

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. 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 Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list developing countries you intend to collaborate with.

a. Your institution's strategy and priority objectives for all development related research activity funded through all sources for three years from 2018-19

Bucks New University has a good track record of research with ODA recipients. ODA support has built capacity leading to a number of projects mostly funded through the EU. The University seeks to deliver sustainable developments through the advancement of the following objectives:

Carbon: To minimise the carbon emissions associated with delivery of projects in ODA countries (currently have 20 links);

Water: To optimise the opportunities for efficient water use, reuse and recycling in East Africa and India (a current example is a Horizon2020 funded project, Waterspoutt, a

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

project that aims at providing safe drinking water to communities who rely on unsafe sources. Partners for this project include: the University of Malawi; Makerere University, Uganda; Mekelle University Tigray, Ethiopia; and Bogazici University, Turkey. The University's specific role in this project include solar jerrycan design and field testing, measurement of the health impact of the solar jerrycan and the development of educational programmes);

Waste: To optimise the reduction of waste through design and to maximise the reuse and recycling of material arising during demolition, remediation and construction (current examples include green building design in Ghana, Sri Lanka);

Materials: To identify, source and use environmentally and socially responsible materials (China);

Biodiversity and ecology: To protect and enhance biodiversity and ecology (Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malaysia);

Land, water, noise, air: To optimise positive and minimise adverse impacts on land, water, noise and air quality(China)

Supporting communities: To create new, safe mixed-use public space, housing and facilities appropriate to demographics and character (S Africa)

Employment and business: To create new employment and business opportunities locally, regionally and nationally

Health and Well-being: To provide healthy lifestyle opportunities for citizens (Nepal)

Inclusion: To involve, communicate and consult effectively with stakeholders and diverse communities (Mexico, Argentina)

b. 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

The University's strategy for such development related activity revolves around strengthening its capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange with developing countries. In order to do this, its main objective is to encourage academic collaboration between current academics and researchers in developing countries with the limited QR GCRF funding available.

The funding will be used (alongside other University investments in research capacity and capability development) to provide a particular focus on activity within ODA-supported countries. Emphasis will be on enhancing existing partnerships with researchers in developing countries to encourage ongoing relationships, and support the engagement of researchers at Bucks with ODA-eligible research. Our experience has been that this is an impactful way of bringing additional academics from the University and other universities in a range of countries to work on projects that have tangible benefit to the health and wellbeing of people living in developing countries.

c. How activity funded through QR GCRF fits into your broader strategy and priorities for all development related research activity

Activity funded through QR GCRF has a close fit to the broader research strategy of the University which has a strong applied research focus. Many academic staff have had prior roles in practice as opposed to the Higher Education sector and bring expertise and

contacts into the University. A key focus is on supporting these staff to gain an understanding of the research environment in the sector. Activities funded through QR GCRF will encourage researchers to develop international partnerships that will help to address problems faced by developing countries. The approach starts with capacity and capability building, leading to the formation of transnational partnerships, and a focus on positive and practical impacts through knowledge exchange, that is a feature of the research activities at the University.

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

Many of the areas of research the University currently undertakes with developing countries focuses on themes highlighted as challenge areas in the UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund, namely: sustainable health and wellbeing; clean air and water; and affordable, reliable, sustainable energy. QR GCRF funding enables a continuing prioritisation of these themes within the University's applied research plans.

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

Bucks has large numbers of early career researchers and the wider institutional strategy for using QR funding includes support for developing researchers with funds allocated through a central process to ensure transparency and fairness of approach. This meshes well with the institutional strategy for GCRF as the QR GCRF funds will be allocated through a similar approach, although dedicated to initiatives that will enhance the potential for research with ODA recipient countries.

f. Likely key barriers and enablers to implementing your strategy

The QR GCRF strategy at the University revolves around developing sustained relationships with ODA recipient countries. In a small university, key relationships and research activities can be dependent on particular individuals rather than larger research teams. This can make sustaining activities and partnerships challenging if individuals move to other universities in the sector. The University mitigates this risk by building a larger community of academics with a focus on activity within ODA countries, creating the critical mass of engaged researchers to ensure the longevity of the relationships.

The funding itself is a key enabler to implementing the QR GCRF strategy as it helps to promulgate the GCRF agenda. Without the funding, collaborative international research activities may focus in other countries where academics have existing links, which not necessarily be within ODA-prioritised countries.

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

As the QR GCRF funding received by the University is limited, the scope of activities will be focused. Objectives will be realised mainly through activities that will help with

capacity and capability building. This will primarily achieved through establishing or enhancing relationships with researchers and other organisations in developing countries.

h. The main Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list developing countries you intend to collaborate with

The University has existing research partnerships with a large number of ODA recipient countries including Malawi, Nepal, Ethiopia, Turkey, Uganda, India, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Malaysia. It is anticipated that these partnerships will be strengthened where possible, but ad hoc opportunities that arise to engage with other partners would also be considered. Consideration will be given to ensuring that collaborations take place with Least Developed and Other Low Income countries as well as Lower Middle and Upper Middle Income Countries

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

The University intends to grow the volume of research it conducts with ODA recipient countries. An expected outcome of the strategy will be to increase the number of contacts with researchers in ODA countries to grow sustainable partnerships with a concomitant increase in research being undertaken with international partners, although it is recognised that not all contacts will lead to funded projects. Anticipated impacts from projects will arise from the practical application of the research undertaken: the use of knowledge, technology and innovation to create opportunities for social and/or economic developments leading to new and improved processes and products.

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.

The University recognises that advancing the objectives for the QR GCRF strategy requires a robust management approach with sustainability and value for money being core components of decision making. The QR GCRF funding allocations will be tracked through the Research and Enterprise Development Unit. Responsibility for the use of the funds rests with the Pro Vice Chancellor. To access funds, researchers will need to complete a template that indicates the challenge area that is being pursued, and how their proposed activity has the potential to contribute to the GCRF agenda. This will need to be authorised by the PVC to release the funding. All researchers in receipt of QR GCRF funding will be asked to complete a short report on completion of their funded activity.

A report will be produced at the end of each financial year which will be reviewed at the University's Research & Enterprise Committee to identify lessons learned, and informing improvements to operationalisation of the strategy, if required.

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.

The scale of the current QR GCRF activities means that both the activities and their impacts are relatively straightforward. There is one activity line, with the beneficiary countries and anticipated impacts completed based on the evidence from our current activity in ODA-supported countries.

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.

If funding levels reduced, our priorities would stay the same: we would continue to invest in capacity and capability building, but would have smaller impact.

If further funding was available, we would supplement the funding for capacity building with support for the formation of collaborative and inter-disciplinary international projects and selected knowledge exchange projects to produce sustainable impact through application of new approaches or innovations in practice in developing countries. This is consistent with our wider approach of developing capacity and capability; connecting this to create partnership activity; and maximising impact from applied research. Depending on the levels of additional funding available, the University would select, through its Research and Enterprise Committee, those partnerships and projects most likely to produce lasting social and economic benefit.

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.

The QR GCRF funds would continue to be used to create the critical mass of academic researchers engaged in projects to the benefit of ODA countries.

As a result of the report on the activities undertaken in 18/19, we would consider whether to continue with only capability and capacity building or whether to pilot target small investment in galvanising researchers brought together with capacity and capability support, to develop new collaborative interdisciplinary research projects.

As with 18/19, if funding were increased, funds would be invested at each stage of the Bucks three-stage development process: capacity building, collaborative international projects, and launching new projects to apply the research to make a tangible and sustained impact on the lives of those living in ODA-designated countries.

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.

By 20/21 existing projects underway in ODA countries would be nearing completion and the University would have a further three years of evaluative data on what works in producing impact. At the end of 2019/20 a full review of the GCRF funding impacts will have been conducted to inform the priorities for the approach in 20/21.

Whilst this review should not be pre-judged, it is envisaged that a greater proportion of the funding in 20/21 will be allocated towards supporting the launch of collaborative, international, inter-disciplinary research projects in ODA designated countries and to the selection of some research collaborations to pilot practical application of research findings or innovations. The University will by this time have a considerable number of academics that have engaged in projects benefiting ODA countries. It will be appropriate therefore to use this established store of expertise to initiate new research project and exploitation activities.

Emphasis will be given to securing funds from other sources, governmental, charity and business to support applied projects launched with support from GCRF, thereby maximising the benefit produced by the GCRF investments, and the scale of the project and number of beneficiaries that activities will produce.

Additional funding would certainly, by 2020/21, see new projects to apply research findings in practice, with an anticipated increased beneficial impact on the lives of those living in ODA countries.