



Equitable Research Partnerships Toolkit

Tool 20:

Partnership Checklists for Global North and Global South Academics

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Academics based in Global North and South countries have different levels of power and abilities to influence research agendas and access funding. However, all academics execute their research within systems where their power is limited and where creating space for making research partnerships more equitable is challenging. These Partnership Checklists are designed to help unpack the (sometimes limited) opportunities academics have to influence research agendas and policies, as well as identify some of the challenges they may encounter.

Why use the Partnership Checklists for Global North and Global South Academics?

Using these Partnership Checklists encourages exploring ways in which academics can and cannot influence research equity, and the challenges they might encounter in their efforts to do so.

This tool addresses equity by:

1. Identifying previously hidden opportunities for addressing equity within a partnership.
2. Making explicit the challenges academics face, and the limitations of their power, with regard to making a research partnership equitable.

When to use the Partnership Checklists for Global North and Global South Academics

Phase	Rating	Descriptions
Planning	•••	These tools are intended to be used in the planning phase of a research partnership.
Implementing	••	The Partnership Checklists might be used in the implementing stage, if it was not possible to use the tool during planning.



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Dissemination	••	In the disseminating phase, academics could explore the questions about impact and dissemination included in the tool.
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Sustaining	•••	The Partnership Checklists could also be used for evaluating past practice in the sustaining phase.
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Ratings

••• Designed for this stage | •• Can be used as is in this stage | • Can be adapted for use in this stage

How long does it take to use the Partnership Checklists for Global North and Global South Academics?

Rapid approach

When time is short, it may be useful for academics to simply read through and familiarise themselves with the questions. This might take as little as five to 10 minutes. Academics could also start answering the questions, by creating lists or mind maps, that they build on over time, as new ideas and information present.

Having questions about research partnership equity in one's mind is useful. For example, it may reveal hidden assumptions (e.g., about what constitutes good research) and/or increase readiness to act on opportunities that present themselves.

Intensive approach

When time and other resources permit, this tool might be implemented with a group of academics involved in a research partnership, or those representing numerous partnerships, who come together to discuss the questions and share their ideas. A group approach could be conducted face-to-face, through a single virtual meeting or workshop, or through a series. Expect to be able to discuss three to six questions in a one to two hour group session. Consider whether it is most useful to discuss all the questions in a single full-day workshop (e.g. when establishing the partnership), or to schedule shorter discussions at strategic times (e.g. discuss the research design questions prior to commencing the research design process).



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What other resources do you need to use the Partnership Checklists for Global North and Global South Academics?

- Physical or electronic copies of the Checklist templates:
 - [For academics based in the Global North](#)
 - [For academics based in the global South](#)
- For group implementation, a face-face I or virtual meeting space and facilitator.
- Stationery, such as paper and pencils for recording ideas or mind mapping (face-to-face) or an electronic whiteboard app such as Miro (virtual).

Tips for using the Partnership Checklists for Global North and Global South Academics Background reading:

- [Fair and equitable partnerships for international development research](#)
- [UK-based academics Resource materials to support fair and equitable research partnerships](#)
- [Academics based in the global South- Resource materials to support fair and equitable research partnerships](#)

How to use the Partnership Checklists for Global North and Global South Academics

When using this tool, bear in mind that the purpose is not to arrive at a single, correct answer, but rather to explore the range of possible answers, the reasons why researchers answer the questions in the way they do, and the associated equity implications. Different researchers conduct their work in different disciplinary environments, have different levels of expertise and influence, and different priorities. All of these factors will influence how they answer the questions.

Individual use

1. Read through the Checklist questions.
2. Think about the answer(s) to each question.
3. Record your answers in a format that suits you. This might be as a single list, or as a series of lists, created in an electronic document or a mind map written down on paper (to name just a few).
4. Add to the answers over time, as you think of new possibilities, or encounter new possibilities and challenges.



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Group implementation - Approach 1

1. Agree on which questions from the checklist will be discussed in the group session. Ensure the number of questions is feasible to discuss in the available time.
2. Divide the group into smaller groups of three to four people. If the group includes both Global North and South academics, make separate small groups for those based in each.
3. Ask each group to select a different question to answer.
4. Provide small groups with 15-20 minutes to develop an answer or answers to the question, and detail them (either in writing or as a visual representation).
5. Reconvene the entire group.
6. Ask someone from each group to present their question and answer(s) in less than five minutes.
7. Provide up to 10 minutes for comments and discussion of the equity implications of different answers, and for participants to pose alternative answers that might be more equitable.
8. Using this process, you would need one hour to examine three questions.

Group implementation - Approach 2

1. Ask each member of the group to bring their answer(s) to one of the questions in the checklist to a workshop.
2. Ask each participant to present their answers to the five questions that were most important to them.
3. Ask the group to discuss the presentation for 10-20 minutes.
4. Using this approach, you would need approximately 30 minutes to discuss each question.

Tips for using the Partnership Checklists for Global North and Global South Academics

- Modify the wording of the questions to match the stage that your research partnership is at (e.g., use future or past tense instead of present tense).
- Have a notetaker record the discussion.



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Expected outputs and outcomes from using the Partnership Checklists for Global North and Global South Academics

Outputs

This key output the Checklists will produce is written answers to the featured questions.

Outcomes

The outcomes of using this tool should include:

- Increased understanding of the opportunities Global North and Global South academics each have to influence equity in research partnerships, as well as the challenges they face in doing so.
- Enhanced awareness of the possible ways of influencing equity, and the readiness to act when opportunities arise.

References and further reading for the Partnership Checklists for Global North and Global South Academics

This tool is based on the checklists in:

- Rethinking Research Collaborative. 2018. UK-based academics Resource materials to support fair and equitable research partnerships. Retrieved from: https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-09/uk-academics-fair-equitable-partnerships-sept-18_0.pdf
- Rethinking Research Collaborative. 2018. Academics based in the global South- Resource materials to support fair and equitable research partnerships. Retrieved from: https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-09/southern-academics-fair-equitable-partnerships-sept-18_0.pdf