

## 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.

#### ***RCA strategy and priority objectives for all development-related research activity funded through all sources for three years from 2018-19***

The RCA has a strong track record in problem- and solution-focused interdisciplinary research in art, architecture, design and humanities, with an emphasis on creativity and practice-led research. While the RCA already engages in development-related research activity, there will be a more concentrated effort from 2018-19 to build capacity in this area and to bring RCA research to bear on global challenges, particularly with a focus on sustainability and resilience, inclusivity and conflict resolution.

#### Priority objectives:

- Capacity and capability building: The RCA will build capacity and capability in development-related research activity across the College, providing funding and support for researchers to develop ODA-compliant research projects, with particular focus on understanding and monitoring ODA compliance.
- Pump-priming development-related research activity and partnership building: The RCA will provide funding and opportunities for networking and relationship building activities with DAC list countries, as well as providing small-scale project funding with the expectation that more substantial proposals for external funding will follow.
- Generating research impact: The RCA will provide funding and support to produce, monitor and record impact arising from development-related research, with a focus on supporting our researchers to increase the impact of their partnerships and research with DAC list countries.

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

- Membership of the British Council Crafting Futures Network: A key feature of the RCA's development-related research activity will be our membership in the British Council Crafting Futures Network. We will seek to position the College as a key central partner within the Network and to explore opportunities to part-fund or match-fund research projects which relate to the Network's activities.

The RCA's strategy and objectives for development-related research activity are underpinned by the RCA Internationalisation Strategy 2016-21, which embeds internationalisation at the core of the RCA's mission and activities, its learning and teaching, research and knowledge exchange, and partnerships with universities, businesses, professional practices and industries, charities and governments around the world. The RCA Internationalisation Strategy, and therefore our strategy and priorities for development-related research, is informed by the RCA's values:

- A commitment to mutuality in all activities and policies as the basis for internationalisation, with respect for difference, equality and diversity;
- Internationalisation should be transformational and not transactional;
- The principle that all members of the RCA community, including UK students and staff, are 'international', not only those who come from outside the UK to work or study;
- That an internationalised curriculum prepares and equips students for future careers and enhances opportunities;
- That the RCA will seek to work with high quality partners around the world whose values and standing provide an appropriate match;
- That the generation and application of knowledge is not restricted by national boundaries, geography or language;
- That creative education, innovation and the creative industries are international in their nature, and are enriched by, and benefit from, intercultural exchange and collaboration;
- That funders, donors and alumni of the RCA will be attracted to, and continue to support, an institution that has recognised international influence and quality.

***Summary of the key aspects of the RCA three year strategic plan for QR GCRF***

In order to position the RCA so that its researchers have a strong base of truly collaborative partnerships with DAC list countries and are well-equipped to proactively respond to international development needs, specifically in the areas identified by the UK Strategy for the GCRF, a key area of focus will be on capacity and capability building. Funding for networking and relationship building activities, for small-scale research and knowledge exchange projects to develop capacity and to lead to more substantial projects, and to support robust monitoring and evaluation methods for project outcomes, impact and ODA compliance will support RCA researchers to deliver collaborative high-impact ODA-compliant research and to confidently bid for external GCRF and other development-related research funding.

Our partnership with the British Council and our membership of the Crafting Futures Network will form a key part of the RCA's QR GCRF strategy and plans. The RCA already has an excellent relationship with the British Council and experience of collaborating with them on projects, and the QR GCRF funding will allow us to broaden and deepen our collaboration with the British Council through new research activities and to engage with a wider variety of their partners, developing relationships in new areas as well as strengthening existing relationships. The Crafting Futures Network, in particular, ties strongly into key areas of RCA strength and strategy and will provide a strong base for the RCA to build partnerships with DAC list countries and to collaboratively develop research projects which will address the challenges faced by craft communities and the threats to their craft practices and cultural assets. By using QR GCRF to match-fund

Crafting Futures projects with the British Council or other Network partners, we will be able to maximise the reach and impact of the research.

***QR GCRF activity within the RCA's broader strategy and priorities for all development-related research activity***

While the RCA has active and developing relationships worldwide with DAC list countries and has actively engaged in development-related research, this is 'business-as-usual' for the RCA in many respects. The QR GCRF funding and activity will provide a focus for the RCA's development-related research strategy and priorities, allowing us to consolidate and strengthen the RCA's partnerships, to push the boundaries of our current research activities, and to maximise impact.

***RCA QR GCRF activity and the UK strategy for the GCRF***

The RCA has a track record of research and knowledge exchange which is problem and solution focused with strong potential for impact built in from project inception. The QR GCRF-funded activity will allow us to build on this with a focus on ODA compliant activities which are intended to promote the economic development and welfare of DAC list countries as the primary objective. The RCA's research expertise and ambitions in areas such as user-centred and inclusive design align well with the UK Strategy for the GCRF's agenda for enabling change:

**Equitable access to sustainable development:** The RCA's track record in design for *health and well-being* and expertise in inclusive and user-centred design will lend itself well to this sustainable development goal. Between building on current partnerships and developing new networks, the RCA's approach to collaborative research and to responding to the challenges identified by users will lead to productive research in this area which has great promise for impact in DAC list countries. This is an area in which we would like to encourage engagement with GCRF funding, but we need to build capacity internally in order to be able to apply for large-scale GCRF funding.

**Sustainable economies and societies:** The RCA is one of the first members of the British Council's Crafting Futures Network, whose purpose is: to support craftspeople globally to have the ability to improve their livelihoods; to generate greater understanding and perceived value of craft within the sector, alongside developing new audiences and markets; to support the strengthening and development of the quality of creative practice and craft work globally; and to increase opportunities for people to learn, train and enter craft practice. Projects support practices and people through research, collaboration and education, and in Asia, the programme focuses particularly on generating opportunities for female artisans. As a partner, RCA will advise on the suitability of the programme, projects and the global context; support the development of creative content; identify external funding opportunities and lead on research grant applications where possible; and respond to opportunities to lead on project delivery in countries where opportunities arise. In addition to the opportunities presented by the Crafting Futures Network, the RCA also currently has a strand of research activity in the area of sustainable and ethical luxury, which includes research into areas such as ethically sourced gold and gemstones. This is an area where we are rapidly developing new partnerships and small-scale pump-priming projects which we plan to develop into large-scale GCRF funding proposals with high-impact potential.

**Human rights, good governance and social justice:** The Crafting Futures Network in particular will address this area of the UK Strategy for GCRF, with a focus on reducing poverty and gender inequalities. RCA researchers also have relationships with humanitarian aid organisations, which we would seek to strengthen through

GCRF-funded activity. One developing area of RCA research in this area is design for humanitarian aid, which the RCA will seek to support through QR GCRF funding.

***Development-related and GCRF strategies and the RCA strategy for using QR***

The wider institutional strategy for QR funding is focused on providing internal research infrastructure and support for research and knowledge exchange activities. This includes internal funding mechanisms for networking, capacity building, training, and small-scale research and knowledge exchange projects which will lead to more substantial projects (and proposals for external funding). **The Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation (RKEI) Strategy 2016-2021** supports the overall RCA Strategy 2016-2021, particularly Goals 2 and 3:

- **Goal 2** To create new knowledge in Art and Design through research and scholarship; the RCA will develop research centres in Material Science, Intelligent Mobility and Computer Science as part of this goal
- **Goal 3** To enhance knowledge exchange and foster innovation

The RKEI Strategy 2016-21 supports these goals, aiming to deliver a continuously improving research and innovation environment to ensure the College produces excellent research, provides an outstanding research environment that supports the career development of staff and research students, and makes a difference to the world by communicating its research findings and collaborating with academic and business partners across the globe.

In order to support the RCA Strategy 2016-2021, the RKEI Strategy states that we will deliver **research excellence** by:

- Developing our business and industry links, building on our existing relationships with global companies as well as our engagement with public and third sector organisations, governments and policy makers
- Ensuring strong support for research career development, across all career stages from research students to senior academic staff
- Providing support and training for staff to develop and complete high-quality research outputs that have demonstrable impact, and ensuring systems are in place to enable the gathering and reporting of robust evidence and data about excellent research outputs, research impact and the research environment

The RCA will also deliver **research, knowledge exchange and innovation leadership**:

We will continue to build a strong research culture across the College, which is distinctive because it is informed by a specialist environment, practice-led approaches and close collaboration not only across RCA Schools and Research Centres but also externally, with other HEIs and with those who use our research, including businesses and industry, public sector bodies and governments, museums and galleries, and community organisations. We will ensure the RCA continues to play a leading role in the art and design higher education sector, setting research and innovation agendas in our disciplines and being regarded as the pre-eminent institution in our field. We will build on our existing networks and influence in the sector, and we will establish new research collaborations with other HEIs and in other disciplines beyond art and design, and with cultural organisations, policy makers and global businesses eager to work with us, to enhance the quality and impact of our research and knowledge exchange, and to maximise funding opportunities. In order to support this strategic area, the RCA uses internal funds to support individual researchers to develop large-scale proposals for external funding, and to support strategically focused research activity such as establishing collaborations with external partners.

The RCA will also offer a **research environment that supports staff and students**. To achieve this, the RCA will build a strong research culture in which there are clear opportunities for research students and research staff at all career stages to undertake development and training to enhance their professional expertise and their experience, such as in developing and leading larger-scale research projects. We will:

- Work with Deans and other senior leaders in the Schools and Research Centres to facilitate cross-College research forums and symposia around agreed themes or questions, ensuring research students and staff are supported to engage.
- Coordinate proposals to large-scale funding calls, develop opportunities for interdisciplinary research across Schools and Centres, working with other HEIs and partners (including STEM) as appropriate.
- Expand the provision of training and professional development opportunities for research staff, raising awareness of national and international funding opportunities and how to generate high-quality research and KE proposals, and how to manage projects effectively as a principal investigator.

**International research and innovation:** Working in line with aims and values set out in the College's Industrialisation Strategy 2016-21, we will develop our international links in Europe and globally, in particularly focussing on links with countries in the Middle East, North Africa, South and East Asia and the USA, building on existing partnerships with leading universities.

The GCRF QR strategy will fall in line completely with our current approach to QR funding and will support similar activities, but with a focus on supporting GCRF and ODA-compliant research activities which are primarily focused on problems and challenges in DAC countries.

#### ***Barriers and enablers to implementing RCA QR GCRF strategy***

The RCA does not currently have any major externally-funded GCRF projects, so while not necessarily a barrier, this does present a challenge in developing appropriate support structures internally and developing researchers' understanding of GCRF requirements and ODA compliance. The RCA will likely need to provide more general training on GCRF and ODA-compliant research activities to some staff in order to prepare them to bid for GCRF QR funding and undertake ODA-compliant activities, which will be supported through the RCA's non-GCRF QR funding allocation. Another challenge will be to develop partnerships in new DAC list countries, particularly in the Least Developed and Lower Middle Income categories.

The Crafting Futures Network will be a fantastic enabler for implementing our strategy. British Council activity, by design, is ODA compliant, and we will learn a great deal by working closely with them to develop networking and GCRF and ODA-compliant research activities.

#### ***Key activities to meet RCA objectives***

RCA researchers have existing relationships with some DAC list countries, and the British Council Crafting Futures Network will provide an excellent gateway to developing deeper relationships with the DAC-list countries involved. However, much of the GCRF QR funding will be allocated to research activities which involve developing relationships and partnerships with new DAC-list countries. Internal GCRF funding schemes will include the following requirements and selection criteria:

- Specified DAC country for collaboration
- Nature of the collaboration/activity, including why and how the DAC country has been selected and how the RCA and DAC country researchers and partners have co-created the activity or project

- Development challenge being addressed, including why/how this challenge has been identified, how it will be addressed, and what expertise the RCA brings to the project; proposals will need to demonstrate they are promoting the economic development and welfare of the DAC country as their primary objective
- Details of the intended impacts, including how these will be translated into benefits for the DAC country

Successful proposals will of course be ODA-compliant, and priority will be placed on those proposals which involve Least Developed and LMIC countries as opposed to Upper Middle Income countries.

**Capacity & Capability Building:**

- Networking, building new partnerships and cementing partnerships with DAC list countries
- Establishing the RCA's collaboration with British Council and the Crafting Futures Network
- Funding for internal and external research events and training activities which involve specific DAC countries and their identified development challenges
- Funding for ODA-compliance support (administrative, monitoring and evaluation, reporting) for research activities and researchers

**Research, pump-priming and meeting fEC:** This will primarily fund ODA-compliant interdisciplinary and collaborative research activity as well as small-scale research and knowledge exchange activity leading to substantial externally funded research proposals to GCRF and Newton Fund calls. RCA-led research projects are likely to be small-scale in this phase, and we will be seeking to partner on larger GCRF projects; in these cases, QR GCRF will be used to meet fEC. We will also be using GCRF QR funds to match-fund projects with British Council as part of the Crafting Futures Networking where possible.

**Impact:** The RCA aims to maximise impact generated from our GCRF research, so where necessary, funding may be used to support the translation of research, although we expect projects to build in impact and the collection of impact data from the earliest stages. This could include funding for external consultants to support ODA-compliant projects to maximise impact and to provide support for impact evidence collection.

**Main DAC list countries which RCA will partner with**

**Least Developed:** *Myanmar*, Lao People's Democratic Republic, *Bangladesh*, Cambodia, Tanzania, Timor-Leste. **Lower Middle Income:** Ghana, India, *Viet Nam*, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Bolivia. **Upper Middle Income:** China, *Thailand*, Colombia, Peru, *Malaysia*, Brazil. (Countries in *italics* are included in the British Council Crafting Futures Network, with plans for Latin American countries to be added later.)

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

The RCA will record and measure the outcomes and impacts of the QR GCRF strategy and funding in order to inform future activity and strategy developments. **A key feature of all activities below will be monitoring and recording ODA compliance, which will include recording the DAC list countries involved, the development challenges being addressed, and progress towards addressing the development challenges.**

**Capacity and capability building**

- Research events and symposia: number delivered, attendance (including recording number of ECRs supported) and feedback

- GCRF research activity: number of internally and externally funded projects in development and in progress;

#### ***Pump-priming activities***

- GCRF research activity: number of internally funded GCRF projects leading to external funding proposals; number/value of external GCRF proposals in development; will track increase year on year
- Strengthening the challenge-led research and partnerships with DAC list countries: numbers, types and activities of partnerships/engagements across the RCA (e.g. HEI partners, industry partners, government, NGO, etc.)

#### ***Impact***

- Planning and recording: tracking impacts planned vs delivered to ensure focus of impacts are on challenges of the DAC list countries/partners; tracking types of impact (e.g. DAC country capacity building, impacts on specific development challenges); case studies on actual impact delivered and approaches to impact planning and evidence collection in RCA's ODA-compliant development-related research

#### ***British Council Crafting Futures Network***

- Network engagement: recording RCA participation in Crafting Futures Network and the kinds of activities; tracking impact of Network overall and RCA's engagement in particular
- Research projects: recording number, type and value of projects developed and delivered; recording impact of projects
- Economic impact: improving the livelihoods of those working in craft through improved skills and innovation, alongside the economic growth of the sector
- Social impact: tackling inequality within craft and improving the perceived value of craft and its practice (quantitative and qualitative)
- Cultural impact: preserving and developing craft practices and traditions which are under threat and ensuring younger generations can continue their use, development and innovation

### **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.

There will be three types of monitoring against the RCA's QR GCRF strategy:

1. **GCRF Strategy KPI monitoring:** The KPIs outlined above (see question 2) will provide a mechanism to monitor, evaluate and report progress against the RCA's QR GCRF strategy. We will use the KPIs as the basis for a data collection system which we will regularly update to enable us to continuously monitor and evaluate progress. The proposed case studies will also provide opportunities to share best practice internally.
2. **Master GCRF project tracker:** This will monitor and capture all internally GCRF projects and Crafting Futures Network projects and will provide an overview of all funded activity in development, active and completed.
3. **Individual project monitoring:** The British Council has developed robust documents and processes for monitoring ODA compliance and to capture project

impacts, which the RCA will adapt for use in monitoring QR GCRF projects. This will feed into the master GCRF project tracker.

The Research & Innovation Office will provide centralised support for activities funded through QR GCRF. The Research Data Coordinator (working with the Head of Research Development) will spend an estimated 2 days per month supporting the monitoring and compliance aspects of GCRF QR funding and ODA compliance as well as developing outcome and impact collection tools for researchers appropriate to GCRF-funded projects. The Research & Knowledge Exchange Administrator will spend an estimated 2 days per month supporting researchers who are undertaking GCRF research to ensure their research is compliant, that the correct data is being collected for reporting and evaluation, and to ensure research activities are ODA compliant. This will also include recording DAC list countries the RCA is engaging with as well as the nature of the engagement. The RKE Administrator will spend a further 2 days per month supporting the organisation and management of internal training and pump priming activities, working with the Head of Research Development. As the RCA's funded GCRF research activity grows, these members of staff will train additional administrative staff, particularly project administrators, about GCRF requirements and ODA compliance. Outputs (including open access status) will be monitored and recorded using the RCA Research Repository.

The RCA's partnership with the British Council and membership of the Crafting Futures Network provides the RCA with an excellent source of information and guidance with regards to ODA compliance. British Council's funding must, by its nature and design, be ODA compliant, and by engaging in collaborative activities with British Council, the RCA and its researchers will gain a great deal of knowledge and understanding of designing research that is ODA compliant, designing high-impact projects to address the challenges identified by our partners in DAC list countries, and monitoring and evaluation. The British Council's Centre for Excellence (Education and Society) has developed a toolkit for designing and planning projects which are ODA compliant and which have robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms. This toolkit has been shared with the RCA and will form the basis for our own approach to designing, monitoring and evaluation GCRF projects.

GCRF QR reporting will become a standing item on the RKEI Strategy Committee agendas. This Committee meets quarterly and is chaired by the Director of Research & Innovation, and through her, reports to the RCA's Senior Management Team, Senate and Council. This will ensure that GCRF monitoring and evaluation is embedded in the College's standard governance structures, and it will raise the profile of GCRF activity and ODA compliance requirements.

As the RCA is in a capacity building phase, we will keep our policies, procedures and approaches related to GCRF under review. As we build up a larger portfolio of projects, we will develop a better evidence base from which to draw lessons learnt, and we will review how RCA's activities measure against best practice to develop policies and support mechanisms as necessary.

## **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.

As the RCA is currently in a capacity and capability building phase, the majority of the activities and expenditure reported in Annex A2 are not focused on currently defined or active projects. Instead, they focus on providing opportunities for researchers to develop relationships and projects with DAC countries based on their development challenges and the RCA's research strengths, to develop a robust monitoring and evaluation system, and to produce high-quality impacts. (Please see **Q1 Key activities to meet RCA objectives** above for details on the selection criteria for proposals for GCRF QR funding which will ensure funded research activities and projects are ODA-compliant.)

The exception to this is the RCA's involvement in the British Council's Crafting Futures Network. The Network is currently being formed, but the British Council has clearly laid out the DAC countries currently involved (please see **Q1 Main DAC list countries which RCA will partner with**; please note Latin American countries will be included in the future), what the benefits will be to DAC list countries, and what the outputs and impacts of the Network will be.

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.

#### **Decrease in QR GCRF funding**

- Capacity & capability building will continue to be a key area, with a continued focus on providing support for researchers in ODA-compliance monitoring and evaluation. However, the scale of the activity and spend may need to decrease depending on the decrease in allocation. (ODA compliance: Capacity building activities will be aimed at building up small-scale research activities and projects to develop relationships with specific DAC countries focused on specific development challenges.)
- Pump priming activities will continue at a smaller scale, with particular focus on supporting small-scale research and knowledge exchange projects which will lead to substantial proposals for external GCRF/Newton funding. (ODA compliance: QR GCRF funds will be used to support activities that are aimed at developing collaborative, high-impact research projects with DAC list countries focused on specific development challenges. Projects will be funded from the QR GCRF allocation where they meet the ODA criteria of promoting the economic development and welfare of DAC list countries as their main objective.)
- British Council Crafting Futures Network will continue to be a key area of activity, although the RCA's capacity to match-fund research and other activities may be reduced. (ODA compliance: British Council-funded projects and activities are designed to be ODA compliant by nature. The Crafting Futures Network focuses on economic development and welfare of DAC list countries.)

#### **Increase in QR GCRF funding**

- The RCA would seek to build a London GCRF consortium of small, specialist institutions to encourage collaborative projects and sharing of resources (such as administrative support for monitoring and evaluation and reporting on ODA

compliance). This would enable a number of small institutions with relatively small QR GCRF allocations to pool their funding to maximise the reach and impact of their activities by working collaboratively with each other and with DAC list partners. The RCA would seek to set aside a portion of our QR GCRF allocation to focus on collaborative ODA-compliant research activities within this consortium. RCA and The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama began to discuss this, but given the limited amount of time available to develop the QR GCRF Strategy, it was not possible to establish the consortium at this time. Given additional funding, the RCA would be keen to explore this in more detail. (ODA compliance: All research and capacity building activities in this strand will be focused specifically on maximising the impact of QR GCRF funding in DAC list countries and to support researchers to develop larger-scale collaborative projects which will address economic and welfare development challenges identified by DAC list countries.)

- RCA would seek to increase activities in all priority areas as detailed above, particularly in the RCA's engagement with the British Council Crafting Futures Network.

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.

#### **Priorities**

- Capacity and capability building activities will continue to be a key area of RCA activity, with an increasing focus on funding ECRs to develop ODA-compliant research with DAC countries and, where appropriate, offer opportunities for post-doctoral research assistants and doctoral students to contribute to ODA-compliant research activities and projects with specified DAC countries. Doctoral students will also be encouraged to share their experiences with the wider RCA doctoral cohort through our established doctoral training forums. (ODA compliance: Capacity building activities will be aimed at building up small-scale research activities and projects to develop relationships with specific DAC countries focused on specific development challenges.)
- Impact will become more of a focus as activities and projects funded in 18/19 come to fruition. Where necessary, funding will be available to support translation of research into impact and to support impact evidence collection (ODA compliance: Impact support will be provided only for projects which are ODA-compliant in order to expand the direct benefits and impacts for the DAC countries and their development challenges..)
- Pump priming projects will continue to be a priority in this period, with a focus on developing deeper, more mature collaborations which will lead to large-scale, high-impact externally funded GCRF/Newton projects. (ODA compliance: QR GCRF funds will support projects, partnerships and networks in DAC list countries which focus on developing collaborative research focused on the develop challenges in those countries.)
- British Council Crafting Futures Network will continue to be a key area of activity for the RCA, with the intention that RCA's research activity and engagement in the Network will increase, in line with planned growth in the RCA's interdisciplinary research centres, particularly our Material Science Research Centre (see Question 1 above). (ODA compliance: British Council-funded projects and activities are designed to be ODA compliant by nature. The Crafting Futures Network focuses on economic development and welfare of DAC list countries.)

#### **Decrease in QR GCRF funding**

Priorities will remain the same as above, but funding levels for the following activities will need to decrease accordingly:

- Funding for capacity and capability building activities and projects will need to decrease accordingly, focusing on more mature collaborations and projects which will have more immediate impact. Pump priming activities will need to focus more on further developing existing relationships which can lead to substantial bids for external GCRF funding, with less funding for developing new relationships and small-scale projects.
- British Council Crafting Futures Network will continue to be a key area of activity, although the RCA's capacity to match-fund research and other activities may be reduced.

#### **Increase in QR GCRF funding**

The priorities will remain the same as above, but increased funding will allow the RCA to:

- expand the number of capacity building, pump priming and impact activities funded, and offering these opportunities to include doctoral where appropriate.
- increase the scale of funding for individual pump-priming activities, focusing on more ambitious projects and partnership building.
- increase match-funding for British Council Crafting Futures projects and activities.

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.

#### **Priorities**

- RCA engagement with the British Council Crafting Futures Network will continue to be a key area of activity, with the intention that RCA's research activity and engagement in the Network will continue to increase in line with planned growth in the RCA's interdisciplinary research centres, particularly our Material Science Research Centre (see Question 1 above). (ODA compliance: British Council-funded projects and activities are designed to be ODA compliant by nature. The Crafting Futures Network focuses on economic development and welfare of DAC list countries.)
- Pump priming activities will receive a larger percentage of GCRF QR funding, focusing on developing existing relationships and research to in order to prepare larger-scale, high-impact proposals for external GCRF funding. (ODA compliance: This will increase the size and scale of high-impact ODA-compliant research projects which promote the welfare and economic development of developing countries.)
- As in 19/20, funding for impact support will increase in focus as more projects mature and conclude. (ODA compliance: Impact support will be provided only for projects which are ODA-compliant in order to expand the direct benefits and impacts for the DAC countries and their development challenges. These activities will be aimed at improving the ability of researchers to undertake and disseminate research and research impacts to promote the welfare and economic development of developing countries.)
- The RCA will continue to encourage ECRs to engage with the internal GCRF capacity building and pump priming schemes and activities, including involving doctoral students as appropriate. (ODA compliance: as above for capacity building and pump priming activities.)

#### **Decrease in QR GCRF funding**

Priorities will remain the same as above, but funding levels for the following activities will need to decrease accordingly:

- Capacity and capability building will need to decrease in scale, with priority placed on pump priming activities which prepare more mature collaborations and research projects for submission to externally funded GCRF and Newton calls. British Council Crafting Futures Network will continue to be a key area of activity, although the RCA's capacity to match-fund research and other activities may be reduced.

**Increase in QR GCRF funding**

The priorities will remain the same as above, but increased funding will allow the RCA to:

- increase the scale of funding for pump-priming activities, focusing on more ambitious projects and partnership building.
- increase opportunities for doctoral students to be involved in GCRF capacity building and pump priming activities and projects.
- increase match-funding for British Council Crafting Futures projects and activities.