**Assessment criteria for the ISPF internal ODA award**

*The ISPF is aimed first and foremost at addressing global sustainable development challenges to transform the lives of the maximum number of people. The fund aims to foster prosperity by solving shared global research and innovation challenges. This will be done through working closely with international partners to:*

* *support research excellence and build the knowledge and technology of tomorrow*
* *strengthen ties with international partners that share our values*
* *enable researchers and innovators to cultivate connections, follow their curiosity and pioneer transformations internationally, for the good of the planet*

*Is it clear to what extent partners in the target DAC nation(s) have played a leading role in problem identification and the design, definition, and development of the proposed approach? This would demonstrate relevance and local appetite and capacity to implement solutions.*

**Eligibility considerations for ISPF ODA funding 2025-26**

* Only active ODA compliant PhD projects can apply for funding this time. Due to resourcing constraints and the short timeframe to defray the funding, new collaborations cannot be supported**.**

**Is the proposed project ODA compliant?**

* Only research directly and primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries may be counted as ODA. Proposed activities must directly benefit a country or countries on the OECD DAC list in terms of promoting the economic development and/or welfare of a country or countries from the OECD DAC list. The costs may still be counted as ODA if the research is carried out in a developed country.

**Eligible costs**

* Only directly incurred costs are eligible. Existing costs on the main externally funded ODA project can be substituted. Items of equipment up to £5,000 are eligible.

**Problem and Solution Focused**

* **Resilient Planet** - Leading the green industrial revolution to protect the planet
* **Transformative Technologies** - Developing responsible technologies to secure our place in tomorrow’s world
* **Healthy People, Animals and Plants** – Researching and Innovating for secure and healthy populations
* **Tomorrow’s Talent** – Nurturing talent to drive inclusion, research and innovation.

**The fund will help to:**

* deliver important research and innovation that can only be fully realised by working internationally
* tackle global challenges and develop future technologies, positioning UK researchers and innovators at the heart of global solutions
* make meaningful contributions towards the Sustainable Development Goals using equitable international research and innovation partnerships
* enable groups of countries to collaborate in an agile way on issues that matter
* equip developing countries with robust research and innovation ecosystems
* strengthen the influence and connections of the UK and UK STRI community domestically and around the world.

**Applications will be independently reviewed by an interdisciplinary panel of internal experts, applying the following criteria:**

1. Clear evidence the research will accelerate the planned benefits for the OECD collaborators in the parent project
2. Clear evidence of how the additional funding will contribute to increasing resilience in the target nation(s), a strong evidence base for policy and / or creating economic opportunities through innovation.
3. Support research excellence and innovation
4. Evidence of sustainability and scalability of the impacts after the funding ends.

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| **Score** | **ODA Compliance (primary criterion)** |
| 6 | **Outstanding:** The proposed work meets outstanding standards in terms of addressing global sustainable development challenges to transform the lives of the maximum number of people. The proposed work has outstanding pathways to impact planned for sustaining and accelerating the impacts beyond the remit of the funding.  |
| 5 | **Excellent:** The proposed work meets excellent standards in terms of addressing global sustainable development challenges to transform the lives of the maximum number of people. The proposed work has excellent pathways to impact planned for sustaining and accelerating the impacts beyond the remit of the funding. |
| 4 | **Very Good:** The proposed work meets high standards in terms of addressing global sustainable development challenges to transform the lives of the maximum number of people. The proposed work has high standards pathways to impact planned for sustaining and accelerating the impacts beyond the remit of the funding. |
| 3 | **Good**: The proposed work is of merit, meets satisfactory standards in terms of addressing global sustainable development challenges to transform the lives of the maximum number of people. The proposed work has satisfactory pathways to impact planned for sustaining and accelerating the impacts beyond the remit of the funding. |
| 2 | **Not Competitive/ Modest**: The proposed work is potentially of some merit but overall it is unclear how it will impact global sustainable development challenges to transform the lives of the maximum number of people.  |
|  | **Unfundable/ Poor:** The proposed work is unsatisfactory in terms of how it will address global sustainable development challenges to transform the lives of the maximum number of people. |
| 0 | **Non-Scoring**: For special cases e.g. flawed in approach, subject to serious technical difficulties, sufficiently unclearly written that it cannot be properly assessed. |