

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. A 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.¹
 - 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 developing countries, included in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list, which you intend to collaborate with.

CCCU welcomes the opportunity to participate in the QR GCRF to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries. Within the modest resource allocation envelope indicated, we will focus on setting the foundations for development research in a limited number of DAC recipient countries we have links with through other non-research initiatives and projects. Through a modest set of activities, we intend to build a sustainable platform for future development research work, which can then become the basis for more extended research programmes.

(a) CCCU has a number of development projects in relation to education and training supporting educational work in developing countries; it currently has no separate strategy for development related 'research' activity. Hence, QR-GCRF offers the opportunity to build a up a new and sustainable development research strategy to deliver on the GCRF strategy 'to ensure the UK take the lead in addressing the problems faced by developing

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

countries, whilst delivering our ability to deliver cutting-edge research” (UK Strategy for the GCRF).

CCCU’s Strategic Plan for Research and Enterprise 2018-2023 is focussed on increasing capacity, improved quality, income growth, and significant impact and extensive community engagement. The QR-GCRF provides opportunity to complement this research strategy through a designated development research strand. The focus would be on working collaboratively with partners in developing countries to design and deliver high quality research; enhancing the research capabilities in partner organisations; enhancing our own knowledge and capability to work in development research, and creating vibrant and connected research learning communities, which can support solving problems in these countries and contribute to their wellbeing and prosperity.

CCCU has a long-standing tradition in providing teacher education and professional health training, inspired and informed by its Church of England Foundation. This is reflected in its overseas development activities, carried out through partnerships in education with partner organisations in developing countries and supporting professional training development and knowledge exchange work.

Development related activity is embedded across the four pillars of CCCU’s Strategic Framework 2015-2020 – Student Experience, Education, Research & Knowledge Exchange, Resources – and specified in our cross-cutting Internationalisation Strategy. Within the Internationalisation Strategy, Strategic Objective 4.4 is “to actively promote staff mobility and capacity to engage in off-shore teaching, research and knowledge exchange activities”. This objective provides a focus for the new QR GCRF development research strategy, by providing a platform for building research partnerships with peers and organisations in developing countries and regions within the ODA country groupings (DAC list). The QR GCRF development research strategy will develop cutting-edge research activity in collaboration with existing and new partners.

In particular, we propose to deliver our QR GCRF development research strategy around the following strands:

1. Adding a research element to development programmes in teacher education programmes in the Middle East to the benefit vulnerable communities affected by war and long-term displacement.
2. Research linked to expanding specialised professional health training/ knowledge in lower middle income countries in Africa.

Strand 1 will build on existing partnerships and project work, including World Bank and ERASMUS funded projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on teacher training and teacher development, including in highly specialised teacher education areas, such as Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Strand 2 will build on existing links and emerging projects in training of health professionals, particularly in the expansion of specialised training programmes among nursing and allied health professionals in Ghana.

Over the next three years, our new QR GCRF development research strategy will enhance this work and build the foundations for cutting edge research in these two areas. Work in Strands 1 and 2 will also be used to assess whether and how experiences and knowledge may be applied to extending the reach of the emerging research programme to a larger number of countries and regions, and develop the capacity to collaborative partnership working with developing country partners for other research areas.

(b) The funding allocated to CCCU is modest; hence the activities reflect these in providing a modest research development programme, and will be limited to the named regions of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to the middle income country of Ghana. Activity will be centred on five work streams:

1. Research partnership building

We will develop equitable and sustainable research partnerships with existing and new partners in the area of teacher training and education (including SEN) in West Bank and Gaza Strip and specialised health professional training in Ghana.

2. Research needs identification and prioritising

We will work with partner organisations to identify the research needs and research priorities in these areas, focussed on identifying solving problems faced by the countries in relation to teacher education and teaching delivery, and professional health training activity.

These two work streams will consist of a series of visits and network meetings with existing and potential partner organisations to establish research partnerships, identify research needs and develop research priorities. At this stage, with partners we will also identify the extent of the programme of work in each region for the remaining funding period, based on the feasibility, opportunities and the capacity to deliver meaningful research outputs within the resource constraints. This may lead to a re-evaluation of the work plans for both countries and the re-assessment of priorities in the overall programme. We wish to make the activities and intended outcomes in the QR GCRF appropriate to the research needs and current capabilities, and progress in developing the strategy in a sustainable way.

3. Identifying research capacity and training needs to deliver future research priorities in-country

We anticipate working with partners in countries collaboratively to design and deliver research projects in the middle and longer term. For this purpose, research training needs will be assessed and research capacity gaps identified. We propose to conduct a programme of workshop-based training to build capacity. CCCU already has a well-established CPD programme for researcher development, which could be used as a

basis of a workshop based-training programme to develop researcher training, built around the identified needs.

4. Scoping of research priorities

A number of small projects to scope identified research priorities will be developed with a view to understand whether and how identified research needs can be addressed through research projects, what the likely impact is going to be, and whether there is potential for knowledge exchange (i.e. whether and how the outcome and outputs of research can be more broadly applied).

This work stream will pump prime collaborative research funding applications by scoping out aspects of identified research priorities and gather intelligence on how best to address these through research applications to external funders.

5. Collaborative research activity and funding bids

This work stream will identify opportunities for collaborative funding of research projects identified under the research priorities and put a small number of bids together. We do not anticipate that the current provision through the GCRF allocation will be sufficient to carry out substantive research projects. However, it may be possible to carry out smaller pump priming projects, for example in the form of preliminary data collection or feasibility studies to prepare larger research applications. We would also anticipate that some grant applications can be developed in years 2 and 3 of the funding period, enabled by collaborative visits and a developing brief of the networking events and visits. Towards the end of the QR funding period we may have some outcomes of funding application activity.

(c) As highlighted under (a) above, CCCU's development related activity to date has been focussed in the main on the educational partnership aspects, with a focus on supporting communities in developing countries to develop capacity in education and training by providing educational partnership consultancy, training, and by supporting curriculum development. Our QR GCRF research strategy will expand on these activities and deliver a research focus for our internationalisation strategy.

Our QR GCRF research strategy will enhance CCCU's Strategic Framework for Research and Enterprise by building a focus for development research activity and engage existing expertise and capacity building programme.

Our QR GCRF strategy also aligns closely to CCCU's mission for research and enterprise, which is underpinned by a values-led duty and desire to contribute and to use our privileged access to knowledge and resources for social and public good

d. Our QR GCRF strategy addresses challenge areas of the UK strategy for the GCRF as follows:

1. Equitable Access to Sustainable Development

Our work will contribute to the following priorities:

- Sustainable health and well being
- Inclusive and equitable quality education

We will work with partner organisations to develop teaching development research in highly volatile and challenged environments of education in displaced and traumatised communities, including in the area of SEN training. We are aiming to contribute to support the education provision in these communities and support children and young people growing up in these communities by developing robust research evidence on the needs and solutions relating to teacher development.

We aim to develop a research agenda in relation to specialised training for health professionals in Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health in Ghana. Through this we will be contributing to the development of capacity of these professions by enhancing their ability to deliver evidence-based, high quality care in communities in Ghana. The research agenda will contribute to increasing access to specialised health care in nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, and support establishing sustainable service provision in rehabilitation, prevention and healthy living in the health economy.

2. Human Rights, Good Governance and Social Justice

- Understand and respond effectively to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises
- Reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities.

The strand of our QR GCRF focussed on teacher development and education will be particularly pertinent for addressing the challenges of education in displacement and multiple refugee crises areas. We will work with partner organisations to identify research priorities and needs which focus on the teaching related aspects of providing education in these challenging environments and among highly vulnerable communities. The strand of health professional training will be a platform for improving health in communities in Ghana, and support the sustainable and equitable access to health and well-being of communities in Ghana.

Both strands will have at their core the working with partners in the respective countries to reduce inequality (education and health care) by developing research agendas which are focussed on improved provision and access to education and training.

(e) CCCU's Strategic Plan for Research and Enterprise sets out a commitment to delivering a sustainable and strategic approach to funding for research and enterprise. This includes investing block grants such as QR to achieve a return on investment. QR is delivered through a Research and Enterprise Support Fund (RESF) that also includes HEIF funding and institutional support for PhD bursaries. This fund has five streams – capacity (staff); capacity (research students); quality; income; impact – and is distributed based on priorities identified in Faculty Research and Enterprise Portfolio Plans (FREPPs) developed through our annual process of Research and Enterprise Quality Improvement and Enhancement.

We intend that the QR GCRF will be distributed through the funding streams of the RESF, primarily (although not exclusively) seeking returns on investment in relation to:

- Impact: in relation to work streams 1-4 (under (b) above) that will build research partnerships, identify research needs and capacity issue, and scope research priorities through small projects.
- Income: in relation to work stream 5 that will build on work streams 1- 4 to seek external income collaboratively to support priorities and needs identified.

(f) Enablers:

- The QR GCRF research strategy for both regions and countries builds on existing links and development work. These existing links will enable building up research partnerships from the outset.
- We draw extensively on our research capacity (through the development programme). This forms a pre-existing template for capacity building in research, supporting effective work with partners.

Barriers:

- The political volatility and continued military and civilian tensions in the region of the West Bank Gaza Strip territories may disrupt travelling plans and visits.
- The current institutional set-up of the existing partner organisation may change and access to new partnerships may become more difficult.
- Preliminary data collection efforts and the feasibility of research activity may be difficult in conflict areas.
- Unforeseen political development, or sudden, large scale health crisis, may limit the implementation of the research agenda on specialised training health professional training in Ghana.

(g) The work streams identified above (b) are linked to the key activities as follows:

A: Capacity and capability building

Activities related to work streams 1-4 (Research Partnership building, Research needs identification and prioritising, Identifying research capacity and training needs to deliver future research priorities in-country; Scoping of research priorities) fall under this category, by building research partnerships through a programme of visits, through the shared research development workshops and the engagement activities with researcher at CCCU to the challenges of research activity.

B: Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research activity

Activities related to work streams 4 and 5 (Scoping of research priorities; Collaborative research activity and funding bids) relate to this. Based on the outcome of activities 1-3, they will result in bidding activity for collaborative research funding.

F: Pump-priming activities ... to other funders

Activities related to 1,2,3,4 and 5 (Research Partnership building, Research needs identification and prioritising, Identifying research capacity and training needs to deliver future research priorities in-country Scoping of research priorities; Collaborative research

activity and funding bids) relate to this. We plan to conduct network meetings and conduct pump-priming projects as part of the strategic activities.

(h) Developing countries, included in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list, which we intend to collaborate with.

- West Bank and Gaza Strip
- Ghana

(Both are part of the Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories)

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

The outcomes of the QR GCRF strategy are as follows:

- A series of meetings to develop the activities around the research partnerships.
- A strong collaborative network between researchers and institutions in developing countries and CCCU
- Consensus list of research priorities in teacher development and Expert Professional Health Training
- A programme of proposed research work
- A number of feasibility and base-line research projects for proposed research programme
- A number of collaborative research applications for research funding
- A series of workshops for research capacity building for the developing countries.

The **anticipated impacts** are as follows:

- Robust and sustainable research collaboration and networks
- Robust research priorities in the two disciplines and countries/regions
- Increased research capacity to apply for external research funding and research delivery
- Publications to direct other research activity

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.

As noted in 1(e), QR funding is distributed to faculties via a Research and Enterprise Support Fund based on strategic priorities and activity plans identifies in Faculty Research and Enterprise Portfolio Plans (FREPPs). These are scrutinised annually

through a Research and Enterprise Quality Improvement and Enhancement (REQIE) governance process.

FREPPs comprise two elements: an overarching strategy for research priorities within the context of our institutional Strategic Plan for Research and Enterprises; planned activities to deliver that strategy and priorities in the next year. REQIE approves the overarching strategy and priorities, and scrutinises annual plans in terms of monitoring and evaluating progress in the previous year and current year to date, and agreeing plans for the forthcoming year. It is this governance process that will measure progress, evaluate outcomes and identify lessons learned for QR GCRF within the context of the ODA compliance.

In terms of geographical distribution, as CCCU's indicative QR GCRF allocation is modest, activity will be limited to the areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Ghana. We expect outputs, outcomes and economic and social impacts to be limited to these areas. There is the potential that lessons learned can have implications that extend impacts to other ODA areas. These will be monitored through the processes set out above.

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.

We have based the allocation according to the identified activities under 1(b). Activities in year one are linked to three network visits to the West Bank and Gaza strip and to Ghana to work with partners on partnership building (visit 1); research needs identification and prioritising, initial research priorities scoping (visit 2) and identifying research capacity and training needs and detailed scoping of research activities (visit 3). A small provision has been made to support preliminary project work/research activity designed to support research priority setting and/or research proposal preparation. The comparatively small allocation to this activity in year one reflects the focus on preparatory work in relation to partnership building, scoping of research priorities and capacity scoping. The intent is to grow this part of the allocation for years 2 and 3.

Finance:

Provision has been made for travel and three three-day stays for each country/territory. We have included some administrative time to support activities

We have included consultancy resource (UK based or in-country based) to support the development of the research partnership with additional expertise.

The allocation is indicative: depending on the outcome of the partnership arrangements and the outcome of priority setting, we may adjust provision somewhat to reflect the outcomes and potential of the research development activities.

All activities are ODA compliant and map onto the criteria of eligible activities stipulated in the QR GCRF guidance.

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.

The current strategy focuses on the West Bank and Gaza Strip territories and Ghana.

For 2018-2019 a decrease in funding would require the scaling down of activity. It would require a rethink of the activities in the strategy and likely trigger reduction in the intensity of the engagement or alternatively a focus on one area of development only (teacher development or expert health training). ODA priorities would not change with either increases or decreases, but the intensity of their impact and outcomes would.

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.

The priorities for QR GCRF funding will remain; however in year 2 of the funding period the emphasis will shift more strongly to the collaborative research activity and work on funding bids, with an increase to around £15 000 to reflect the development of the research priorities. The funding may be used as seed funding to conduct feasibility work in advance of a full research bid to external funders, or support initial data collection to enhance research plans, for example.

One visit will be dedicated to a four day training workshop on research and research bidding skills to enable the capacity to bid for and deliver research projects and enable the future collaboration on research.

The visits are likely to be scaled down to two over the year to reflect the shift in activities toward training and bid development.

Again, any decrease in QR GCRF would impact on the number of activities that could be undertaken and also affect the depth of the collaborative working. Working with one or the two countries might have to be scaled down. Conversely an increase in allocation

would enable us to enhance the activity and accelerate the pace of developing collaborative research bids.

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.

We wish to focus the final year of the allocation extensively on the bid development according to the research priorities identified. We anticipate that the funding for collaborative activities would equal a third of the overall allocation.

We still would engage in partnership meetings, but these would focus on the development of bids for external funding.

As highlighted in questions 6 and 7, a reduction in allocation would result in a reduction of activities. At this stage, this will most likely impact in the number and size of the bidding activity and hence reduce the outcomes, outputs and beneficial impact for the countries.

Conversely an increase in allocation would be beneficial to the scope (how many), the size (how extensive and in-depth) and the range of research activity and potential bids (how many of the priorities can be included).