

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.

1.a. Institutional Strategy and Priority Objectives

Durham University has a long and established track record of delivering development-related research activity and has demonstrated a consistently strong institutional performance in securing Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF), Newton and Department for International Development (DFID) funding since 2016.

Positioned 4th in the UK in the 2017 Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, Durham is recognised as an exceptional research leader within the Higher Education sector. With a new Research and Engagement Strategy published in 2017 (<https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/strategy2027>), Durham is well positioned to deliver a growing portfolio of high quality development-related research and impact activity.

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

The new University Strategy (2017-27) includes several priority objectives which embrace development-related research activity; these are:

- Durham will produce and disseminate research that has a positive impact on global, national and regional challenges and which benefits culture, society, health, the economy and the physical environment.
- Durham currently has nine Research Institutes which lead the world in specific challenge-led research domains including Hazard, Risk and Resilience, Medical Humanities and Energy. As well as existing development-related research activity in these Institutes, part of the new Durham strategy includes committing to the creation of new Research Institutes framed around key global challenges.
- Durham is planning a net growth of academic staff by 330 posts between 2017 and 2027. Building on the Institution's strong portfolio of development-research related activity, a number of these posts will be placed in areas that feed into this wider development agenda.
- Durham adopts a strategic approach to the development of sustainable partnerships with overseas universities, research institutes and policy organisations with expertise in development-related research activity and with links to (and presence in) DAC-listed developing countries. This activity is supported by the recent appointment of a Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global), Professor Claire O'Malley, who takes responsibility for the strategic leadership and implementation of the University's international agenda.

Alongside these strategic objectives, from 2018-19 onwards Durham's development-related research activity also includes delivering a large portfolio of research activity currently underway and recently awarded. This comprises an array of projects, all of which receive proactive support including due diligence, partnership working and financial management. Durham has a robust set of governance and management processes for delivery of all research (including ODA-facing and non-ODA facing). These are embodied in institutional research policies (with associated guidance to support their practical implementation) and delivered through a common set of research management processes.

1.b. Key Aspects of the Three-Year Strategic Plan for QR GCRF

Building on Durham's body of development-related research and strong track record of achieving socioeconomic change, the three-year strategic plan for QR GCRF focuses on building capacity and generating new intellectual capital to sustain this activity (as shown in Figure 1). Following consultation with colleagues across Durham University (including PVC Research, GCRF Liaison Group and senior faculty representatives), we intend to deploy the HEFCE QR GCRF allocation(s) across three areas of activity:

- A Durham GCRF Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) will be formed that will support a cohort of postgraduate students undertaking eligible research.

- An International Development Manager post will be established to strengthen both pre- and post-award support for Durham's growing portfolio of development-related research.
- A GCRF challenge fund will be established to provide responsive-mode funding to small pump-priming and capacity building projects associated with Durham's portfolio of development-related research.

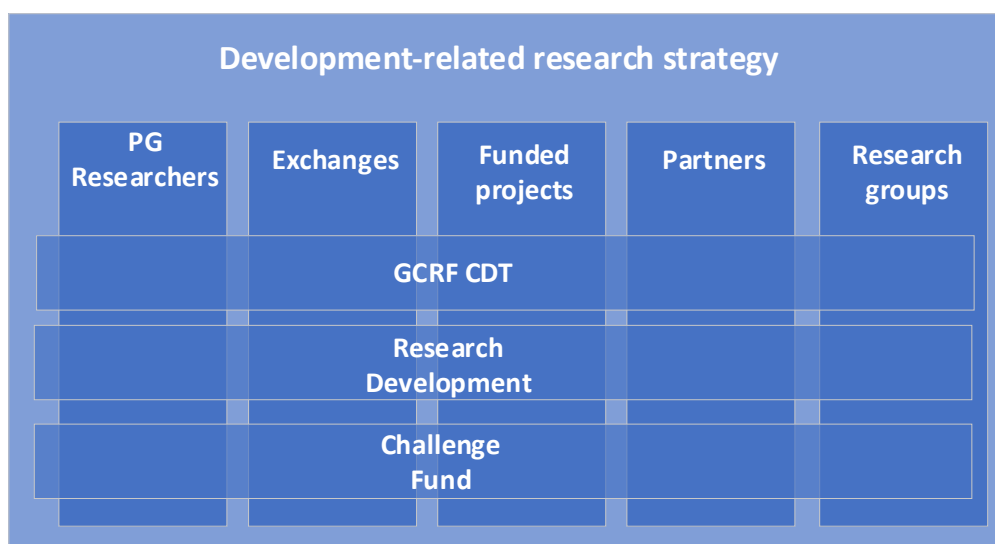


Figure 1: Current research practices and cross-cutting investments from GCRF QR.

These initiatives align with the overall objectives and four key requirements defined in the assessment criteria for the funding allocations. All studentships will be challenge-led, focused on issues faced by Development Assistance Committee (DAC) nation developing countries, with impact of the projects feeding directly into the overall GCRF mission of contributing to the welfare of developing countries. The financial model for these studentships will include in-country travel for empirical research and networking. The GCRF Challenge Fund will be used alongside the University's internal Research Seedcorn Fund to grow and support research ideas emerging from the studentships.

The International Development Manager will support academics undertaking research activity in this area, as well as developing and sustaining strategic partnerships that support development-related research. Equitable partnerships will be at the core of this programme and planned impact will be assessed throughout the duration of the funding to ensure that all activity directly supports and facilitates excellent research that contributes to the development and welfare of people in developing countries.

1.c. Alignment with Broader Institutional Strategy and Priorities

The activity outlined above maps directly onto Durham's broader strategy and priorities for development-related research activity. The University Strategy emphasises the importance of making investments in research areas in which Durham has world leading strengths, including additional support for studentships. The development of a GCRF

CDT will build significant research capacity in this domain. The cohort of funded students provides an 'engine room' to test ideas, undertake pilot research and develop collaboration to feed into ongoing research, whilst developing a generation of new researchers with relevant skills, experience and networks. Since the majority of GCRF funding schemes have not offered support for studentships, this approach provides a particularly distinctive capability and represents an opportunity for substantial returns through the development of intellectual capital and impact. Those trained will remain in the Durham University network and will continue to engage in follow-on research and operationalisation of research outputs to deliver in-country impact.

With the net addition of staff planned as part of Durham's strategy, we expect to be able to retain researchers in specific development-related research areas in order to build Durham's overall capacity to deliver such research. The International Development Manager post will support the identification and development of new equitable partnerships, which will enable more research with overseas DAC nation partners. They will also work with key external partners and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to ensure that research feeds directly into relevant pathways to impact, and to maximise potential for success in solving global challenges. In addition to their own primary responsibilities, the post will provide a critical bridge between professional service departments within the University to ensure more effective deployment of capabilities and resources to deliver development-related research activity.

The development of a GCRF Challenge Fund will enable Durham University (DU) staff to apply for flexible, ad-hoc funding to grow and test ideas, concepts and relationships emerging from postgraduate focused research into longer term and more expansive research projects in preparation for development-related research grant applications and work to translating research into practice in-country.

1.d. Alignment with the UK strategy for the GCRF

The Durham GCRF CDT and new International Development post feed directly into the UK strategy for delivery of the GCRF. These activities will support and facilitate internationally excellent research that directly contributes to the development and welfare of people in developing countries. The post will also help lever additional ideas, capacity and funding into research addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All activity will be specifically driven by the identified challenges faced by the relevant DAC-list nation(s) and scrutinised to ensure ODA compliance.

Studentship projects within the CDT will be framed around the three major themes of the strategy (Equitable Access to Sustainable Development, Sustainable Economies and Societies, and Human rights, Good Governance and Social Justice), and will be required to demonstrate how they feed into the UN Sustainable Development Goals (this will be a key assessment criteria).

Flexible funding from the Durham University GCRF Challenge Fund will support the growth of new research partnerships and exploration of ideas. This will also reduce the risk to future grant funding by enabling researchers to document (and, where appropriate, to formalise) networks and projects.

Durham University has a strong track record in securing funding for and successfully delivering development-related research. The institution has adopted a strategic approach to this agenda over a number of years and has gained extensive experience of working with a range of funders including DFID, GCRF and the Newton Fund. The HEFCE GCRF QR allocation will strongly support delivery of Durham's overall institutional GCRF strategy and mission.

1.e. Links to the Wider Institutional Strategy for QR

Durham University's Strategy (2017-27) is centred around producing and disseminating research that "has a positive impact on global, national and regional challenges and which benefits culture, society, health, the economy and the physical environment". This means that institutional investments in infrastructure, people and resources related to GCRF (and other development-related research) are directly aligned with the core research agenda across the Institution.

1.f. Key Risks, Barriers and Enablers to Implementation

We envisage that international students will comprise the majority of candidates for studentships within the GCRF CDT. Recruiting the first cohort by the start date of February 2019 presents a key risk to the success of the strategy, which will be mitigated by implementation of a robust communications strategy, alongside proactive collaboration with key partners who will provide support to find high quality candidates.

Following the decision by the University to support the development of a GCRF CDT, Durham colleagues have already started approaching international collaborators within DAC nations to notify them of the opportunity and to ensure that they can respond quickly to the call for applications, working towards the February 2019 start date for all students. We will also target communications towards existing MA/MSc students currently studying in Durham as well as international alumni.

Another risk factor relates to the potential variability in allocations of funding over the period of the proposed CDT. Our strategy has been planned on the basis of our indicative allocation for 2018-19, which allows for a certain number of studentships (with support for RTSG, and exchanges). Receiving a decreased allocation in subsequent years would have an impact on the funding model, but plans are in place to accommodate this eventuality as set out below.

The strategy period runs August 2018 to July 2021, whilst the studentships delivered through the proposed GCRF CDT will run from February 2019 to January / June 2022.

Therefore, although all funding will be allocated by the end of the funding period, some work will continue beyond this date. The majority of the research work and impact will be delivered within the strategy period and the interim (biannual) reporting will ensure that we are able to report and assess the success of the funding at the end of the three-year Strategy period in July 2021.

1.g. Key Activities to deliver Strategic Objectives

The bulk of our activity funded through this strategy will be the training and research activity associated with the Durham GCRF Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT). This new CDT will provide training for 15-20 predominately international students, and will provide them with advanced research skills, as well as established capability for working in an international development context. Projects taken forward as PhD studentships will be challenge-led, and cross-, multi-, or inter-disciplinary, given the nature of the challenges faced as part of this agenda. Each studentship project will have two supervisors representing different departments across Durham University.

As well as a core research project, students will access a wider training provision, tailored specifically to the programme and including input from external partners such as NGOs and experienced external speakers, alongside a wide programme of seminars and events. Students will be provided with RTSG (training) support, as well as additional funding to support an exchange as part of their project with an overseas DAC nation university. Using a CDT model provides us with the opportunity to include students who are affiliated with departments through their supervisors, but who work as a cohort within a truly challenge-led, multi-disciplinary environment. This model is focused on developing the skills and resources to tackle the global challenges at the core of the GCRF strategy. Training will include cohort-based interactive activities to share learning across the cohort and ensure research is 'greater than the sum of its parts',

The International Development Manager post will increase Durham's capacity to engage with the GCRF agenda, focusing on pre- and post-award support for research and impact activities. The post will work across support teams within the University including the Research Development team, Partnerships and Engagement team, and the International Office. They will take forward key strategic pieces of activity across the breadth of the University, including:

- Identifying and developing priority actions to increase researchers' capabilities for engaging with the GCRF agenda (this may include supporting new strategic partnerships with DAC nation universities, for example).
- Coordinating and providing training to academics and relevant support staff.
- Supporting the development of collaborative research projects with DAC nation partners (including where such projects are led by DAC nation partners).
- Facilitating interdisciplinary, challenge-led workshops (with overseas partners) in order to bring together colleagues and identify key areas of focus for future collaborative research activity.

A particular strategic focus will be to engage Durham researchers with those partners who are within the “Least Developed” category of the DAC nation list. This will be achieved through a variety of means (some of which are detailed above) but will also include working with key external partners. An example of this will be supporting Durham’s relationship with the New Partnership For Africa’s Development (NEPAD) - <http://www.nepad.org/content/about-nepad#aboutourwork>). NEPAD are the technical body of the African Union and have a number of responsibilities including; facilitating and coordinating the implementation of continental and regional priority programmes and project; mobilising resources and partners in support of the implementation of Africa's priority programmes and projects and conducting and coordinating research and knowledge management throughout Africa. The new post will help to take this partnership forward, working strategically with NEPAD to identify and establish new research partnerships and areas for potential collaboration, which feed directly into Africa’s priorities as a developing country. Strategic partnerships of this nature will enable Durham to more effectively work with overseas DAC nation partners, and in turn lead to an increase in collaborative, excellent research with significant impact that enables the promotion of the economic development and welfare of specific developing countries.

1.h. Target DAC list Countries for Delivery

Durham has a strong track record of engaging and working collaboratively with colleagues within various developing countries included on the DAC list. With our 17-18 HEFCE GCRF allocation, colleagues were supported to work across a number of countries including (for example) Nepal, Sudan, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Lebanon and Tajikistan. We would anticipate a similar breadth of activity with our 2018-21 allocations.

The list of specific developing countries that the projects will focus on will be determined through the process by which studentships are allocated to relevant departments and research areas. This will be documented in detail later in 2018, once students are recruited to the CDT. Selection of projects, including prioritisation of developing countries will be made on the basis of a thorough analysis of the alignment between Durham’s research strengths, current and future partnerships and development needs.

The International Development Manager, working with colleagues in Durham University’s Partnerships & Engagement team and International Office, will support emerging links with partners across a range of DAC-listed countries (including existing strengths and partnerships in Africa, Brazil, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Malaysia), meaning the focus will evolve and develop in response to the prevailing opportunities. It is crucial that the post provides support where it will have the most significant impact on the development of additional capacity to collaborate and conduct research with DAC nation developing country partners. Annual reports will include full details of engagement with specific countries included on the list.

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

The primary goal of this strategy is to increase Durham's capacity to engage with the GCRF and the wider ODA-agenda through a programme of training, capacity building, partnership and project development work. Figure 2 summarises the principal intended outcomes and impacts of our strategy to develop a GCRF CDT.

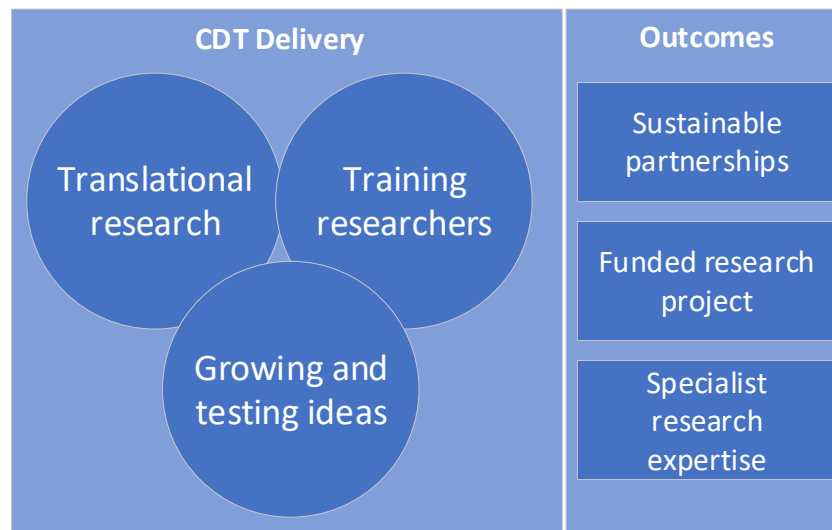


Figure 2: Delivery and outcomes associated with the new CDT

1. Producing a new generation of researchers from the GCRF CDT, building on Durham's excellence as a provider of PhD training and our success and reputation as a key collaborator in international development facing research. Students will develop outstanding research skills in conjunction with active partnerships, gained through exchanges with international ODA partners. They will also possess strong awareness of the impact agenda and valuable engagement skills developed through sessions delivered in collaboration with our NGO partners. This will enable the students to develop their careers in academia, or within a wider international development context, retaining a strong relationship with Durham that will lead to future collaborations and partnership working. Supervisors of the students will also benefit through additional partnerships and potential future collaborations (through outputs, grants, jobs etc.).

2. Increased engagement of Durham academics with the GCRF agenda, in order to increase international, interdisciplinary and collaborative research activity within the international development agenda. Academics will be able to access events and training run by the CDT, aimed at increasing awareness and skills of relevance to working in this area. Providing an opportunity to supervise such students will engage more academic colleagues within the GCRF arena. This is especially beneficial for early career colleagues, who may not yet be in the position to apply for GCRF funding, providing a platform from which to engage with overseas colleagues (through student exchanges) and through collaborative challenge-led research. Studentships represent an efficient, strategic and effective means through which to increase capacity with the GCRF and

wider ODA agenda across the institution. The International Development Manager will facilitate the programme of activity associated with the CDT, bringing colleagues into the GCRF arena who have not yet engaged through additional events, supporting partnership working, coordinating research workshops, and facilitating project development.

3. Increased collaborative grant activity and publications, working in collaboration with overseas developing country partners. Through the above detailed activity, the overall outcome will be an increase in the number of international collaborative projects, including additional high-quality applications to GCRF and other relevant funding sources including Newton Fund, UKRI and international schemes. We also expect to see an increase in joint publications with overseas partners in developing countries, alongside new strategic partnerships, (formalised through MoUs where appropriate) with universities within DAC nations.

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.

Durham has a comprehensive research governance model in place to effectively monitor and evaluate the progress and compliance of all activity supported through the QR GCRF allocations. Responsibility for monitoring of the programme lies with the Durham GCRF Liaison Group (LG), which will report to the University's Research Committee via annual reports, providing oversight and evaluation. The GCRF LG was established in 2016 in order to provide academic-led strategic leadership for Durham's engagement with GCRF. The group is chaired by Professor Louise Bracken, and membership comprises academics and professional service colleagues who work within the GCRF remit. This group provided oversight throughout the development of this strategy and will monitor and evaluate its delivery through the GCRF CDT and formation of the new International Development Manager role. Regular reports from the group will be presented to relevant internal committees (principally the University's Research Committee and Executive Committee) to ensure Durham is meeting the requirements of, and ensuring most effective use of, the HEFCE QR GCRF funding.

The Durham GCRF CDT will adopt a robust assessment procedure for all studentship applications, with an assessment panel including colleagues with significant challenge-led, GCRF and ODA research experience. Members of the Durham GCRF LG (mentioned above) will be part of the assessment panel with oversight of the allocation of the Durham GCRF CDT studentships, with the Chair of the LG also taking on Chair

responsibilities for the assessment panel. As part of establishing the new Durham GCRF CDT, we will internally advertise the position of academic lead for the initiative (Director) to allow open competition for this role. The successful candidate will be invited to join the GCRF LG if they are not already a member. This approach follows a similar protocol to that taken across other RCUK CDT Directorship positions. In anticipation of the time to advertise and recruit such an individual the current GCRF LG Chair will also chair the studentship assessment panel. Governance of the GCRF CDT will follow processes and practices established for existing doctoral training initiatives including NERC IAPETUS and ESRC NINE DTP.

At application stage, an ODA Statement will be requested alongside the core studentship application, using the same format as expected by research funders for all GCRF funding schemes. Whilst we do not plan to be prescriptive regarding the geographical spread of the studentships within the CDT, given Durham's track record with GCRF awards and other ODA relevant activity we anticipate that a wide range of DAC nation developing countries will be represented in the applications. In the instance where applications are being ranked, we plan to prioritise applications for those DAC nations within the "Least Developed Countries" column, given other opportunities (such as Newton Fund) to support DAC nations who are in a more stable financial position. Applications will also include, and be assessed on, potential outcomes and impacts.

Students recruited to the Durham GCRF CDT will be provided with similar supervisory arrangements as those funded through other routes and will attend regular progress and development meetings with their supervisors. Alongside these arrangements, we will also request six-monthly feedback reports from students (supported by their supervisors) not only to ensure progress is being made, but to monitor and confirm continued ODA compliance and to record project outcomes and impact. This monitoring process will also allow for additional support requirements (such as specific training, the need for new project partners etc) to be identified and addressed. These reports will be shared with the Durham GCRF LG, and constructive and detailed feedback provided to each student and supervisory team. Collating such reports for the Durham GCRF LG will also allow for shared issues to be identified, which can then feed into the overall training provision. Reports will contribute to the annual reporting requirements for HEFCE.

The primary focus of the International Development Manager post will be to increase Durham's capacity to engage in collaborative research with developing countries on the DAC list. Their activity will span the breadth of the University, and involve engagement with numerous projects and research areas, as well as partners across a range of DAC Nation countries. They will work closely with the Durham GCRF LG and the Durham GCRF CDT Director. This role provides a means to undertake a "sense check" on the ODA compliance for each project, to ensure that all activities meet the relevant criteria. We will retain records as to the specific outcomes of the post, including the support provided to partnership working, project development, training, and capacity building. This information will then be fed into the relevant annual internal and HEFCE reporting mechanisms.

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.

Studentships associated with the Durham GCRF CDT are yet to be allocated, and therefore specific details regarding their DAC nations of focus, benefits to these nations, and specific outputs and impacts are not available at this time. Full details will be captured and documented later in 2018.

The process to allocate studentships will include a rigorous assessment procedure, which provides robust ODA compliance checks and considerations. The panel that will oversee the allocation process have substantial ODA research expertise, as well as extensive experience as reviewers and panel members on GCRF funding calls and projects. We are therefore certain we will support projects which fully address ODA compliance criteria.

The International Development Manager will work across the University, supporting colleagues working in a number of DAC nations, which provide a range of benefits to these nations. Details are provided regarding anticipated outputs and impacts.

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.

Our priorities for use of the 2018-19 allocation include supporting a new International Development Manager post, as well as establishing a new Durham GCRF Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT).

The level of funding received determines the number of studentships that will be supported through the Durham GCRF CDT. If funding is increased, there will be an opportunity to offer additional opportunities for studentship projects. If funding was to fall, fewer / less well-resourced studentships could be supported.

The studentships will be allocated following a robust assessment procedure, with an assessment panel including colleagues with significant GCRF, ODA, international development research, and challenge-led, interdisciplinary experience. We will prioritise the studentship projects based on the following criteria;

1. Research Excellence
2. ODA Compliance
3. Fit to GCRF Strategy (Equitable Access to Sustainable Development, Sustainable Economies and Societies, and Human Rights, Good Governance and Social Justice)
4. Fit to UN Sustainable Development Goal(s)
5. Project Feasibility
6. Fit to Durham and Supervisors
7. DAC Nation Partner University (for exchange activity)
8. Outcomes, Impact and Legacy
9. Ability to grow ideas and relationships for future research

If funding provided was lower than the indicative allocation, applications will be ranked based on the above criteria and the appropriate number of studentships supported as part of the new CDT. Unsuccessful applicants will be supported and encouraged to explore alternative options for funding support.

As demonstrated in the attached table, as well as fees and stipend support, the proposed financial model includes significant levels of RTSG and placement funding, alongside support for travel and related costs, which will particularly benefit students from DAC nations. Additional funding for training and placements will be held and managed centrally (rather than simply allocated to students) and therefore if the funding allocation was to reduce in value, there will be a need to repurpose some of these funds to ensure fees and stipends can be fully covered. In this eventuality, we would explore other funding options to support additional activities such as exchanges. This funding could be sought from a range of sources, including Durham's Research Institutes, which provide

grants for such activity. Durham has a strong track record in securing support for studentships through Alumni giving and other philanthropic sources; if faced with a decreased allocation of GCRF QR, we will explore the possibility for additional support from donors.

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.

Cohort activities in the second year of the GCRF CDT will focus on growing the skills of researchers and supervisors to ensure successful completion of in-country empirical work and the development of active networks and partnerships. Activities will be designed to ensure that learning and expertise are shared between the cohort to feed into training and growing the capacity of researchers. At this stage, the priority milestones associated with the GCRF CDT are as follows:

- Delivery of training across themes that will include examining the ethics and philosophy of development-related research, undertaking interdisciplinary and challenge-led research and developing participatory research skills.
- Capture of empirical data sets generated from the training and research activity to support dissemination and promotion of activity and that will provide an insight in to progress.
- Ongoing regular auditing for ODA compliance in line with existing University practices and policies.
- Growth in active networks and partnerships developed in-country to provide an integrated network of researchers and research users (including policy makers, practitioners and thought-leaders), further informing research themes and priorities.
- Delivery of capacity-building activities to allow the cohort to learn and share experience, this will make use of online technologies, thematically-focussed in-country workshops and opportunities for the cohort to meet in the UK.
- Knowledge transfer activity between the cohort and in-country partners will develop research skills which will further strengthen the impact of the research activity.

Cohort activities will ensure that expertise and learning from delivery of this strategy will be embedded in research practice across the University, further strengthening the ability of Durham University to undertake development-related research. Such a model has been successfully adopted in the Action on Natural Disasters cohort of PhD students supported by the Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience (IHRR) and funded by philanthropic donations. This cohort comprises four PhD students and will be used as a small-scale pilot exercise to inform design of the GCRF CDT.

If increased funding is allocated in 2019-20, this would allow for the implementation of additional ODA-compliant activities, delivered as projects funded by the Challenge Fund

and in support of the Durham GCRF CDT. Depending on the level of funding, this could include additional training provision, external speakers and seminars, additional international exchanges with DAC nation partners to build further capacity, or new NGO placement opportunities.

Any new activity will be proposed to the relevant governance bodies within Durham University (including the original panel who assessed the studentship applications) to ensure that decisions are made by those with relevant knowledge and expertise in the domain of GCRF and ODA research. The aim will always be to ensure that funding is deployed as effectively as possible, with a particular focus on the promotion of the economic development and welfare of those DAC nation countries engaged in funded projects. Any decrease in funding will reduce the resources available for projects supported by the Challenge Fund and for cohort activities such as training engagement in support of the GCRF CDT. In the event that activities are scaled-back, alternative funding sources (originating from within and outside the University, including philanthropy) will be sought to ensure delivery of the outcomes of the programme.

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.

Table 1 provides an overall summary of the anticipated activities and outcomes delivered across the three key strands of this strategy. Cohort activities in the final year of the CDT will focus on translating research into impact via practice and policy within DAC listed countries in areas that map onto the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Working with our network of in-country partners and with specialist training for the CDT cohort, a range of co-production activities will be delivered with outputs that include new toolkits, grey literature and academic articles. These activities will be delivered both within individual research projects and collectively across the cohort of students.

The exact nature of these activities will depend on the research focus of the studentships supported by the CDT. The overall objective is to ensure that the CDT produces both project-related impact and cohort-related impact to embed and sustain capacity to undertake development-related research and innovation within both the UK and developing countries.

Projects funded by the Challenge Fund will be formally evaluated and documented. Targeted efforts will be made to secure follow-on funding to ensure sustainability research activities, to embed research outputs into policy and practice and to optimise the significance and reach of the impact arising from the funded work. The International Development Manager will lead on these activities, supported by members of Durham's Partnerships and Engagement team.

	GCRF CDT	Research Development	Challenge Fund
PG Researcher	Development and sharing of best-practice; increase in quality and impact of research	Support in applications for PG funding, leading to growth in activity	Opportunity to embed research results to deliver SDGs through economic growth, policy and practice change
Exchanges	Opportunities for two-way knowledge exchange will be developed	Further funding accessed in order to support increase in demand	Increased opportunities for exchange activity for early careers researchers
Funded Projects	Follow-on projects will be developed and funding secured	Growing numbers of academics engaging in development-related research; special interest groups formed	Increase in number of projects receiving significant research funds as a result of initiating activity via the GCRF Challenge Fund
Partners	Collaborations will form across partners, leading to knowledge exchange and impact	Strong collaboration will underpin research, yielding a direct in-country impact	Growth in the number and value of strategic in-country partners, including NEPAD
Research Groups	New research groups and topics will emerge from the research funded through this programme	Increase in number of research groups engaged in development-related funding and activity	Novel activities will be pursued, de-risked by the availability of funds to support innovative research and methodologies

Table 1: Summary of activities and outcomes across three key strands of the Development-Related Research Strategy

If additional funding is allocated in 2019-20, this would allow for the implementation of additional ODA-compliant activities, delivered as projects funded by the Challenge Fund and in support of the Durham GCRF CDT. If funding is reduced in this year, there may be some reduction in support these activities, although in this eventuality additional financial support will be sought from alternative sources including philanthropic donations to ensure that the GCRF CDT and associated projects deliver their full potential.