

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.

Liverpool Hope is a Research Informed University. This additional QR funding stream will aid us in our ongoing Research growth plans where we already have a clear and established strategy embedded in our Research and Scholarship plan covering the period to 2021. That being the proactive and capacity-building activities designed to facilitate individual academic staff, teams of researchers, and central research administration in attracting external research funding and creating relationships, at the international level.

The established strategy within our Corporate Plans is to have an international reach where we can effectively support developing countries and make a real difference to the local population. One strand of this strategy is the encouragement of our students through our Service and Leadership Award to volunteer to work on Global Hope projects and International Volunteering. Global Hope (<https://www.hope.ac.uk/globalhope/>) is the

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

University's international education charity. It gives students and staff an opportunity to act as global citizens by engaging with issues of social justice and participating in projects in countries many of which being designated as "least developed" on the DAC list of ODA recipients.

Our Academic staff who supervise this activity use this opportunity to carry out research that has tangible benefits at the local level producing an immediate and sustainable social and economic impact. An example of this is our work in Peru:

In 2014, Bryce Evans was awarded a fellowship by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust to visit Peru to research the history and current operation of popular feeding centres named 'comedores populares'. These community dining rooms were often violently targeted by both state forces and Marxist guerrillas during that country's recent civil conflict because the women who ran them viewed their role as one of solely welfare provision and refused to politicise them. This research led to commentary on the recommendations from 'Feeding Britain', the recently published report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into hunger in the United Kingdom, in this report -

<https://www.wcmt.org.uk/fellows/news/food-poverty-and-community-uk-and-peru>

and led to him giving evidence to UK parliamentary groups on this issue. In 2016, Evans built on this original research to set up a Global Hope volunteering project in the slums of the south of the country, which witnessed a team of university volunteers working alongside the poor women of the 'comedores populares' and in school canteens to help ensure food security in that region.

We will continue to develop our relationships in India, in particular with our partner HEIs including Christ University, Bangalore, Madras Christian College (MCC), Chennai, Stella Maris, Chennai, St Stephens College, New Delhi, and Bishop Heber at Trichy. These like-minded institutions are highly regarded for Research and overall quality of their teaching in India.

One example of a project that we will continue to develop is inclusive Science Education jointly with colleagues from the MCC. In particular teaching of Science and Mathematics to Visually Impaired People. This project, entitled Magic2VIP (Making Accessible Graphic Information Context to Visually Impaired People) has been running for the last 7 years and is benefiting pupils in specialist schools in report parts of India and the team is now extending this project to teaching of Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) to Visually Impaired. We plan to use a portion of the QR funding to develop the Impact around a specific research project on Magic2VIP that we have been collaborating with the Madras Christian College (MCC) in India.

In terms of our research grant activity, we have used our developed links with our international collaborators to grow our research portfolio. We currently have an AHRC grant with Christ University in Bangalore under the Research Networking Highlight for International Development, a GCRF award. Christ University's participation in this research-networking project will materially enhance its current efforts to achieve B12

Status in India. Achieving this status will enable the University to attract major research funding within India.

We have submitted multidisciplinary applications under the EQUIP call, the Newton Fund: MRC-Philippines, Joint Health Research and the RCUK-Colciencias Research Partnerships Call 2017 working with partners in India, Philippines and Colombia all of which are currently progressing through the peer review process. We also have strong relationships with Universities in Uganda, Sri Lanka, and Brazil, which we will develop further.

Our existing Research Centres each have within their remit an action to develop international collaborations. As an exemplar:

The Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies

The Centre promotes the benefit of drawing on interdisciplinary approaches to shed light on the multidimensional challenges that are faced by militarism and deeply divided societies.

We aim to promote cooperation between academics and practitioners to enable innovative and original research projects, outputs and impact. At the same time, we believe in the importance of linking academic research to the lived realities of societies emerging from conflict. The Centre therefore aims to strengthen the links between theory and practice, inviting academics and practitioners alike to engage in its diverse activities. The Centre views itself as a platform of constructive and interdisciplinary engagement

We are actively researching on the following topics:

- Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping
- Representations of Peace and Conflict in the Media and the Arts
- The Role of (Public) Space in Peacebuilding
- The Social and Psychological Effects of Conflict
- Religion and Conflict

We will use part of the new QR stream to develop both our capacity and that of our Partner Universities in the DAC. To this end, we have entered into discussion with De La Salle University in the Philippines, to establish a jointly funded PGR Studentships. This will not only merge the core strategies of both Universities but will generate a growth in the capacity building plans for both.

Funds will also be used for Academic staff pump priming visits to Universities where we can deliver training workshops and develop relationships.

Research environments have become increasingly complex in recent years. Highly skilled individuals who have a clear understanding of the research world and well-developed administrative skills are invaluable to research institutions. They provide researchers with a supportive environment, smooth funding flows, assistance in identifying appropriate research partners, and administrative support. Thus, research managers can help institutions to keep their research strategies current and appropriate, while assisting researchers to meet their reporting and budgetary obligations. Part of the new QR funds will allow our Research Facilitator who is an experienced research

manager to deliver in situ Research Management workshops to develop the professional services available to support the increased level of activity at our partner Universities within the developing countries.

All the above actions compliment the University's use of our existing QR funds, which we have invested in our infrastructure, capital equipment and Studentships to develop our own research culture and capacity.

The only barrier to this continued strategy will be a decrease in the QR funding stream over the planned period. Regular visits by our Academic staff will strengthen this activity with our partner institutions.

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

The main intended outcomes and impact of our strategy will be the further development of the existing relationships we have. This will lead to an increase in research capabilities and capacity within our partner institutions.

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.

We have already provided examples of our current activity and we will further develop these relationships. This approach enables us to mitigate some of the main reasons for failure in achieving ODA compliance, that being lack of buy-in and poor co-ordination. We will ensure continued progress by capturing full details on our in-house impact tool. The relatively small value of the additional QR funding will be managed through our standard internal funds procedure. This means that activities will go through a Faculty selection process with final approval at central research committee, thus insuring the requests complement our strategy and meet the ODA and GCRF conditions. Any awards made will have to submit a report on the work carried out and the likely impact of the activity. This approach will allow us to monitor the overall success and plan for future years where we can identify gaps and revise our strategy accordingly.

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.

We have planned our activity based around the relationships we already have with Partner Institutions all of which are based in countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients.

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.

In the event that the QR GCFR funds increase, we would look to develop additional relationships adding to our existing portfolio. Should there be a decrease in available funding then we would prioritise our efforts in consultation with our partner organisations. As all our planned activities currently meet with requirements for ODA compliance, the revised selection would naturally do so.

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.

Our priorities will be to maintain the collaborative funding for the Studentship. To take forward our impact study with appropriate bodies in India thus meeting the ODA requirement. If we are successful in the GCRF proposals submitted, we would continue to use an element of the funds to cover the FeC of any awards. Should the funds increase then we envisage that we could plan to address other Sustainable Development Goals as set out in the UK Aid Strategy. In particular we would look to develop relationships and projects in areas that are within our own strategy and which as yet we have not had the opportunity to develop such as: sustainable health and well-being, inclusive and equitable quality education and reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action.

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.

Our priorities will be to maintain the collaborative funding for the Studentship. To develop the full impact case study referencing publications that take forward our impact study with appropriate bodies in India thus meeting the ODA requirement. We would continue to use an element of the funds to cover the FeC of any awards. We would use the funds for Academic visits during this period to ensure that the aims we had set out previously have been achieved and how we can sustain and improve them going forward.