

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

Maximum 3,000 words

- a. **Your institution's strategy and priority objectives for all development related research activity funded through all sources for three years from 2018-19**  
De Montfort University's (DMU) research strategy sets out to challenge conventional thinking in development-related research and the creation of new knowledge to transform societies for the better. Our strategic approach leverages our successful record of research that impacts society and makes a measurable difference to people's lives through improvements in the areas of health & well-being, infrastructure, creativity, economic growth and business & civil society. We primarily seek to work with developing countries on challenges and problems that they have identified. We utilise DMU's world leading international research expertise to develop locally meaningful solutions in partnership with our international colleagues.

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

Our global approach is timely as we face the international challenges raised by issues such as Brexit, global economic transformation, wellbeing for a globally ageing population, changes to the world of work and our security. The objective of the DMU strategy is to foster development related research that builds on our internationally recognised research into transport, energy, water, advanced manufacturing and the creative industries. This will allow us to respond, with our international partners, to the challenges of globalisation, climate change, power structures in flux and the consequent challenges of migration and economic growth.

**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.**

*Problem and solution focused*

Using the global sustainable development challenges as a template and the global south as our focus DMU's QR GCRF strategy enables DMU to fund activity with international and UK partners that explores through evidence the specific problems faced by our collaborators in the developing world.

We then seek to provide direct answers to those issues through packages of co-created research and capacity building to enable sustainable solutions and development.

Such activities include funding geography-themed international engagement development workshops designed to bring together a range of UK and international partners around research topics identified as challenges by our international partners. This format allows face-to-face networking and exchange of ideas that will lead to a better mutual understanding of the problems and co-development and ownership of the potential research based solutions that can be realistically integrated in the international partner's environment.

*Research excellence*

We recognise that sustainable research outcomes must be linked to the excellence of the underlying research. Our QR strategy is designed to promote a non-siloed inter and trans-disciplinary approach to developing solutions. QR funding is made available to research groups that can clearly demonstrate an approach to bring together multi-disciplinary groups of stakeholder and develop a co-operative framework that allows a genuinely multi-dimensional approach to problem evaluation, the development of potential solutions and the implementation and ongoing capacity building. We ensure that range of stakeholder groups including policy makers, researchers and practitioners from global south participants take a lead on both the initial development activities as well project implementation and buy in from local groups.

*Impact*

All projects at DMU that are to receive QR GCRF funding are assessed as part our academic and professional peer review process on their ability to generate sustainable positive impacts with a range of stakeholder groups including those with involvements in social, economic and environmental benefits. For QR GCRF funded projects, we ask that a specific pathway to impact plan be developed in full collaboration with all overseas partners, to outline the impacts in short, medium and long term. These plans will include detail of required project resources and how resources will be used, to ensure that impacts are embedded sustainably. We ask that as far as is possible specific and

objective impact cases are made and these are judged on their academic societal and environmental importance against objectives outlined by our global south partners. We would expect a range of measurable outputs from research papers published, studentships developed, documented changes to policy and where possible documented changes to behaviour as result of the project.

#### *Capacity building and partnership*

At DMU it is paramount that that we are developing long term and sustainable collaborations and partnerships across a range of academic communities, policy makers and practitioners in the global south. QA GCRF funded projects are required to map both the existing partner groups in the UK and the Global South and then look beyond these more traditional academic contacts to include civil society, private sector and third sector partners with local knowledge. Our approach allows us to work with non-traditional groups of stakeholders across and beyond the traditional academic boundaries to discovery and practice.

#### *Geographic scope*

DMU is committed in its international development in the least developed of the DAC countries, with the QR GCRF funding preferentially targeted at projects that have partner counties from the Global South or those that are post-conflict. We recognise that such partner counties pose unique challenges around the development of research infrastructure and basic development needs and we seek local partner to help us address these.

#### **C How activity funded through QR GCRF fits into your broader strategy and priorities for all development related research activity.**

DMU's research strategy attempts to challenge conventional thinking across the full range of development related research. DMU aims to makes a measurable difference to people's lives though research. Our QR GCRF funding priorities are governed by this approach. DMU's QR GCRF provision funds projects lead by partners where possible from the global south with research based around problems that they have identified. We bring together multi-disciplinary group of researcher's policy makers and practitioners to co- develop solutions. We develop sustainable impact plans that engage civil society, private sector and third sector partners to embed impact and make a difference to people's lives. This is consistent with university's involvement in the UN's Together campaign, which offers worldwide support to refugees and other vulnerable communities in developing societies'

#### **D How activity funded through QR GCRF relates to the UK strategy for the GCRF.**

DMU QR GCRF strategy is based on UK Strategy for GCRF. We fund programmes that will enable positive change though the application of our world leading research, to problems identified by our global partners though co creation of solutions. We attempt to develop research to provide equitable access to sustainable development, sustainable economies, societies, human rights, good governance and social justice.

DMU has used its QR GRRF funding to encourage the development of projects in health, education and clean sustainable energy.

Health: We have developed research concepts around reduction of hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa, mental health, developing prosthetics from accessible recycled materials and culturally appropriate strategy for addressing child malnutrition Tanzania.

Education: We have developed concepts to enhance good education in Tanzania and projects to improve literacy in rural India.

Sustainable economies and societies: DMU has developed partnerships and research concepts to meet challenges of shifting urban populations and their effects on a sustainable environment and ecosystems as well as developing affordable clean energy in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**E How your development-related and GCRF strategies relate to your wider institutional strategy for using QR.**

As an institution, we invest QR funding in initiatives such as multi-disciplinary sandpits and development funds that support emerging collaborations. We invest in small seed corn projects to develop preliminary data that can form the basis of significant funding opportunities nationally and internationally. We fund activities to support sustainable impact and the co-production of research including secondments and research visits from partner organisations.

Our approach to QR GCRF funding mirrors our institutional strategy for QR with a paramount emphasis on partners in the developing world and particularly the Global South. We invest in sandpits, small funding projects and encourage the development of international partnerships through visits and secondments for staff.

**F Likely key barriers and enablers to implementing your strategy.**

Lack of appropriate partnerships: Despite being well networked with long-term collaborations, it is possible that the university will have difficulty in finding the correct partnerships for all of the countries that academics wish to research in.

Poor research infrastructure: Many of the countries in which the research will be implemented and embedded have very little research infrastructure available it will therefore be necessary to develop some basic research infrastructure and methods of collaboration with our local partners.

Finding the right UK partners: The University has a significant range of UK partner organisations but we may lack some key insights or skills and may need to seek additional UK partners that can complement our approach GRCF research.

Relatively low funding: we have many well developed research concepts created with partner organisations from the Global South but we have relatively little funding to initiate projects, this will lead to loss of opportunities for development.

Long-term development: many of our partner countries in the Global South have limited research infrastructure and cultures to sustainably embed real changes to practice will require a long term commitment, the nature of research funding makes the nature and level of such commitments uncertain.

**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.**

The emphasis of our QR GCRF funding is to discover work with our partners to define the real problems that are of concern to our partner countries and co-develop solutions.

To achieve this we would aim bring the widest range of partner countries and organisations over to UK to work collaboratively with us on development. Our focus would be on post-conflict countries and on countries further down in the list DAC list as these have the greatest needs.

The format for our interactions would be to organise one to two day workshops including where possible policy makers and collaborators from embassy's and organisations such as the British Council. The output of these events will be project concepts that could be developed further with some pump-priming funding. A peer review process will assess the emerging project concepts and partnerships and allocate the appropriate level of funding. We are currently planning on running these workshops on a regional basis to allow the cross talk between different partner countries.

QR GCRF funds will also include providing ongoing support for GRCF projects that have been previous funded and provide pump priming funds for projects and partnership that have applied for but failed to acquire national funds.

In the former case, the emphasis will be to fund activities that will ensure that the impact of these projects can be sustainably embedded and maintained. We will fund activities that develop capacity and capability in the DAC partners through developing local training networks of users and practisers along with champions and working with policy makers to embed new practices across the communities.

In the latter case, after considering comments, and if appropriate, funding may be provided to generate preliminary data or to develop further the networks to make the application more fundable in the future. This may include exchanges of staff or visits to improve our understanding of the problems faced and allow better case for research intervention to be made.

All of our QR GCRF funding decisions will be reviewed by a steering committee made up of Senior Academics and Chaired by the PVC Research at the university. The committee's remit is to ensure the quality of the partnerships is maintained and that all projects funded are ODA compliant.

Other actions around GCRF will include the development of a website that provides information on GRCF opportunities, case studies of our ongoing research and detailed guidance of how to contact our GCRF research groups. We will provide a full database of all of our ongoing activities including the countries we are working with and our key contacts in all of the regions and expertise that they represent. The University accepts the terms of most charitable funders in paying only direct costs to the project and forfeits indirect cost to ensure that co funded GCRF projects can be progressed.

#### **H The main developing countries, included in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list, which you intend to collaborate with.**

We will work with all the countries who are ODA recipients but with a preference for the least developed countries on the DAC list and those that are post conflict, we currently have collaborations with Bangladesh, Sudan, and Tanzania and work with Kenya and Zimbabwe. We aim to build collaborations with Gambia, Senegal, South Sudan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

We have collaborations in middle-income countries including Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Ukraine and with Upper Income countries Brazil,

Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, and Mexico.

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

DMU's aims for its QR GRCF Strategy are to:

- 1) Increase the number and quality of our international networks in and between DAC countries and the UK.
- 2) Develop the capacity for research within DAC countries with an emphasis on the global south.
- 3) Make real and measurable difference to people's lives.
- 4) Co-create excellence research with partners for DAC countries.

The first aim of our QR GRCF strategy is the development of networks of international cross-disciplinary stakeholders including researchers, end users and practitioners. This can be measured by recording the number of interactions with international research groups over the next three years. The impact of this aim would be an increased understanding of the important issues in DAC countries and improved communications leading to increased opportunities for co-operation between the UK and the Global South.

Our second aim is the development of capacity for research responsive to user defined issues. We will measure this through the number of participants attending training networks and follow up studies to understand how many participants have subsequently made use of their acquired skills. The provision of a skill base that allows for sustainable impact and ongoing development is critical to continue to meet challenges on the ground.

Our third aim is to make a difference to people lives, this can be measured through changes to local policy and its adoption by users on the ground resulting in up take by the relevant practitioner groups. This should lead to real and measurable changes to people's lives and the opportunities that are afforded to them. This **will** increase the quality of people lives in a sustainable fashion.

Our fourth aim is around the co-development of internationally recognised excellent research, this can be measured in the co-authorship of published research in appropriate journals. This academic impact is important to demonstrate and validate the contributions to research based solutions of the researchers involved in development research.

## 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.

A strategic ODA committee is currently being established that will convene bi-annually to formally review all ODA compliant projects, including GCRF, Newton and internally funded projects. The committee will consist of representatives from a diverse range of stakeholders from across the institution. As part of this formal monitoring, a yearly report will be produced that details areas of good practice and recognised areas of improvement. This report will be utilised to capture lessons learnt and identify where additional requirements are placed across the institution, for example the financial reporting requirements for GCRF funded projects. External development opportunities will be fed into this requirement gathering process and necessary responses enabled. For example, GCRF due diligence and financial procedures were established after senior management attended a workshop following the receipt of a GCRF award. If a project objectives or expenditure moves out of scope, the committee will take measures to ensure compliance is adhered to going forward.

We have a two stage due diligence process, a light touch pre-award checklist is used which highlights any potential high risks to the academic or Institution. If risks are identified and can be reduced to an acceptable level, the application may proceed. If awarded, prior to acceptance, a more comprehensive check is carried out to fully ensure appropriate measures are put in place for project commencement. These checks are revisited yearly unless there is a specific concern in the region. The institutional due diligence procedures are revisited yearly to ensure they are still fit for purpose.

All projects are assessed by the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC). DMU is a member of the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) and the Association for Research Ethics (AfRE). The ethical standards that operate at the university adhere to the codes of practice and legislation set out by these bodies. Any matters that may affect ODA compliance are identified and flagged to the DMU ODA committee for discussion and can be escalated to the University Research & Innovation Committee (URIC) if high-level governance intervention is required. URIC can also be used to ensure wider University initiatives are joined up, such as International engagement with DMU Global and public engagement activity undertaken through DMU Local.

DMU has an Overseas Travel Policy which assesses the risks of both travel and the work to be undertaken; where relevant the risk assessment should be made based on previous knowledge of the work and of the area in which it is to be conducted. Any hazards and risks associated with the work activities will be subject to a separate full risk assessment.

A pre-award ODA compliance checklist (based on ODA guidance) is used at the pre-award project level as part of institutional approval quality assurance processes. The checklist asks the following questions and requires evidence to support the answers. For example, upon project commencement, a statement of need is obtained from the collaborating DAC list country to confirm that the project is addressing a credible development need.

1. Which country/countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal?
2. Who are your partners?
3. How is the proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development problems of these countries? Is there credible or is there evidence of the need?
4. How will the outcome of your proposed activities promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list?
5. Who would benefit?
6. How would success or impact be measured?

Project level monitoring against progress including reporting against financial expenditure, milestones achieved, impact generated and dissemination strategy will be undertaken throughout the project. ODA compliance will be reviewed at regular intervals throughout the project lifecycle to ensure ongoing compliance monitoring and updates fed back to the strategic ODA committee. This will include any external changes to due diligence procedures that may arise. If issues arise, these will be fed up to the committee through a named faculty based ODA champion.

Financial Procedures in place for GCRF Project Expenditure adhere to the DMU Financial Regulations Policy and Business expenses policy whilst drawing from policies set out by funding bodies. These are regularly updated and reviewed. The following sets out the main points:

- Prior to any formal agreement being finalised, we are committed to following the current GCRF due diligence guidance.
- In any collaboration agreement with an overseas partner, we ensure that the financial requirements are clearly specified – this includes the responsibilities of the partner in document retention, provision of evidence, invoicing currency, the maximum amount of allowable costs and, where appropriate, the reimbursement rate.
- All overseas partners in ODA countries must provide the same documentation confirming bank details as any DMU supplier or project partner in order for a “vendor” account to be created if they are to receive reimbursements for any costs incurred. This is in line with DMU’s anti-fraud policy.
- An overseas partner must issue a valid invoice, and all costs will need to be evidenced by suitable documentation – receipts, invoices etc. No payments are made without these.
- All expenditure is managed centrally, hence Research Services are able to react swiftly to any urgent project needs and are able to assess whether the expenditure is ODA compliant
- A full audit trail for each QR GCRF project will be retained in line with DMU financial regulations



- QR GCRF expenditure will be checked as part of our financial year end process and reconciled against the submitted financial plan in Annex A2
- If funds are not utilised or are no longer required, they will be repurposed to alternative ODA compliant projects that have been shortlisted during the funding period.

Upon project completion a post-award ODA compliance checklist is utilised which captures the outcomes of the project. This again requires evidence to be obtained that demonstrates that there has been promotion of the economic development and welfare of the developing countries involved.

The research development team works closely to develop proposals and ensure ODA compliance across the institution for all GCRF proposals. This includes delivering training events and workshops to researchers involved in ODA compliant research as well as disseminating information on relevant calls. All projects that result from direct participation in the international engagement workshops will be tracked and monitored with conversion data collated at the institutional level.

Pump-priming and follow on impact fund projects will be monitored at project review meetings which are carried out as set out in the project management section of an application. This ensures the project fulfils the aims and objectives as agreed by all partners during the development stages, thus ensuring the main research challenge directly and primarily benefits the problems of the collaborating developing countries. International engagement workshops will be monitored and evaluated via a number of mechanisms. A database is maintained that tracks all external stakeholders from DAC list countries that researchers at DMU collaborate with. This will be updated regularly and will include the attendance list from each event. Capability and capacity building activities that result from engagement workshops will be assessed by monitoring the volume and value of applications that result from the events.

The impact generated from ODA compliant activities will be tracked using appropriate metrics. This includes evaluating the extent of additional reach that the follow on funded projects have achieved. This evaluation will include identifying the diverse stakeholder engagement achieved and impact on the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries. End of project reports will feed into institutional impact case studies as well as aiding capacity and policy development in partner countries. These activities will be overseen by the Research Governance and Assessment Team. SciVal analysis of co-authored publications with collaborating DAC list countries will be undertaken to ensure that we are focusing on the regions identified in the strategy (countries of lower income and post conflict). Mapping of the location of ongoing projects will ensure a central oversight of the regions that DMU researchers are working in. This will feed into the international engagement workshop element of the GCRF strategy. Mapping of research undertaken at DMU against the Sustainable Development Goals will also be undertaken to track the breadth of work being carried out and the potential impact on the economic and welfare of DAC countries.

## 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 allocated 50% of the estimated £169,300 budget to building our networks in West Africa and Bangladesh/Eastern India to focus capacity building in regions where we have established networks with the least developed countries to maximise our socio-economic impact. In addition, this will enable us to allocate a significant proportion of the budget to maximising the contribution of our research into policy and practice. The basis for this is to initiate discussion with prospective partners so that new projects are co-created, challenge led and address real world problems faced by these regions. 30% of the budget has been assigned to pump priming activity to support the development of larger strategic proposals which will be allocated via a competitive process. The final 20% will support follow on impact activities in pre-existing ODA compliant projects, enabling innovative new engagements and stimulating unforeseen impact. We have undertaken a strategic mapping exercise to ensure that the benefits to DAC nations are linked to the relevant SDGs. The strategy that we are employing is that by taking a layered approach to supporting ODA compliant research, DMU will support underpinning activity combined with pump priming of prospective projects to build capacity and ultimately generate impact.

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 main priority for allocation of QR GCRF funding (as identified in Annex A2) in our 2018-19 research strategy is to fund a series of International Engagement workshops that will initiate discussion with prospective partners so that new projects are co-created, challenge led and address real world problems faced by these regions. This encompasses the Problem and Solution focused objective of the Strategy and ensures ODA compliant research, through promotion of the economic development and welfare of the DAC list countries involved. In addition, key networks will be established in countries identified as having strategic relevance to DMU, enabling capacity building activity to be undertaken. Therefore, if the DMU allocation was to be increased from current estimations we would re-profile the funding to add an additional targeted region for engagement. This funding would be used to run additional International Engagement

workshops, the number would be determined by the relevant uplift in funding. Subsequently, if funding was decreased DMU would prioritise funding to the pump priming and capacity building activities and scale down the funding for Follow on Impact engagement, which would be resourced from alternative internal funding mechanisms.

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.

In the 2018-10 allocation the funding profile was broken down into three key components; Pump Priming 30% of funding, Impact Generation follow on funding 20% and 50% was prioritised to Capacity and Capability building activity. In the 2019-20 allocation, the pump priming activity will maintain a 30% allocation recognising the need for sustained resource to deliver an internal competitive yearly programme to support the development of ODA compliant research proposals. As the second year activity needs to enable progression, we will introduce a new Travel Grants scheme which will be made up of 20% of the 2019-20 funding allocation and be run as an internal competitive process. This scheme will enable academics to undertake research visits, with the purpose of strengthening their research networks and see first-hand the real world challenges of the host countries and how they could best co create solutions to address these. These visits are considered strategically important as it will promote the development of ODA research more widely and encourage academics to make initial international connections to use their expertise for the benefit of the relevant country.

Regional Engagement workshops will be delivered for the development of challenge led research collaborative projects, building on the initial round of workshops held in 2018-19. In addition to building on relationships, the main output will be the co-creation of proposals for GCRF funding. These are anticipated to be based around topics identified in year one and also incorporate reactive responses as required, such as the rapid response to emergency need. This approach to research development activity aligns to the Problem and Solution focused objective of the University's GCRF Strategy. In order for this activity to be delivered at scale it is agreed that it needs to be prioritised and approx. 35% of the 2019-20 GCRF funding allocation will be allocated to this programme of work. The remaining 15% of the budget will be allocated to Impact Generation activity. This funding will focus on a provision of funds to enable follow on Impact and engagement activity for existing ODA compliant projects and to ensure stakeholder engagement is maintained. This funding will primarily support innovative engagements with new audiences and user communities, and include activities around knowledge exchange, public engagement, active dissemination and commercialisation. It is recognised by the University that maintaining support for these activities post project is critical for enabling real world change, and vital to the research community to generate longer term evidence of sustainable impact.

If the 2019-20 funding allocation was to be increased or decreased we would take the same approach as the response to Q6 and prioritise the capacity and capability Regional Engagement workshops to increase our research networks and subsequent research

proposal development. Thus, an increase will see a rise in the budget allocated for the workshops and a decrease would see the impact element reduced as it would be resourced from alternative internal funding mechanisms.

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.

In the 2020-21 allocation, the pump priming activity will maintain a 30% allocation recognising the need for sustained resource to deliver an internal competitive yearly programme to support the development of ODA compliant research proposals. The Travel Grants scheme will also be maintained at 20% to encourage researchers to engage with challenge led research collaborations. As the third year of activity needs to enable further progression of projects and networks through to impact realisation, the impact element will be increased back up to 20% of the 2020-21 budget. In the 2020-21 work plan, International Engagement workshops will be focused on regional level activity and responding to specific challenges rather than on broad geographic areas and will support the development of specific ODA compliant projects. These will build on the series of workshops in the previous two years to realise the ambition of co-developing internationally recognised excellent research to make a difference to people lives. Both the workshops and the travel grants will input into the Strategy aims of building capacity through co-authorship of research outputs as well as joint grant proposals. In order for this activity to be delivered at scale it is agreed that, approx. 30% of the 2019-20 GCRF funding allocation will be allocated to this programme of work.

If the 2020-21 funding allocation was to be increased or decreased we would take the same approach as the response to Q6 and prioritise the capacity and capability Regional Engagement workshops. This activity would enable us to increase our research networks and subsequent research proposal/output development. Thus, an increase will see a rise in the budget allocated for these workshops. A decrease would however see the pump priming funding allocation reduced, which would be resourced from alternative internal funding mechanisms. The impact funding would not be affected in the third year due to our acknowledgment of the strategic importance that impact generation has to sustaining research and development in the long term. It would also be a strategic reflection of the final year of anticipated GCRF allocation being used for consolidating key elements of activity developed over the previous two years as opposed to previous approaches focusing on new activity generation.

