

## 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

### 1. Institutional Strategy and Priority Objectives

The University of Exeter Strategy 2016-2021 sets out our goal *to use our collective talents to shape our future world and find innovative solutions to the challenges faced by humankind.*

We seek to create greater understanding of complex challenges, share knowledge with others, and, in so doing, to discover new possibilities. Development-related research activity, including GCRF research, is core to this vision and to our institutional ambition, which is truly global and challenge-orientated. We will achieve our vision through:

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

- Building research power to solve global challenges;
- Delivering an internationally excellent education;
- Creating an impact regionally, nationally and globally;
- Supporting our people to make the exceptional happen:
- Making the most of our resources.

Each of these is articulated and embodied through our three year **Development and GCRF Strategy**, which sets out the ways in which the University of Exeter is creating an environment that enables transformative research that addresses the problems faced by developing countries. The activities funded through Exeter QR GCRF fit with our broader strategy and priorities for all development related research activity. Also, at an operational level, our approach builds upon current structures to ensure that activities are assessed for ODA compliance before spend and via monitoring and reporting.

Our world faces many challenges, including: improving health, securing our food and water supplies, and making a positive impact upon environmental changes, global conflicts and terrorism. World-class research can make real inroads into finding solutions for these and other issues.

We have proven strengths in interdisciplinary research and use a variety of means to bring together academics from different subject areas to tackle a problem in the round. We are also committed to engaged research at all levels – from the development of our strategy through to individual projects. Our commitment to working across boundaries in this way is exemplified through our University Institutes (the Environmental Sustainability Institute, the Living Systems Institute, and the Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Institute) each of which brings together research excellence with a challenge-led research at a global scale. Our ambition is to further strengthen our research capability through collaborative working, including building upon the collaborations we have with other organisations around the world.

The University of Exeter Development and GCRF Strategy enacts the principles set out in the **UK Strategy for the GCRF**, with its three core priorities, which are aligned to our institutional Research and Impact Strategy:

- To promote challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, including the participation of researchers who may not previously have considered the applicability of their work to development issues.
- To strengthen capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange in the UK and developing countries through partnership with excellent UK research and researchers, including through highly capable and trained professional service staff in support of development research.
- To provide an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need, with an infrastructure in place to enable swift yet rigorous decision-making and with support that can be mobilised around teams undertaking this work.

Our core institutional strategies shape our investment plans across the institution. The University ensures that QR income flows to both disciplinary and interdisciplinary units, in line with the quality of their research and the HEFCE grant letter along with the costs of undertaking research. It is managed through our income distribution model. Within this overarching framework, we ensure that funding that is targeted for particular outcomes is rigorously assessed to ensure that activities are appropriate and of the highest quality, and that outcomes are proactively monitored. For our GCRF QR, we will be following these principles; ensuring that all involved are fully aware of ODA-compliance requirements; that activities are reviewed prior to spend; and that outcomes are monitored and reported upon at regular intervals.

## **2. University of Exeter Development and GCRF 3 Year Strategy - Summary**

The University of Exeter's GCRF strategy is built upon the core pillars of our Institutional Strategy around research and impact and global partnership. Across those pillars, we have committed to supporting cutting-edge research which seeks to address, and find solutions for, pressing global challenges. We will do this through three core priorities and two enabling priorities:

### **Core Priorities**

#### **A. Promote challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research to address Global Challenges**

The University of Exeter recognises that the UN Sustainable Development Goals provide a sound strategic framework for GCRF research. We have undertaken a wide-ranging mapping exercise to analyse the areas in which our research excellence positions us well to contribute to the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Areas of considerable strength and in which Exeter will continue to invest research power include; Secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable agriculture; Sustainable health and well-being; Clear air, water and materials; Renewable energy and materials; Resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change; and Reducing conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action.

The University of Exeter also recognises that growing people-based capacity and capability to undertake ODA-eligible research is vital for ensuring sustained engagement with this challenge-led research agenda. Our mapping exercise has also helped us to identify, and respond to, opportunities to expand and grow our research excellence. We will do this by:

- Continuing to support and to develop existing ODA-eligible research across all career stages both in Exeter and in partnering with developing countries by providing financial support and resources for research activities which are explicitly challenge-led and ODA-eligible
- Working with researchers both at Exeter and in developing countries who may not necessarily undertake challenge-led or ODA-eligible research at present to explore opportunities where this might be possible through training and seed-corn funding

## **B. Develop and strengthen capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange in the UK and developing countries through mutual partnership**

The University of Exeter recognises that equitable developing country partnerships are vital to ensuring meaningful and appropriate research, impacts and outputs. We will continue to develop, strength and maintain developing country partnerships through:

- Our academic research community. Our extensive and continuously ongoing mapping exercise identifies the depth and breadth of co-creative partnerships our research community has with developing countries linked to one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our Exeter faculty link up with universities and partners around the world ensuring continuous engagement with issues of global importance.
- Leveraging GCRF support for our academics and partners from our Innovation, Impact and Business (IIB) directorate. IIB enables the University's world-class research and education to make a real difference in society by creating opportunities for collaborations with a range of organisations, from businesses to NGOs to community groups, supporting academics to generate research impact and to drive place-based innovation. IIB has a dedicated Impact and Partnership Development Manager who is responsible for supporting activities and partnerships associated with international and sustainable development.

## **C. Provide an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need**

Exeter has significant research strengths in areas across the health, natural and social sciences that are relevant to solving emergencies and disasters. Disasters have a devastating social, economic and physical impact on developing countries, hamper long-term development plans and require rapid response research that forms a vital part of the emergency and disaster response in developing countries. Our research can also contribute to shaping the broader humanitarian and policy responses to such emergencies by working with other stakeholders in the disaster and humanitarian sector. We recognise the significance of providing an agile response to emergencies and as such, we will retain at least 10% of our funding to support our rapid response to these emerging needs.

## **Enabling Priorities**

### **D. Increase awareness of GCRF within both research and professional service staff**

The nature of the GCRF agenda means that it differs from more conventional funding streams is fast paced, and requires an agile academic and professional services response.

At the University, we recognise that this requires appropriate dissemination of GCRF information and bespoke training for both the research and professional services community. Increasing awareness of GCRF is collaboratively led by a dedicated the GCRF professional service team and GCRF Strategy Group.

### **E. Increase the volume and quality of applications submitted to GCRF calls and to other funding streams supporting challenge-orientated research in DAC countries**

University of Exeter aims to increase both the number of applications submitted to GCRF funding calls and the quality of these proposals. To increase the volume and quality of applications a number of steps will be implemented:

- Mapping the possible GCRF community at Exeter to ensure appropriate individuals and groups can target funding opportunities wherever possible
- Engaging in discussions with GCRF delivery partners about future funding opportunities to ensure appropriate mobilisation of relevant academic communities
- Conducting rigorous internal review processes through our internal GCRF College of peer reviewers to ensure that only high quality applications with tangible developing country benefits are being submitted for funding
- Providing specialist research projects delivery support around problem and solutions focused research, positive in-country impacts and ODA compliance

### **3. Barriers and Enablers**

GCRF, and wider funding for development research, presents significant opportunities for universities to deepen their activities in partnership with organisations in developing countries to deliver research that benefits those countries and creates global impact. The University of Exeter is mindful that working in these areas brings both opportunities and challenges, and our Development and GCRF Strategy is reflective of this fact. Our planned activities acknowledge both the challenges and opportunities, to enable the University to fully engage and deploy its resources effectively in order to develop and deliver impactful, transformative research.

**Academic Preparedness and Support Required:** The full potential of our research base to develop and deliver Development and GCRF research activities is yet to be achieved. Therefore, across the academic community, there is a wide range of preparedness and levels of engagement. Some academics already working on ODA relevant research have existing and strong relationships with partners in developing countries and are therefore able to fully respond to calls and opportunities, and to take forward projects. Other academics, whose research aligns with GCRF, need to build partnerships to be competitive and to be positioned to co-design projects that address developing country problems. Preparedness is also required across the professional teams working with researchers to identify, develop and deliver these research activities. We have strong teams who have been introducing training and tools to support this activity, but their capability and capacity needs to be extended.

**Timelines and Timescales:** GCRF is delivered by a range of Delivery Partners, each of whom need to adhere to particular timelines in their management of funding

opportunities. As a consequence, calls are often launched simultaneously and with short deadlines. This emphasises the need for preparedness, as above, but also highlights the importance of pump-priming activity, particularly given that little time is available to develop partnerships around specific calls. Partnership building can be in part supported by other routes such as Institutional Awards and Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAAs), but GCRF-targeted pump-priming is essential to really enable the right partnerships to become established.

**Multidisciplinarity:** Development and GCRF research is often centred around multidisciplinary solutions at the interface between different research challenges, disciplines and funders. Such projects are complex to deliver and monitor both from the academic perspective in undertaking the research but also from a professional services and project management perspective. Working across traditional boundaries is at the core of Exeter's institutional mission, but does require targeted support, both funding through pump-priming and also professional facilitation.

**Mutual Partnerships:** Mutual partnerships are key to the success of GCRF. In addition to developing partnerships between UK-based academics and partners in developing countries, increasing emphasis is being placed on partnerships that include businesses, (both UK and in developing countries), charities and NGOs (both UK and in developing countries). Developing such partnerships can be challenging and time-consuming, and a new territory for some researchers.

**ODA Compliance:** Research activities will all need to align with ODA compliance and for this to be assessed as stage one. The nature of projects undertaken will differ in: scale; activities; partnership / consortium requirements; funding modalities. They will also require different professional support, including ODA guidance and monitoring. Both academics and Professional Services staff need to ensure that bids are structured, assessed and undertaken appropriately. For the longer term sustainability of our Development and GCRF activity, this expertise and understanding needs to be embedded within teams.

**Due-diligence:** The responsibilities for ensuring due diligence infrastructure is in place to support all Development and GCRF activities are significant and essential. The University of Exeter has proactively established and strengthened overarching policies and procedures, to enable this, and has identified appropriate levels of professional service expertise. However this expertise and capacity needs to be extended in line with the breadth of the portfolio of activities being undertaken.

Our understanding of these barriers and enablers to implementation have shaped our Strategy Activities (which are set out below, along with planned spend for 18-19 in each case). The activities span our core and enabling priorities, to ensure that we have both the underpinning capabilities and the direct research activities appropriately resourced.

#### 4. Overview of the Exeter GCRF Strategy Activities and Spend

Based on our strategy and our recognition of the challenges of implementation, as set out above, our GCRF Strategy Group and Research and Impact Executive Group have identified the following planned activities to deliver our Development and GCRF Strategy:

**Activity 1: Pump-priming activities** to underpin GCRF and Newton Fund bids to other funders, including relationship building, enacted through a managed Facilitation Fund with application process (18-19 planned spend: £150K). This will build from the success of our Facilitation Fund in 17-18, which was overseen by our GCRF Strategy Group. Based on our analysis of activities to date, it will also promote specific growth in areas relation to interdisciplinary working and deep partnerships with LMICs. We will additionally provide targeted guidance on risk assessment and management to applicants to support the emergence of novel areas and partnerships, but based around a robust platform to ensure both compliance and deliverability of activities.

**Activity 2: Enhancing the sustainability of ODA research activity** through meeting the full economic costs of eligible research funded by other GCRF delivery partners (18-19 planned spend: £270K).

**Activity 3: Increasing challenge-led research capacity and facilitating interdisciplinary ODA research activity with developing country partners**, including broader capacity and capability at Exeter and in developing countries, through; visiting fellowships; LMIC-focused PhD studentships; dedicated academic investment in Development research, including through the creation of new academic appointments in interdisciplinary and challenge-orientated University Research Institutes, such as our new Global Systems Institute (18-19 planned spend: £250K). We will ensure that those colleagues aligned with our Development and GCRF Strategy will become champions for this activity and will have an advocacy and senior mentoring responsibility for researchers across the institution engaging in GCRF activities.

**Activity 4: Maximising opportunities for positive in-country social and economic impact** to translate research into sustainable social and economic impact that promotes economic development and welfare in developing countries through impact and partnership officer, impact acceleration and case study development support (18-19 planned spend: £100K)

**Activity 5: A rapid response to emergencies fund**, where there is an urgent research need and research, from a clear base of research excellence, can be mobilised rapidly (18-19 planned spend: £100K). An emergency response panel will be prepared and equipped, including with risk assessment and monitoring understandings, to make immediate decisions around the distribution of these funds.

**Activity 6: Underpinning capabilities** and momentum to facilitate Development and GCRF research, including research projects delivery specialist support, ODA and due

diligence compliance, monitoring and reporting of outcomes (18-19 planned spend: £79K). This includes: a full-time GCRF Manager and dedicated Due Diligence support.

Each of the activity categories above will be overseen by the governance structures supporting our Development and GCRF Strategy. This will include assessment of proposed activities, outcomes and impacts by the GCRF Strategy Group, against set criteria, as detailed under answer 3, below.

We envisage that this portfolio of activities will span our 3 year strategy, subject to funding. The proportion of spend focused on capability development will decrease over the 3 year period, reflecting our embedding of these skills in the wider professional services. This will enable an increase in spend on challenge-led research activity with partners, which we expect to grow, as our Development and GCRF Strategy is enacted and our partnerships strengthened. Planned spend for 18-19 is shown above, in brackets (and this is set out in full in Annex A2). Our approaches to spend for 19-20 and 20-21 are shown below.

## **5. Main DAC list Country Partners**

The University collaborates extensively with countries on the DAC list. According to recent mapping work, researchers at the University have research partnerships with around 60 different countries on the DAC list which are geographically spread across the LMICs to UMICs.

There are particularly high concentrations of research partnerships and activities in countries such as: Tanzania, Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Brazil, Kenya, South Africa, Mali, Bangladesh, Colombia, Mexico, India, Bolivia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Thailand and China. These research activities all cut across one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We will continue to build on these pre-existing collaborations but will explore further opportunities for partnerships with DAC countries where there may be a particular research and/or development need. Our GCRF Strategy includes an explicit recognition of the prioritisation of a rapid response programme of activity, which will likely lead to emerging and deepening partnerships.

Figure 1 highlights the range of ongoing projects and partnerships with DAC countries and illustrates a number of live GCRF and ODA research projects which are taking place.



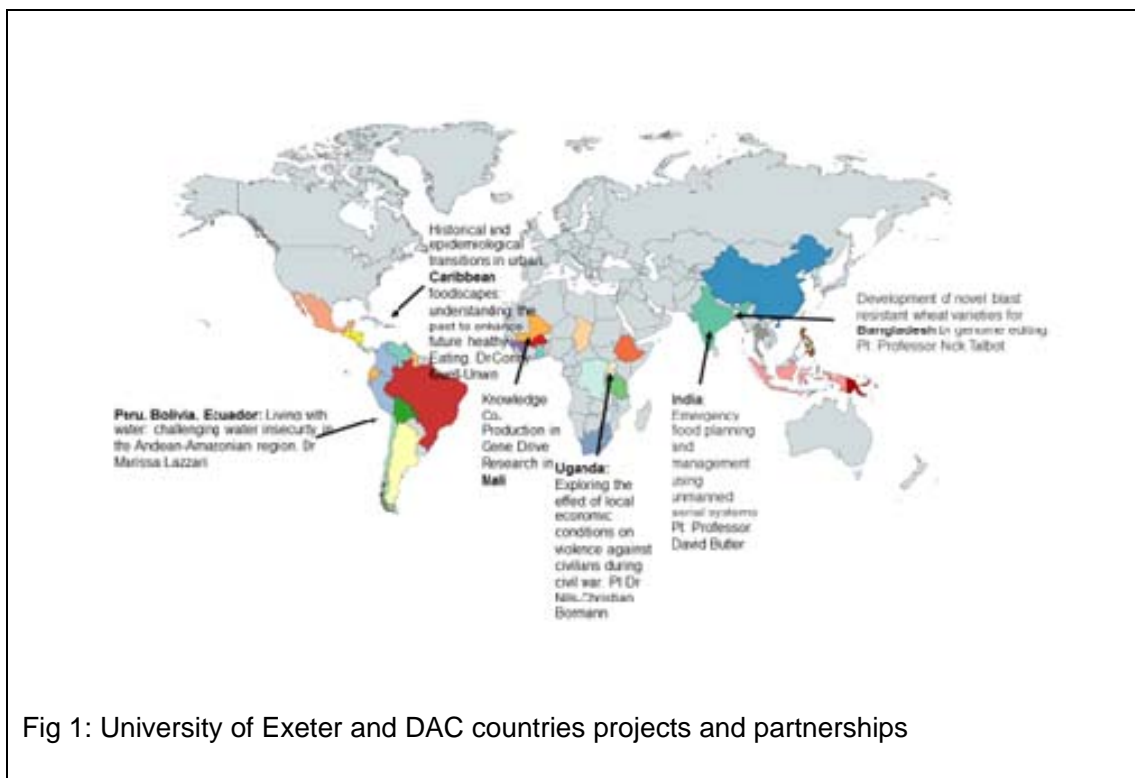


Fig 1: University of Exeter and DAC countries projects and partnerships

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

Maximum 500 words

The Exeter Development and GCRF Strategy is designed to lead to specific and measurable outputs (short-term), outcomes (medium-term) and impacts (longer-term), set against 17-18 baselines. It is also built around the principle of having clear pathways and processes to manage complexities around these:

- Output: To have recognised and established academic leadership in Development and GCRF research through our GCRF Strategy Group, with an expanded disciplinary base and incorporating a portfolio member covering Compliance, Governance and Risk.
- Output: To have accessible, efficient, effective and ambitious pipelines to developing GCRF research activities, including through a rapid response emergencies fund and a pump priming fund.
- Output: To have expert professional services support post-holders in Development and GCRF activity, spanning; Research; Innovation and Impact; and Compliance and Ethics.
- Outcome: To increase the number of researchers engaged with Development and GCRF research activity by 30%.
- Outcome: To increase our overall Development and GCRF research portfolio over the next three years by 40%.

- Outcome: To increase the number of joint publications with DAC country collaborators.
- Outcome: To have best practice in professional support for development and GCRF research, and be contributing to RCUK / UKRI networks in this area.
- Impact: To establish a Global Systems Institute, which will be thought-leading in understanding global changes, solving global challenges, and helping create a flourishing future world together, through transformative research and education.
- Impact: To expand our map of collaboration with DAC countries and build strategic partnerships of mutual learning and impact with DAC country institutions.
- Impact: To have an emerging suite of clear Development impacts in DAC countries, evidenced through clear impact case-studies, with demonstrable change pathways, developed in partnership with those DAC countries.

The focus of our Strategy is also on the broader qualitative outcomes of our contribution towards research agendas for enabling change and the SDGs to improve the lives and opportunities of the global poor. Additional, qualitative indicators will include; membership and influence in development and challenge-focused networks; review and feedback of projects and applications; %. success rates of grants submitted for funding.

### 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.

Maximum 1,500 words

#### **Governance Structures:**

Exeter's overarching ODA and GCRF strategy is owned through our **Research and Impact Executive Group (RIEG)**; it is coordinated through our **GCRF Strategy Group**, and is enacted across our **academic and professional services communities**.

**RIEG** (Chair: Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research / Director of Research): The RIEG supports and advises the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Impact on matters relating to the management and strategic direction of the University's research, impact and innovation. The Group is responsible for developing and delivering the Research and Impact Strategy, one of the sovereign strategies in support of delivering our institutional strategy, and maintaining an oversight of other associated strategies where appropriate. The Group is governed through and reports into Dual Assurance for Research, Impact and Business. RIEG provides governance of our GCRF QR spend, receiving regular recommendations and monitoring reports from the GCRF Strategy Group. This is established practice, that will be built upon from 18-19 onwards to provide full oversight of the Exeter Development and GCRF Strategy.

The **GCRF Strategy Group** (Chair: Professor Brian Rappert): consult and explore the GCRF portfolio, both internally and externally. This Group was established in 2016 and group comprises 15 academics, drawn from across all six of Exeter's interdisciplinary colleges, together with members of Research Services, Impact, Innovation and Business and Global Partnerships. The Strategy Group oversee the high-level priority objectives in place to ensure necessary proactive engagement and responses to the GCRF agenda and to ensure that Exeter's high-quality research is being utilised where there is a significant development need. They play a key role in reviewing proposals for spend of GCRF QR through our current GCRF Facilitation Fund. They will continue this peer review role in 18/19, by considering applications, making recommendations, and monitoring outcomes from spend. The Group will include professional service support to provide advice and guidance to the decision-making processes, including the GCRF Research Projects Manager and the Research Ethics and Governance Manager.

#### **Reporting and Monitoring:**

The monitoring in place will enable the university to provide a breakdown of the previous year's QR GCRF allocation, with evidence of the assessment of ODA compliance and a clear illustration of the progress against our strategies. This will be provided in the following ways:

The GCRF Strategy Group, supported by a GCRF Research Projects Manager, will require **applications for use of the funds**, which will be assessed against the following criteria:

- ODC compliance
- Research excellence
- The need and the changes the funded activity will make to address this need
- Appropriateness and feasibility (including resources and risks)
- Alignment with the Exeter Development and GCRF Strategy
- Capacity and partnership building, including geographical distribution of collaborations
- Planned outputs, outcomes and impacts

Applications will be sought from across the institution and will be promoted through the Strategy Group and through established research development teams. Full guidance will be provided to all professional services staff supporting these activities to ensure eligibility of proposals and spend.

The GCRF Strategy Group will report on applications and funding allocation to the Research and Impact Executive Group twice per year. This report will be shared with the University nominated contact for GCRF Due Diligence, Research Ethics and Governance Manager, who is part of our Compliance, Governance and Risk Directorate.

The GCRF Strategy Group will request **reports** (annual in the case of activities lasting longer than 12 months) identifying:

- Continued ODA compliance

- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Economic and social impacts
- Established partnerships, including geographical distribution of collaborations
- Evidence of progress against the institutional Development and GCRF Strategy.

The reports will be considered against the original applications in each case.

The GCRF Strategy Group will report to the Research and Impact Executive Group on funded activities twice per year. This report will be shared with the University nominated contact for GCRF Due Diligence, Research Ethics and Governance Manager.

**Case-studies** will be developed from these reports and will be shared across the academic community to illustrate best practice.

The GCRF Strategy Group will produce an annual summary of progress against our institutional Development and GCRF Strategy, including a geographical mapping of our supported activities. This will draw upon the reporting from individual activities, and will be supported by a GCRF Research Projects Manager. This report, and its discussion at the Research and Impact Executive Group, will be used to shape our planned activities, and spend, for the future years, allowing us to ensure our profile of activity evolves.

**Compliance:**

The University seeks to promote the highest standards of scientific, scholarly and professional integrity and to give due consideration to the ethical, social and environmental issues arising from its activities. The University has developed an institutional Due Diligence Policy. It has already undergone extensive consultation, in particular through our Compliance Governance & Risk Advisory Group. It has been considered by our Vice Chancellor's Executive Group in March and will be considered through our Council in April.

Sat beneath our policy are a range of tools that are used by our professional services teams in support of development and GCRF activity. This includes a Due Diligence Report Template and a Due Diligence Exercise that supports our approach to working with new partners.

Our Development and GCRF strategy includes supporting key roles that will be responsible for working with the academic community and our partners in providing project delivery support, including monitoring that Due Diligence and Compliance is in appropriate and continuous, including through GCRF Research Projects Management support and Compliance and Ethics support.

## 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.

Maximum 200 words

The table in Annex A2 has been completed through collaboration between the GCRF Strategy Group, Research Services and Finance Services, reflecting upon the ODA compliance of each listed activity, alongside its fit to the Exeter Development and GCRF Strategy. It has been approved, along with the Strategy, through the Vice Chancellor's Executive Group.

Annex A2 shows planned spend against our 6 Strategy Activities (as outlined above) based on the indicative HEFCE GCRF QR allocation. In the case of Activity 2 (top up to 100% fEC), it is modelled using application data and targets, set against assumed success rates.

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.

Maximum 500 words

An increased funding allocation would enable the University to take a key coordination role in relation to brokering GCRF activity, in coordination with key partners through GW4 and in the region, to provide efficiencies of approach, exchange of best practice and mobilisation of opportunities.

Should the University receive an increase in GCRF QR funding, our key priorities will be to:

- 1) Increase GCRF research capacity through staff appointments who work explicitly in challenge areas in DAC countries
- 2) Enable long term academic partnerships with DAC countries through international fellowship schemes
- 3) Embed our GCRF research activity by establishing interdisciplinary and international research clusters around critical global challenge areas

4) Ensure that appropriate professional service support tailored to GCRF and ODA activities develops in capacity and expertise, focused on projects delivery, monitoring and reporting.

Should the University receive a decrease in GCRF QR funding, our key priorities will be to:

- 1) Maintain ongoing support for existing collaborations which are productive in outputs, outcomes and impacts
- 2) Align future research activity and development to urgent global challenges and areas of research excellence
- 3) Reduce overall levels of professional support for GCRF activities.

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.

Maximum 1,000 words

Based on our strategy and our recognition of the opportunities and increasing strengths of our Development and GCRF portfolio, our GCRF Strategy Group and Research and Impact Executive Group have identified the continuation, but evolution, of the following planned activity categories in 19-20. We also show the areas that would be impacted by any reduction in funding, and those that would be grown if there is an increase in funding.

**Activity 1: Pump-priming activities** to underpin GCRF and Newton Fund bids to other funders, including relationship building, enacted through a managed Facilitation Fund with application process (19-20 planned spend: £150K). This will build from the success and lessons learnt through the scheme in 18-19. In 18-19 we will add a focus on establishing new projects working in partnership with lower income countries in particular, following the increase in or experience of working under ODA principles. If there is a **decrease** in GCRF QR in 19-20, we envisage that this will lead to a scaling back in the level of activity supported through this category.

**Activity 2: Enhancing the sustainability of ODA research activity** through meeting the full economic costs of eligible research funded by other GCRF delivery partners (19-20 planned spend: £250K). We anticipate increases in our portfolio of funded projects in 19-20, but we plan to slightly reduce the levels of our support for this category. Based on our strategy and our recognition of the opportunities and increasing strengths of our Development and GCRF portfolio, our GCRF Strategy Group and Research and Impact Executive Group have identified the continuation, but evolution, of the following planned activity categories in 19-20. We also show the areas that would be impacted by any reduction in funding, and those that would be grown if there is an increase in funding.

**Activity 3: Increasing challenge-led research capacity and facilitating interdisciplinary ODA research activity with developing country partners**, including broader capacity and capability at Exeter and in developing countries, through; visiting fellowships; LMIC-focused PhD studentships; dedicated academic investment in Development research, including through the creation of new academic appointments in interdisciplinary and challenge-orientated University Research Institutes, such as our new Global Systems Institute (19-20 planned spend: £280K). We will the roles of Development and GCRF Strategy champions for this activity.

If there is a **decrease** in GCRF QR in 19-20, we envisage that this will lead to a scaling back in the level of activity supported through this category.

We would target any **increase** in GCRF QR in 19-20 to this category, to support a growth in this category of activities. This would enable us to:

- Increase GCRF research capacity through additional staff appointments in challenge areas in DAC countries
- Enable long term academic partnerships with DAC countries through international fellowship schemes
- Embed our GCRF research activity by establishing interdisciplinary and international research clusters around critical global challenge areas.

**Activity 4: Maximising opportunities for positive in-country social and economic impact** to translate research into sustainable social and economic impact that promotes economic development and welfare in developing countries through impact and partnership officer, impact acceleration and case study development support (19-20 planned spend: £100K). We will maintain a high-level of spending in this category to reflect the significance of driving forward outcomes and impacts to the benefit of DAC countries, and reflecting the investment made in projects in 18-19.

**Activity 5: A rapid response to emergencies fund**, where there is an urgent research need and research, from a clear base of research excellence, can be mobilised rapidly (18-19 planned spend: £100K). The emergency response panel will continue to operate, building expertise through liaison with other institutions across the sector.

We would target any **increase** in GCRF QR in 19-20 to this category, to support a growth in this category of activities. The University of Exeter is committed to the delivery and impact of research of this nature, but recognises the need for focused, ring-fenced funds to best support its rapid mobilisation at times of crisis.

**Activity 6: Underpinning capabilities** and momentum to facilitate the delivery and management of GCRF projects, ODA and due diligence compliance, monitoring and reporting of outcomes (19-20 planned spend: £69K). This will includes time of a GCRF Research Projects Manager, supporting projects' delivery, monitoring and reporting, together with support for due diligence within project teams. As outlined above, we envisage that the proportion of spend focused on capability development will decrease over the 3 year period, reflecting our embedding of these skills in the wider professional services. This enables the increases in spend on challenge-led research activity with

partners, which we expect to grow, as our Development and GCRF Strategy is enacted and our partnerships strengthened.

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.

Maximum 1,000 words

Our GCRF Strategy Group and Research and Impact Executive Group have identified the continuation, but evolution, of the following planned activity categories into 20-21. However, we would have a full review of our map of activities and partnerships during 19-20, to enable us to make appropriate adjustments and to learn from other best practice across the sector. We also show the areas that we envisage would be impacted by any reduction in funding during 20-21, and those that would be grown if there is an increase in funding.

**Activity 1: Pump-priming activities to underpin GCRF and Newton Fund bids to other funders**, including relationship building, enacted through a managed Facilitation Fund with application process (20-21 planned spend: £150K). This will build from the success and lessons learnt through the scheme in previous years. We will continue to provide targeted guidance on risk assessment and management to applicants, including case-studies from previous projects.

In 20-21, we will review our partnerships map, through our GCRF Strategy Group and through assessment of the wider GCRF landscape across the sector, to focus on areas of untapped partnership potential with lower income countries.

If there is a **decrease** in GCRF QR in 20-21, we envisage that this will lead to a scaling back in the level of activity supported through this category.

**Activity 2: Enhancing the sustainability of ODA research activity** through meeting the full economic costs of eligible research funded by other GCRF delivery partners (20-21 planned spend: £250K). We do anticipate increases in our portfolio of externally funded projects in 20-21, but would not further increase spending in this category, to support growth in other categories.

**Activity 3: Increasing challenge-led research capacity and facilitating interdisciplinary ODA research activity with developing country partners**, including broader capacity and capability at Exeter and in developing countries, through; visiting fellowships; LMIC-focused PhD studentships; dedicated academic investment in Development research, including through the creation of new academic appointments in interdisciplinary and challenge-orientated University Research Institutes, including, but not limited to, the Global Systems Institute (20-21 planned spend: £300K).

If there is a **decrease** in GCRF QR in 20-21, we envisage that this will lead to a scaling back in the level of activity supported through this category.



We would target any **increase** in GCRF QR in 20-21 to this category, to support a growth in this category of activities. This would enable us to:

- Increase GCRF research capacity through further staff appointments in challenge areas in DAC countries
- Enable longer term and deeper academic partnerships with DAC countries through international fellowship schemes
- Embedding new interdisciplinary and international research clusters around critical global challenge areas.

**Activity 4: Maximising opportunities for positive in-country social and economic impact** to translate research into sustainable social and economic impact that promotes economic development and welfare in developing countries through impact and partnership officer, impact acceleration and case study development support (20-21 planned spend: £100K). We will maintain a high-level of spending in this category, given its strategic importance.

**Activity 5: A rapid response to emergencies fund**, where there is an urgent research need and research, from a clear base of research excellence, can be mobilised rapidly (20-21 planned spend: £100K). The emergency response panel will continue to make decisions around the distribution of these funds.

We would target any **increase** in GCRF QR in 20-21 to this category, to support a growth of activities. The University of Exeter is committed to the delivery and impact of research of this nature, but recognises the need for focused, ring-fenced funds to best support its rapid mobilisation at times of crisis.

**Activity 6: Underpinning capabilities** and momentum to facilitate the delivery and management of GCRF projects, ODA and due diligence compliance, monitoring and reporting of outcomes (20-21 planned spend: £49K). This will include GCRF Research Projects Manager time, supporting project management, monitoring and reporting across and compliance support across the growing portfolio of activities. As outlined above, we envisage that the proportion of spend focused on capability development will decrease over the 3 year period. This in turn enables the increases in spend on challenge-led research activity with partners.