

## Section A: Official Development Assistance (ODA) and GCRF strategy

### The strategy

1. Summarise the key aspects of your three year **strategy for development related and GCRF research activity**, including:
  - a. Your institution's strategy and priority objectives for all development related research activity funded through all sources for three years from 2018-19.
  - b. Summary of the key aspects of your three year strategic plan for QR GCRF in light of the criteria and objectives for the GCRF outlined in the guidance.
  - c. How activity funded through QR GCRF fits into your broader strategy and priorities for all development related research activity.
  - d. How activity funded through QR GCRF relates to the UK strategy for the GCRF.<sup>1</sup>
  - e. How your development-related and GCRF strategies relate to your wider institutional strategy for using QR.
  - f. Likely key barriers and enablers to implementing your strategy.
  - g. The key activities by which you will realise your objectives, such as capacity and capability building; mono-disciplinary interdisciplinary and collaborative research; generating impact from research; meeting the full economic cost of GCRF activity funded through other sources; rapid response to emergencies with an urgent research need; and pump priming.
  - h. The main Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list developing countries you intend to collaborate with.

Bournemouth University aims to be recognised worldwide as a leading university for inspiring learning, advancing knowledge and enriching society through the fusion of education, research and practice. A new institutional strategy (BU2025) was launched in 2018 that reaffirms our ambition to significantly expand our research profile, grow our internationally excellent and world-leading research, and enrich society by having a significant impact on global challenges. The BU2025 plan fully embraces the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aims to ensure all activities are aligned to addressing and impacting societal challenges. We are planning to include institutional key performance indicators to measure staff and student research contributions to the SDGs. In line with our strategy, BU has identified four priority objectives for international development related research activity in 2018-2021:

1. Undertake excellent research to benefit the world's poorest, i.e. those in the least developed countries (LDCs) and other low income countries (LICs) on the DAC list or

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<sup>1</sup> UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund,  
<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/challenges/>

marginalised groups in other countries on the DAC list. In particular we aim to increasingly cluster our activities in two main geographical areas: i) South Asia; and, ii) Africa.

2. Build enduring and equitable research collaborations with researchers, policy-makers and practitioners in countries on the DAC list, particularly in LDCs and LICs. This will strive to achieve sustainability of the initiatives after the initial investment (such as from QR GCRF).

3. Achieve tangible benefits for people in countries on the DAC list, particularly LDCs and LICs, by translating research into sustainable social and economic impacts that promote economic development and welfare.

4. Engage our staff, students and collaborators in co-creating tangible solutions to problems faced by people in countries on the DAC list, with a particular focus on LDCs and LICs.

In line with our priority objectives and the UK Strategy for the GCRF, we plan to invest in a broad programme of research activities, primarily focused on benefiting LDCs and LICs in South Asia and Africa. We have chosen to focus on these countries as we believe this is where we can add the greatest value and have the greatest impact. We anticipate this programme of activities will mainly focus on capacity and capability building, interdisciplinary collaborations, and generating impact. We may also use some funds to pump-prime activities to underpin GCRF and Newton Fund bids to other delivery partners.

As with our 2017-18 QR GCRF allocation, we plan to run internal competitions to allocate the funds. Researchers will be invited to apply for funds to undertake research-related international development activities, particularly in South Asia and Africa. Applications will be assessed by an experienced panel against the GCRF criteria of: problem and solution focussed; research excellence; impact; and, partnerships. We will prioritise applications focused on the lowest income countries. As research-related international development supporting the SDGs is of paramount importance to us and the achievement of our BU2025 strategy, we plan to supplement the QR GCRF allocation with some of our mainstream QR funds. We are thinking creatively about the SDGs and are encouraging our researchers and collaborators to see them as interlinked and multifaceted, therefore, putting together sustainable and equitable collaborations with the ability to think across them when identifying problems and solutions. Examples of areas of expertise where we may continue to invest include building disaster management capacity and capability in the poorest African countries and improving public health and maternity services in Nepal.

*Barriers to strategy implementation:* Our focus on working with LDCs and LICs poses a challenge as these often have poor infrastructure, the most fragile institutions, and have limited resources for research. Therefore, we note a number of risks to successful strategy implementation, including the challenge of initiating and sustaining collaborations and a failure to get the necessary traction in country to create real, enduring impacts.

*Enablers to strategy implementation:* Our BU2025 plan places international partnerships, the SDGs and worldwide impact at the heart of our programme of work. We already undertake research-related international development work with some of the lowest income countries on the DAC list and have a track record of building strong, enduring and equitable collaborations with colleagues based in these countries. Our staff are keen to be involved in international development and are motivated to do this in line with the GCRF aims.

2. Provide details of the main intended **outcomes and impacts** of your strategy.

Overall our strategy aims to improve the lives of the largest number of the world's poorest people and to do this in partnership with practitioners, researchers, policy-makers and local communities in the countries on the DAC list. One of our overarching intended outcomes is to support research-led, sustainable capacity building that positively impacts the poorest people in those countries.

An example of our international development work funded from QR GCRF is our capacity building in disaster management in Sierra Leone, Senegal and Cameroon. These countries have been selected because they have experienced incremental, regular, negative events, which impact on welfare and economic development. We will work with local disaster management agencies to implement pioneering single point of failure diagnostic techniques and undertake research-informed disaster management training with local disaster management officials and community leaders to enhance the resilience of local communities. This will help build sustainable capacity to better manage disasters in future both within and across countries, thus improving the economic and social welfare of people in these countries.

Other examples include those focused on our international development activities with collaborators in South Asia. For example, building capacity in community healthcare and health services in rural India, capacity building to tackle poverty and enhance social welfare practitioners in Myanmar and Nepal, as well as working with UNESCO and other collaborators to build capacity in journalism education and media reporting to address gender inequality and reduce violence.

**Management of GCRF**

3. How will your HEI **monitor** and **evaluate** its progress and compliance in ODA and GCRF activity, including assessing geographical distribution of activity, outputs, outcomes and economic and social impacts?

Please describe the policies, procedures and approach you have in place to measure progress, evaluate outcomes, identify lessons learned, and ensure ODA compliance.

Funded ODA and GCRF activity is monitored by our central Research and Knowledge Exchange Office (RKEO). This department takes responsibility for promotion,

coordination, financial administration, reporting and evaluation of such activity across the institution. They also undertake a similar task for the institution's QR and HEIF funds.

QR GCRF will be allocated via an internal competition, open to all academic staff. To apply for funds, staff must complete an application form outlining their proposed project, including primary benefits to DAC nations, key milestones and anticipated impacts/outcomes as well as giving plans for the evaluation of impact. A phased budget is also required as part of the application process. All applications are reviewed by an experienced academic panel who make decisions regarding funding in accordance with GCRF and ODA guidelines/criteria. Each project will be given a unique code in our financial system so expenditure can be easily tracked on a project-by-project basis. Award-holders are required to report on progress during the project and at the end of the funding period. Periodic evaluation and reporting will also be required after the project ends; this will focus in particular on the sustainability of the projects. As part of our monitoring process, we will develop and promote case studies of each of the projects.

We are in the process of establishing a group to oversee the governance of our research-related international development activities. This group will monitor the portfolio of projects funded from the GCRF grant to ensure the projects are delivering their intended outcomes and impacts and that all projects are ODA compliant and undertaken in accordance with the University's and the UK's GCRF strategy. The group will approve the annual monitoring reporting to Research England.

## **Section B: Use of QR GCRF 2018-19 allocation and future QR GCRF priorities**

4. Please complete the table in Annex A2 detailing the expected spending and activities for QR GCRF in the academic year 2018-19. Note that the total QR GCRF spending must equal the indicative allocation (available in Annex C), and all activities must be ODA-compliant for strategies to be assessed as ODA-compliant overall.
5. Please add here any explanatory notes on how you have completed the table in Annex A2 that will help inform assessment of ODA compliance.

An internal competition took place in 2018 to identify ODA compliant research-related international development projects to start in 2018 (Section 3 contains further details about the process). This identified seven projects to be funded. A second round of the competition is scheduled to take place in April 2018 to invite proposals for international development activities specifically based in South Asia and Africa.

6. How would your **priorities and activities** for 2018-19 QR GCRF change if the funding level differs from that outlined in indicative allocations? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Activities funded from QR GCRF 2018-19 were identified through a rigorous internal peer review process with each application scored against the GCRF and ODA criteria. Applications were then ranked and the panel used this to determine which to support in line with the funding available and BU's GCRF strategy. These decisions ensured the broad programme of activities funded will support the successful achievement of our priorities and contribute to the achievement of the aims of the UK's GCRF strategy. The standard of applications was high and we received more high quality applications than we were able to fund.

If BU's QR GCRF funding were to increase in 2018-19, the panel will be asked to look at the projects awarded and those that were almost awarded. They will be asked to decide whether the additional funding would be best invested in projects already earmarked for funding (i.e. could additional impact in terms of reach and significance be achieved if a project received additional funding) or whether it would be best to invest in new projects that missed out on funding in the first round of the internal competition. It may be that the panel decides on a combined approach. The key here will be impact and how any additional funding could be used to maximise the impact on the wellbeing of people in the DAC list countries.

If BU's QR GCRF funding were to decrease in 2018-19, then we would seek approval from the BU Executive Team to fund the decrease through an alternative stream such as mainstream QR. The rationale for this is twofold: 1) funding these research-related international development activities aligns with our institutional strategy; and, 2) in some cases, agreements are already in place with collaborators in DAC nations (for example, where we have existing partnerships) and we wish to continue supporting these partnerships and investing in the anticipated impacts/outcomes.

7. Based on indicative funding allocations, what are your **priorities** for QR GCRF activity in 2019-20? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Our priorities for QR GCRF activity in 2019-20 remain the same as outlined in Section 1. Before allocating funds for 2019-20, the panel will review the impact to date of the University's QR GCRF-funded projects (and other international development activities) to ascertain the overall impacts/outcomes of the programme of activities. This will hopefully identify progress against the strategy, successes, and areas for improvement. The ODA criteria will be used throughout this process and we will link all activities back to this to ensure funds are being allocated and spent appropriately. The panel will use this information garnered from the review to support decision-making for the allocation of funds in 2019-20.

Changes in the QR GCRF funding available to BU in 2019-20 would be managed in line with our answer in Section 6.

8. Based on indicative funding allocations, what are your **priorities** for QR GCRF activity in 2020-21? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Our priorities for QR GCRF activity in 2020-21 remain the same as outlined in Section 1. Before allocating funds for 2020-21, the panel will review the impact to date of the University's QR GCRF-funded projects (and other international development activities) to ascertain the overall impacts/outcomes of the programme of activities. This will identify progress against the strategy, successes and areas for improvement. The ODA criteria will be used throughout this process and we will link all activities back to this to ensure funds are being allocated and spent appropriately. The panel will use this information garnered from the review to support decision-making for the allocation of funds in 2020-21.

Changes in the QR GCRF funding available to BU in 2020-21 would be managed in line with our answer in Section 6.



