

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

a. Institutional Strategy

The University of Worcester has historically focused on regional and national research agendas. In recent years, however, we have established areas of strength which address global research challenges such as sustainable food production and flood management. As part of its emerging research strategy for 2018 and beyond, there will be an increased focus on developing areas of excellence in development related and GCRF research activity.

Our approach will be two-pronged:

- we will seek to support and enable existing areas where there are established relationships with ODA countries and a track-record of externally- and University-funded activity. Some examples of activity in this area are: research activity in Central Africa

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

focused on the sustainable agricultural use of wetlands engaging local NGOs and farmers in the research; work with researchers in Turkey on sustainable crop production initially supported through the Newton Researcher Links scheme which has led to a series of joint bids and to Turkish researchers being funded to spend a period at the University; projects in Central America looking at stream monitoring, initially funded by the Darwin Initiative; implementation of Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) psychotherapy following natural and humanitarian crises in areas such as Syria and Iraq.

- we will support areas of research excellence at the University, such as dementia care, mental health and flood management to develop a global focus to their work by pump priming networking meetings and other events to develop sustainable strategies and partnerships for future activities such as GCRF and Newton Fund bids.

b. Key aspects of 3-year strategic plan for QR GCRF

We will seek to use our QR GCRF allocation to enhance existing areas of development related research activity and to support the formation of new areas focused on existing research strengths.

A primary focus will be to support activity focused on the sustainable use of wetlands in central Africa through:

- the ongoing funding of a PhD studentship in this area
- generating impact from the studentship and earlier research in this area

A secondary focus will be to pump prime or enhance activity in the following areas with a particular emphasis on establishing relationships with organisations and individuals in DAC countries:

- flood management
- mental health
- dementia
- sustainable crop production

c. Relationship between QR GCRF strategy and wider strategy

The QR GCRF strategy is closely aligned with our wider strategy for development related research activity.

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

The focus of our QR GCRF-funded activity is well aligned with the UK strategy for GCRF. It is specifically focused on 2 of the 3 areas highlighted in the UK GCRF strategy:

- **Equitable Access to Sustainable Development**, particularly to ensure global access to “secure and resilient food systems supported by agriculture” and “sustainable health and well-being”.

- **Sustainable Economies and Societies** with a particular drive to “understand and address the local and global challenges of population growth and pressure on the environment and climate”.

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

The University has utilised its QR funding in 3 main ways:

- supporting PhD studentships in areas of strategic priority
- providing staff with time and resource to develop their areas of research, primarily through its research leave scheme
- pump priming research activity through a combination of supporting postdoctoral appointments in strategic areas and through small scale research support schemes

Our GCRF QR strategy thus relates closely to our wider QR strategy.

f. Likely key barriers and enablers to implementing your strategy

The primary barriers to implementing our strategy are likely to be:

- staff experience in developing collaborations beyond the UK and Europe.
- establishing networks/collaborations in countries where there are significant challenges but in which we have limited or no existing partnerships; this is particularly true of Africa as a whole.

The primary enablers are likely to be:

- established relationships in key priority areas with DAC countries.
- excellent research in areas of significant global challenge, i.e. mental health, dementia, flood management, sustainable food production, in all cases with a strong applied element.

g. The key activities by which we will realise our objectives

We will focus on three key activities:

- mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research
- generating impact from research
- pump priming

h. DAC Countries

The primary focus will be on the following countries:

- Ethiopia
- Iraq
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Sierra Leone

- Syria
- Turkey

However, we will as part of our strategy seek to develop networks and collaborations with further DAC countries.

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

Our strategy has the following intended outcomes and impacts:

1. Increased volume of research in and with identified DAC countries measured by:
 - a) number of collaborative bids submitted with DAC countries (as identified above) focused on development related activities to e.g. GCRF, Newton Fund, Darwin Initiative (secondary)
 - b) value of funding for research in and with DAC countries (primary)
 - c) number of research outputs arising from research in and with DAC countries focused on development related activities (primary)
2. Economic and welfare benefits arising from our research into wetland management in Central Africa, specifically Malawi and Ethiopia, measured by:
 - a) evaluation of wetland management interventions in Malawi (primary)
 - b) evidence of adoption of recommendations or findings of research into practice (primary)
 - c) evidence of adoption of recommendations or findings of research into policy (primary)
 - d) evidence of research feeding into advice and support offered by local and international NGOs (primary)
3. Development of networks and collaborations with DAC countries focused in the areas of mental health and dementia measured by:
 - number of newly established networks/collaborations (primary)
 - evidence of the activities of this network, e.g. visits to the University, networking events (primary)
 - number of bids that arise from these newly established networks/collaborations to GCRF, Newton Fund and other relevant funders (secondary)
 - value of funding for research that emerges from these newly established networks/collaborations (primary)

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.

Our strategy for development-related activity and specifically for our QR GCRF strategy will be embedded in our overarching new research strategy (2018-2024). As such, the outcomes and impacts set out above will function as KPIs within the new strategy.

These KPIs will be monitored and evaluated by the University's Research Committee on an annual basis. It will also specifically monitor the ODA-compliance of all activity funded through our QR GCRF allocation.

A number of our identified outcomes and impacts are quantitative and the expectation is that there will be a growth in these numbers over the 3 years of the QR GCRF strategy (but also over the lifetime of the wider research strategy).

Where outcomes and impacts are qualitative, the expectation is that a report on the specific project or network/collaboration funded through QR GCRF will be submitted to the Research Committee on an annual basis against the agreed outcomes.

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.

Our focus is on:

- a) supporting ongoing research activity into wetland management in central Africa, specifically through a PhD studentship; the student will be based in Malawi and will be working directly with NGOs and local farmers in undertaking the research to ensure it meets local needs. The cost of the studentship reflects the costs associated with working in the country but we believe this will increase the effectiveness of the research.
- b) developing new networks/collaborations by supporting staff to organise visits, meetings and events for researchers and organisations in DAC countries, primarily least developed countries, which will lead to collaborative research activity and future funding applications.

6. How would your **priorities and activities** for 2018-19 QR GCRF change if the funding level differs from that outlined in indicative allocations? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

The University is committed to fund the PhD studentship and thus if there was any decrease in funding it would support this activity through its overall QR funding.

If there was an increase in funding, the University would look to increase funding to pump prime new networks/collaborations.

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.

We envisage our priorities remaining as for 2018/19 and our response to any changes in allocation to be as for 2018/19. However, we will carefully monitor the effectiveness of the fund for pump priming research networks/collaborations. If there is evidence that this scheme is not proving effective in developing sustainable networks/collaborations we will review our strategy. Our collaborative research into sustainable crop production with Turkish partners is a likely new area of priority.

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.

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