

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.

How activity funded through QR GCRF relates to the UK strategy for the GCRF.¹

- d. How your development-related and GCRF strategies relate to your wider institutional strategy for using QR.
- e. Likely key barriers and enablers to implementing your strategy.
- f. 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.
- g. The main developing countries, included in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list, which you intend to collaborate with.

The University of Huddersfield is currently engaged in a number of development related research initiatives funded through various sources and a key priority for the GCRF QR strategy period will be to ensure that these projects are fully supported and monitored by the institution and centrally coordinated to optimise delivery and outcomes. The development projects currently ongoing include:

- RCUK Non-In-Three (Ni3) project funded via the first GCRF "growing research capability" call . <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/gcrf-calls/growcallbooklet37finaljuly2017-pdf/> The Ni3 project focuses on the development of development of anti-violence computer games and prosocial games for the prevention of gender-based violence in developing countries. Partners in the project are based in Uganda, China, Pakistan and Jamaica.

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

- Internal University Research Fund money (non-QR) has been invested to support and pump-prime interdisciplinary development related research projects. In 2016-17, the University has supported 11 projects across all 7 academic schools. During the period of this QR GCRF strategy we would aim to build on initial investment to further deepen research relationships which have been established.
- Embedding development related research in partner DAC/ODA countries which was funded through the GCRF QR 2016-17 allocation. The two major projects include i) a Tsunami early warning and mitigation system working with key partners in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Project findings will be disseminated via the UN, UNESCO and the Asian Preparedness Centre in Thailand to 22 other countries meeting DAC criteria ii) Development of a novel and robust Solar Powered Irrigation Resonance Pump with no moving parts. The current project is to build a fully operational system and conduct field trials in Zambia before wider role out other DAC countries.
- A series of completed, ongoing and anticipated Newton funded research projects with DAC/ODA countries are in place. Countries which we are engaged with through the Newton programme include: Brazil, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Nigeria, South Africa and China.
- A GCRF networking grant funded by the Academy of Medical Science is under consideration working with partners in Sri Lanka, Malawi, Indonesia and Ghana.

3-year Institutional Research Strategy from 2018-19

The GCRF QR Strategy forms part of a longer term commitment of the University to working with international developing communities as part of our overarching institutional Research Strategy. The aim of the research strategy is to develop areas of strategic research importance (ASRIs) through key institutes and centres and to undertake high quality innovative research which will lead to significant impact.

The University of Huddersfield GCRF QR development related research strategy will focus on engagement with low income ODA countries with alignment to the 17 United Nations Sustainability Challenges as a priority. However, work with all DAC/ODA countries will be considered. Key objectives for the period will be:

Objective 1 – to build on existing GCRF investment from all funding sources to deepen and enhance in-country impact and capability.

Objective 2 – to target UoH recognised Areas of Strategic Research Importance (ASRIs) towards development related UN Sustainability Challenges and subsequently to increase the number of UoH academics, including early career researchers, engaged in GCRF related research.

Objective 3 – to exploit existing UoH academic relationships with DAC/ODA countries identified via an Elsevier Scival international collaboration analysis especially where

research is relevant to addressing key sustainability challenges. As a starting point we have used an anyalysis of the countries with which our academics are already actively engaged in research – identified by the host country of co-publishers. An analysis of current publishing partnerships identifies the following

Upper Middle	Low Middle	Least Developed
Argentina Brazil China Colombia Ecuador Iran Iraq Lebanon Malaysia Mauritius Namibia Peru South Africa Thailand Turkey Venezuela	Armenia Cameroon Egypt Ghana India Indonesia Kenya Morocco Nigeria Pakistan Philippines Sri Lanka Swaziland Tunisia	Bangladesh Senegal Tanzania Uganda

Objective 4 – to use the UoH international alumni network to widen the network of ODA countries with whom we engage and through them to identify specific in-country challenges.

Objective 5 – to become a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and use this as a vehicle for linking directly with institutions in ODA countries where we don't currently have links.

Objective 6 – to establish a customised governance, due diligence and monitoring system for all development related research and reporting to the University Research Committee.

During the 3 year strategy period, the GCRF QR funding will be used specifically to:

- implement a series of challenge-led initiatives to identify high quality research projects which align strongly to the UN Sustainability Challenge areas
- build on existing and emerging development research projects and relationships to strengthen partnerships and capacity to drive in-country delivery and impact
- focus on building relationships with low income ODA countries where possible and to increase the number of countries that we engage with over the strategy period. Target countries to be identified through a range of methods, including existing project networks, publishing collaborations, researchers' personal networks, active

engagement in ACU and mapping of our research strengths against the countries' challenges.

- raise awareness and engage a wider cohort of academic researchers across the institution in interdisciplinary development related research
- respond to emergencies where urgent research is needed

The priorities identified for use of the QR funding demonstrate strong alignment to the UK Strategy for GCRF. In particular, the funding will be used to promote challenge-led interdisciplinary research across all academic schools and will build upon successful global sustainability challenge-led initiatives we have already self-funded. The QR funding will also be used to forge strong relationships with overseas partners to strengthen research, innovation and KE capacity in the UK and in partner countries. Finally, flexibility will be built into the programme to ensure that funding could be made available to respond to overseas emergencies where urgent research is required. This is of particular importance to the University of Huddersfield given that two of our research centres are active in this area. For example, the Global Disaster Resilience Centre is developing the tsunami early warning system as described earlier and the Centre for Sustainable and Resilient Communities is working across Africa and the Maghreb in South America undertaking research, training and development activity in the areas of sustainability and resilience. The programme of work of this centre seeks to inform policy, provide guidance for individuals, communities, organisations and governments. For example, a key project is long term research and development supporting the community management of 70,000ha of rainforest in southwest Ethiopia.

Wider Institutional Strategy for use of QR

The majority of institutional QR funding has been devolved to the REF Units of Assessment from which it was generated. It has been allocated to support growth in research capability, strengthen the research environment associated with the discipline and for impact analysis and monitoring. Primarily the QR has been used to support the appointment of early career researchers, impact officers and for stipends for postgraduate research students. Training and support programmes have been implemented centrally and in schools to support the researcher environment and an element of QR has also been retained to support new and emerging UoAs with no current QR income.

The GCRF QR will be retained as a central funding resource to ensure it is allocated directly to priority development related research. The funding will be used strategically to support challenge-led sandpit and pump priming activities as well as larger scale research projects. Funding for larger projects will be used to support initiatives such as exchanges and mini sabbaticals, research fellowships, PhD stipends etc. The University will strongly support PhD candidates applying from ODA countries. It is anticipated that additional funding may be required to support PhD stipends associated with research projects due to the potential incompatibility of the GCRF QR funding period and that

required to complete a PhD programme. The University has formally committed to provide any continuity funding required for PGR extending across the 3 year period.

Key Barriers

It is envisaged that a number of barriers will be encountered when implementing the strategy and these include:

- Convincing academics to engage with the development related research agenda due to their potential lack of awareness of the opportunity and the applicability of their research to this area. In addition, the potential lack of connections with partners in ODA countries may be seen as a barrier by academics.
- Increasing the number of low income countries that we engage with. The current number is relatively small and finding mechanisms for increasing this number may be challenging for academics.
- The University has a higher proportion of relationships with medium and higher income ODA countries and academics may prefer working with these countries rather than finding new relationships elsewhere.
- Some researchers (including those at early stages of their careers) may struggle to engage as principal investigators due to their lack of research leadership experience and international networks.
- The 3 year funding time period for GCRF QR may present problems, particularly in later years, to truly embed and implement projects in the partner country. In addition, the realisation of impact may occur well beyond the 3 year window so project monitoring will have to continue well beyond the funding period. This may be a challenge in the host country due to remoteness and inaccessibility.
- Establishing and embedding mechanisms for monitoring and measuring the direct impact of research in ODA partner countries may be difficult to achieve.

Key Enablers

In order to address some of the implementation challenges and potential barriers, we have identified a number of initiatives which will be key enablers to support the strategy. These include:

- Building on the series of challenge-led sandpit events implemented and funded by the University to promote development related research. This will engage a wider pool of academics and identify key projects to pump-prime.
- Use of the existing UoH academic mentoring programme to partner early career researchers with experienced academics, especially those with existing ODA partner relationships.

- University Research Fund money (non-QR) will be made available to augment the GCRF QR allocation to ensure that any barriers associated with the 3 year time window is minimised and to support continuity of projects beyond the end of the QR period should funding cease.
- Exploitation of existing UK partner organisations with strong ODA interactions. For example, the University is a strategic partner of the National Physical Laboratory and we will identify joint co-funded research collaborations with developing countries so that we are able to access their ODA network.
- Use of existing international academic staff and alumni to build relationships with ODA countries and identify key challenges
- Exploiting ODA connections through the Association of Commonwealth Universities membership
- Establishing an annual 1-day workshop to showcase current development related research and to raise awareness and encourage engagement across a wider pool of academics
- Developing and implementing an impact monitoring and evidencing training programme for staff and ODA partners

Key GCRF QR Activities

Use of the GCRF QR will be used primarily to support challenge-led mono-disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborative research. Challenge-led events will be further developed to enable teams of academics to come together to develop ideas and concepts and pitch projects to be pump-primed. This scheme is already been adopted at Huddersfield and we would intend building on the success of the scheme. In addition to the challenge-led initiatives which would take place three times a year, an annual call for proposals will be issued for larger scale more established projects to strengthen capacity and deepen relationships with partner ODA organisations. Project funding is likely to fund RF or PGR appointments, overseas visits and two-way sabbaticals for UoH staff and ODA partner staff to visit Huddersfield. Finally, some flexible mechanism will be introduced for rapid response to emergencies. We would intend diverting QR money for emergency activities and then drawing in internal University Research Fund money to ensure continuity of the GCRF QR overarching programme.

Collaboration Plans

The institutional aim will be to work with low income DAC/ODA countries as it is envisaged that impact could be highest in these countries. In the first instance, we will target low income countries where we have existing research relationships, as identified through the Elsevier Scival tool and these include Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Senegal and Bangladesh. Following this we will try to use other routes to expand the number of

low income countries that we engage with e.g. through UoH alumni from these countries. The University currently has students from 15 ODA low income countries. Should funding allow, or we struggle to find sufficient quality projects with low income countries, then we will extend into the DAC/ODA low-middle income group and lastly the higher income grouping where we already have a significant number of existing relationships.

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

Through the implementation of the institutional GCRF QR Strategy, the University of Huddersfield aims to increase the volume and quality of collaborative research with ODA partner countries – in particular those in the low income category. As a consequence, we anticipate an increased number of academic researchers engaging with developmental research and a growth in the number of ODA counties that we collaborate with.

A primary objective of this strategy is to deepen collaborative relationships with ODA partners in order to embed capability and deliver direct impact in-country. Alongside support for pump-priming and established developmental research projects, we will establish a comprehensive impact training and monitoring programme to ensure that the direct in-country benefits and impacts are captured. Direct benefits arising from the research are likely to impact on the social wellbeing and welfare of the populace (individuals and communities) as well as growth in the economy through the development of new products, services and optimised processes and operational procedures. This latter point may impact directly on Governmental policies within the ODA partner country as changes to operational procedures may require Governmental intervention through new policy implementation. Through close partnership working, embedding and implementing initiatives in-country, collaborators in the ODA partner institutions will become better skilled with increased capability. The implementation phase of any project will mean that wider groups of people will have to be trained in order to see wide ranging impact. This means that a direct impact to the ODA country will be a better skilled, more capable workforce.

For example – projects funded through the first set of GCRF/DAC focused sandpits are targeted directly at benefits for the following countries

- Bangladesh
- Cameroon
- China
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Myanmar(Burma)
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Sudan
- Vietnam

Zambia
Zimbabwe

. . with planned impacts ranging from improved solar pumps for water in rural areas, targeted innovative mental health support for survivors of War in Afghanistan, pharmaceuticals research developing drugs pricing indices to improve access to medications in developing countries, to improved management of scarce resources in Kenya and new methods of characterising and producing industrial materials in developing countries to support economic growth, Some secondary benefits are likely to arise within the UK and elsewhere, and potentially for the University but these are not the primary focus for the research. For example, it is likely that some of the projects may lead to intellectual property generation which will have to be commercialised in order to rollout the projects in-country. In this instance we would look at favourable partnership arrangements with the ODA partners to ensure equitable sharing of benefits. The University also anticipates a growth in international research outputs and publications which will lead to international impacts forming the basis of high quality impact case studies for the Research Excellence Framework.

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.

Policies and Procedures:

In addition to existing financial procedures and regulations at the University of Huddersfield, we have developed necessary due diligence checks emerging from the requirements of our RCUK GCRF Growing Capability project
<http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=AH%2FP014240%2F1>.

Based on our experience to date and on good practice elsewhere in the sector, plus input from the University pre- and post- award teams, finance department, procurement and legal teams, we will evaluate existing materials and develop a tailored package of GCRF guidance and monitoring materials to supplement existing processes and procedures. Materials will include guidance on in-country constraints such as audit rules/provision, taxation etc. and will build in the requirement for external audits proportionate to the level of funding and risk. We will continue to evaluate these materials against changing funder requirements and findings from any audits undertaken to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

To ensure that the GCRF QR funding is allocated according to the objectives of this strategy and to monitor the impact of the funded projects and initiatives, the University will implement comprehensive monitoring and evaluation procedures. We will exploit

existing monitoring and evaluation procedures already in place within the University, as well as implementing some bespoke approaches for the GCRF developmental research activity - planned initiatives include:

- Establishment of a GCRF Oversight Committee which will monitor individual project compliance, research quality and impact of the GCRF QR allocation and integration of externally funded GCRF/Newton/other ODA relevant activity. The Oversight Committee will meet quarterly and will be chaired by the Director of Research & Enterprise. It will report directly to the University Research Committee and all decisions associated with the allocation of GCRF QR funding for pump-priming, partnership development, impact support etc. will be authorised by this committee and checked against ODA compliance.
- All projects seeking GCRF QR funding will be required to submit a bid proposal to the GCRF Oversight Committee for internal peer review. Proposals will include a detailed summary of the proposed developmental research and resources required as well as a clear assessment of the challenge aiming to be addressed. A baseline measurement on which to assess on-going project impact monitoring will also be required. Projects will be awarded on research quality and the envisaged level and reach of in-country impact. For project funding which is required to support ODA collaborative partner activity, then the Oversight Committee will only allocate funding once financial and non-financial due diligence has been satisfactorily completed on the overseas host institution.
- The GCRF Oversight Committee will annually evaluate all strands of GCRF activity to identify key lessons learned and to build these into future plans and monitoring procedures.
- Monitoring of challenge-led sand-pit events will be carried out by the R&E pre-award team and summary reports submitted to the GCRF Oversight Committee. Individual, larger-scale projects funded via the GCRF QR will be required to submit progress reports to the Oversight Committee during project delivery and a final report on completion of the project. Progress reports from Principal Investigators will be required to include an assessment of activity, outputs and outcomes to date and progress towards economic and social impacts in the partner country. In addition, as a result of the research project, a capability building report for their own research team will also be requested.
- Geographical distribution of GCRF activity will be monitored by the Oversight Committee and mapped to DAC/ODA country listings. Specific academic impact of projects will be actively managed through the institutional Research Management Information System (Elsevier PURE). The Scival facility in PURE will be used to monitor international collaborations and the impact of joint academic publications with ODA partners.

- As part of existing University reporting procedures, academic schools are required to report on the use of QR (including GCRF QR), at 6-monthly Planning and Accountability meetings, chaired by the Pro-Vice Chancellor Research & Enterprise. The planning meetings review and monitor school performance against agreed in-year KPIs associated with research and enterprise. GCRF activities will be included as a standing agenda item at these meetings.
- As part of the GCRF monitoring process and to raise awareness, the University will hold an annual 1-day GCRF network conference where research carried out and its impact will be presented – see Annex2A
- Impact training programmes will be put in place to ensure University of Huddersfield academics are fully aware of GCRF reporting requirements and the approaches to measuring and monitoring impact in ODA countries. We will also invite ODA partner organisations to undertake training (in person at UoH or on-line) to ensure that longer term monitoring and baselining of impact is recorded accurately and effectively.

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.

During 2017/18, the University has piloted a series of GCRF challenge sandpit events using internal (non-QR) funding. These events have been well received by academics and have generated demand for more. Evaluation is ongoing and will inform future events. We aim to allocate some of the GCRF QR allocation, supplemented with internal funding, to continue this programme. Over the 2018-19 period and beyond, we anticipate providing more substantive support for some of the projects which have received small pump-priming funds the year before. The largest proportion of the funding will be allocated to project based initiatives as these will be more resource intensive.

Given our research capability in disaster resilience and existing relationships with ODA countries, we may wish to divert an element of the QR funding for agile response to global emergencies should the need arise. The GCRF Oversight Committee would make this decision reporting to URC. In Annex 2, we have highlighted the activity but have not earmarked any funding as it would depend on the nature of the circumstances at the time.

Impact training and acceleration are identified as activities as well as the annual GCRF conference, the University will contribute internal resources to support these activities.

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.

We aim to use the 2018-19 GCRF QR allocation to build on GCRF related activities carried out at the University in 2016/17 and 2017/18. We will continue to hold challenge-led sandpit type events and from these select a series of projects to take forward as larger scale in-country implementation projects. In 2018-19, we will develop bespoke GCRF impact initiatives which will develop capability and expertise in impact monitoring and evaluation of our GCRF related research. As an example, we will host our first Annual GCRF Impact and Network Conference which will be focused on existing DAC collaborations through GCRF, Newton fund etc. We will support DAC country attendance at the event through funding of T&S costs.

For projects emerging from the pump-priming sandpits or other challenge led activities, specific countries or proposed in-country benefits associated with the research will not be defined other than projects must be associated with DAC listed countries and addressing UN Sustainability Challenges. The DAC countries will be confirmed once projects are identified for funding and ideally low income countries treated as a priority. Larger scale project funding will be allocated in response to an internal call and reviewed by the GCRF Oversight Committee.

Annex 2 outlines the key activities which the anticipated £177k 2018-19 institutional GCRF QR allocation will be used for.

If the **QR allocation was reduced**, the institutional priorities would be:

- to protect the funding for in-depth research projects as a priority and to allocate funding to those which are high quality research projects working primarily with low income ODA countries where impacts could be significant.
- to allocate funding to academics who have existing relationships in ODA countries to build on existing work and to continue growth of capability in-country and also for early career researchers and PGR within the UoH teams.
- to reduce funding for challenge-led events and initiatives and rely on the internal UoH (non-QR) investment for these activities to ensure a pipeline of GCRF projects coming forward into future years.

- to reduce funding for impact related initiatives, including the proposed annual conference. These would be down-scaled and alternative funding sources within the university would be explored.

If the **QR allocation was increased**, the institutional priorities would be:

- to extend the reach of our academic base and encourage academics currently not engaged with the GCRF agenda to participate. We would do this via increasing the number of challenge-led sandpit initiatives
- to extend the reach of the GCRF QR programme to middle and high income ODA countries through more pump-priming initiatives and projects associated with these countries.
- to extend the breadth of collaborations with ODA countries and seek partnerships in countries we aren't currently active in. We would do this through our ACU membership and direct engagement with our international alumni from DAC/ODA countries.
- to increase the number of larger scale projects funded. This could require more and perhaps longer-term 2-way sabbaticals, funding for RFs, more PhD stipends etc.

7. Based on indicative funding allocations, what are your **priorities** for QR GCRF activity in 2019-20? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

In 2019-20 we would continue with the GCRF QR strategic plans to expand and deepen our institutional developmental research activities. The priorities would be similar to those set out for 2018-19 focusing on pump-priming and capability building activities. In 2019-20, there will be an increased focus on impact through development of bespoke impact training programmes for academics and ODA partners, a second annual GCRF 1-day conference and development of impact case studies. The case studies will be used to showcase research activity and raise awareness and potentially be submitted to the REF as impact case studies. The annual GCRF conference will showcase projects emerging from Year1 and Year2 activity and will engage overseas partners for broader impact and capacity building.

The GCRF Oversight Committee will continue to review all projects and initiatives to ensure compliance against ODA criteria and all governance and monitoring processes and procedures will be fully established and up and running. Evaluation of all projects will be ongoing. In addition, we will have an embedded GCRF engagement pathway for pump-priming and project delivery to impact case-study development.

We will proactively encourage our early career researchers (ECR) to engage in the GCRF developmental research programme and will look to implement bespoke training and development initiatives to suit their needs.

We will continue to build on existing relationships with ODA partners and those emerging from the 2018-19 GCRF QR activity. We will proactively work to increase our active engagement with a wider pool of ODA partner countries through the Association of Commonwealth Universities membership.

As with the 2018-19 allocation, if the **QR allocation was decreased**, the institutional priorities would be:

- to protect the funding for in-depth research projects as a priority and to allocate funding to those which are high quality research projects working primarily with low income ODA countries where impacts could be significant.
- to allocate funding to academics who have existing relationships in ODA countries to build on existing work and to continue growth of capability in-country and also for early career researchers and PGR within the UoH teams.
- to reduce funding for challenge-led events and initiatives and rely on the internal UoH (non-QR) investment for these activities to ensure a pipeline of GCRF projects coming forward into future years.
- to reduce funding for impact related initiatives, including the proposed annual conference. These would be down-scaled and alternative funding sources within the university would be explored.

Similarly, if the **QR allocation was increased**, the institutional priorities would be:

- to implement findings of an ongoing review of each strand of GCRF activity to fund more of “what works” and extend activity in these areas. For example, to encourage academics currently not engaged with the GCRF agenda to participate, we would increase the number of challenge-led sandpit initiatives
- to increase the number of larger projects funded through the GCRF QR. Projects are likely to require more and perhaps longer-term 2-way sabbaticals, funding for RFs, more PhD stipends etc.
- to extend the reach of the GCRF QR programme to include a greater volume of research with middle and higher income ODA countries through more pump-priming initiatives and projects associated with these countries.

- to extend the breadth of collaborations with ODA countries and seek partnerships in countries we aren't currently active in. We would do this through our ACU membership and direct engagement with our international alumni from DAC/ODA countries.
- to support the development of larger scale proposals for external funding for projects which have been pump-primed through challenge led sandpits in 2018-19

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.

The institutional priorities for the use of GCRF QR in 2020-21 will primarily remain the same as those outlined above for 2019-20. We will aim to engage an even larger pool of UoH academics in GCRF initiatives, particularly our early career researchers.

We will seek to identify mechanisms for wider engagement with countries on the least developed DAC list, particularly those with which we currently have no developmental research activity. For example, we will work with the University International Office to explore geographic areas where we have strong undergraduate relationships but no existing track record of collaborative research. Through current undergraduate students and alumni, along with the undergraduate degree-awarding universities of our DAC origin PGR communities, we will seek to establish relationships with ODA organisations to conduct collaborative developmental research. We will also use these relationships to identify challenges of relevance to the ODA country.

The University will explore the potential for targeted postgraduate scholarships for high quality candidates from countries on the least developed list.

A priority for 2020-21 will be a full evaluation of all challenge-led sandpit events from 2017-18 through to 2018-20 to inform further development of the pathway. In addition, a comparative evaluation of all the larger scale research projects funded over the initial 2-year QR funding period will be carried out. This will be to determine the anticipated scale of impact which is likely to be delivered through the various projects and to assess the value for money of the QR investment.

Based on the evaluation of first two years GCRF QR funded activity and greater focus on developmental research in ODA countries, we will develop future GCRF strategies and fully integrate these into the University strategy map which will extend to 2025.

If the **QR allocation was decreased**, the institutional priorities would be:

- to protect the funding for in-depth research projects as a priority and to allocate funding to those which are high quality research projects working primarily with low income ODA countries where impacts could be significant.
- to rely on institutional (non-QR) funding only for challenge-led events to ensure a minimum level of pump-priming activity to feed a pipeline of GCRF projects coming forward into future years.
- to protect impact related initiatives to ensure a full monitoring and evaluation exercise can be completed over the 3-year allocation period for the QR allocation. If necessary QR funding would be reduced and alternative funding sources within the University would be explored.
- to allocate funding to academics who have existing relationships in ODA countries to build on existing work and to continue growth of capability in-country and also for early career researchers and PGR within the UoH teams.

If the **QR allocation was increased**, the institutional priorities would be similar to 2019-20 including:

- implementation of the internal GCRF review findings to fund more activities in successful areas. Initiatives will be used to proactively interact with those academics who have not engaged with the GCRF agenda.
- to increase the number of larger projects funded through the GCRF QR. Projects are likely to require more and perhaps longer-term 2-way sabbaticals, funding for RFs, more PhD stipends etc.
- to extend the reach of the GCRF QR programme to include a greater volume of research with middle and higher income ODA countries through more pump-priming initiatives and projects associated with these countries.
- to extend the breadth of collaborations with ODA countries and seek partnerships in countries we are not currently active in. We would do this through our ACU membership and through direct engagement with our current undergraduate students and alumni from DAC/ODA countries.
- to support the development of larger scale proposals for external funding for projects which have been pump-primed through challenge led sandpits in 2019-20
- to support a major programme of work to evaluate the impact of projects which have been funded through the GCRF QR allocation. This will include i) additional training for ODA partners to ensure effective in-country impact monitoring beyond the funding

timeframe ii) support for impact evaluation and case study development and iii) the 3rd GCRF 1-day conference for academics and ODA partners.