individually or as part of a team?

☐ As an individual (1)

☐ As a team (2)

Q16 If you are applying as a team lead please state the name of each team member, their school/discipline/department, job title and 30 words on their area of expertise.

End of Block: Section 1: Applicant Information

Start of Block: Section 2: Interests in Partnerships

Q5 Which partnership(s) are you most interested in working with? Select all that apply.

☐

Peru: Indigenous knowledge and cultural education (1)

☐

Malawi: Civic engagement and critical thinking (2)

☐

Palestine: Health, education, and environmental justice under occupation (3)

☐

Other: Please give the title and aim of your own idea or current partnership work (50 words max) (4) _____

☐

I am open to working with any of the teams above. (5)

☐

Separately to the options above. There may be a collaboration with a university in Pakistan, have you any experience of partnering with organisations or universities in Pakistan? Or, would you be interested in a partnership with a university in Pakistan? Explain briefly. (6)

Q6 Please describe how your expertise and interests align with the themes of the partnership(s) you selected. Alternatively please describe the proposed emerging partnership you stated in question 5 above. 300 words maximum.

End of Block: Section 2: Interests in Partnerships

Start of Block: Section 3: Team and Collaboration

Q7 Would you be interested in a joint leadership role for one of the partnership projects?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

Q8 If you answered 'yes' to Question 7 please outline your relevant experience. 150 words max.

Q9 Do you understand that you could be allocated to a team with other colleagues and are you open to collaborating with colleagues from other disciplines to form an interdisciplinary team?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

☐ Applicant/s are part of an existing team. Please explain. (3)

Q10 Do you have prior experience working in international partnerships or GCDE-related projects?

☐ No: Please state in 100 words what the top three priorities might be for you in an international partnership of this kind. (1) _____

☐ Yes: Please describe your experience. (100 words max) (2)

End of Block: Section 3: Team and Collaboration

Start of Block: Section 4: Section 4: Commitment and Expectations

Q11 Have you completed the Praxis Project Digital Badge?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No, but I am willing to take it in 2025. (2)

Q12 Do you understand and commit to the following expectations if your application progresses? (Select all to confirm):

☐ Attend regular team meetings and bi-monthly cross-team meetings. (1)

☐ Submit monthly progress reports. (2)

☐ Deliver agreed project outputs (e.g., teaching resources, research publications, multimedia materials). (3)

☐ Collaborate meaningfully with team members and project partners. (4)

☐ Participate in a Praxis seminar and research symposium and contribute to a collaborative journal article. (5)

Page Break

Q13 Please provide any additional comments or relevant information about your expertise, interests, or potential contributions to the partnerships. 100 words max.

Q17 Submitting this application means that "I confirm that I have read and understood the grant application criteria, terms of reference (ToR), and expectations outlined for participants. I am committed to meeting the requirements if selected to participate in this project".

☐ Yes (1)

End of Block: Section 4: Section 4: Commitment and Expectations