

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.

Maximum 3,000 words

a) Strategy and Priority Objectives for three years from 2018-19

The starting point for the development of Staffordshire University's three year strategic plan for development related research activity is our institutional strategy – The Connected University. As part of this strategy we set out our commitment to providing real-world learning through our teaching and research activities in a global context. We have a target of 45% of our research outputs being internationally co-authored and the intention to transform lives globally through the impact of our teaching, learning and research activities. We have recently signed up to the UUKI 'Go International: Stand Out' campaign to increase the percentage of UK students who study, work or volunteer abroad as part of their higher education programme. These aspirations require a focussed and coordinated approach to develop sustainable international partnerships

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

and we expect these relationships to benefit both parties in line with our charitable constitutional aims.

In the context of this strategy, we seek to prioritise and build on our current areas of research excellence and develop these into stronger institutional level linkages. Through the QR GCRF allocation we aim to deliver increased staff capacity, capability and support to deliver positive impact on ODA countries through our research. We plan to focus on existing areas of research excellence but will also work with emerging and developing researchers to support activity based around the ODA countries where we have existing links, specifically existing collaborative teaching links.

Our objectives are outlined below and show clear alignment with our relevant Connected University strategy aims as outlined above. We are currently developing a specific strategy to support staff in successfully applying for Newton funding which has been identified as one of three key funding streams for the University. This work forms outside the remit of this QR GCRF strategy but demonstrates our commitment to developing enhanced research relationships with international partners. Newton Funding has been identified as one of our strategic priorities within our draft Research and Innovation Strategy to support our alignment to the UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund.

The aim initially is to build on our existing pockets of international research excellence, but over the next three academic years broaden out to new areas using our established educational and partnership links. The objectives for the QR GCRF are not to subsidise grant-funded activity, but to make a difference by strengthening research collaborations, and in turn shape our research strategy to achieve impact in and for ODA countries.

Objectives

- To develop a portfolio of established collaborative research relationships through
 - Increased co-authored outputs with ODA countries.
 - Evidence of demonstrable impact of research outputs in ODA countries.
- Delivery of research exchange programmes.

b) Key aspects of three year strategic plan for QR GCRF, in light of GCRF criteria

Through the funding we plan to support the following activities:

- International researcher exchange programme to increase bi-directional staff mobilities related to research (travel and subsistence costs).
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- Research cost funding allocation to support data collection, etc in ODA countries
- Collation and articulation of research impact material and production of case studies and testimonials to support research impact and dissemination activities.
- Introduction of a Staffordshire University International Fellowship.

Alignment with GCRF criteria

Activity should be underpinned by research excellence, and partners in developing countries should play a significant role in this where possible.

As outlined above – our areas of research excellence will be the priority and we have undertaken mapping from our Institutional REF stock-take data to identify these and cross match with ODA country co-authoring to identify our target areas. Research excellence will be a criterion for allocating funding internally.

Activity should have a high likelihood of positive impact on the economic development and welfare needs of developing countries.

Ringfenced financial support for in-country research costs will ensure that collaborative research is focussed on the direct issues faced within those countries.

Activity should be focussed on problems and solutions

All collaborative research supported through GCRF QR allocation will have to demonstrate impact potential before funding is allocated, using support from the RIIS Research Impact Manager and assessed through an internal application process.

Activity should promote strong, enduring and equitable partnerships between academic communities in the UK and in the global south.

Monitoring information will be collated to inform an internal evaluation to ensure feedback and case studies are prepared to evidence development of enduring and equitable partnerships against the UK strategy for GCRF.

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

The QR GCRF will provide a modest but vital resource to deliver on our development related research aims. Without this pump priming activity our ability to prioritise the targeted ODA countries would be severely diminished. The QR GCRF funded activity will support pump priming activity through collaborations to access other ODA-related funding. Through our draft Research and Innovation Strategy, Newton Funding is prioritised, aiming to build up to GCRF following the establishment of institutional level partnerships. This QR GCRF allocation will allow us to commence this journey and develop our individual academic relationships into more institutional relationships through formalising research exchanges, delivering in-country research activities and collaborative publications to support our transition to established and longer-term research partnerships.

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

The following activities will be prioritised in this strategy:

Jordan – Sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation (computing)

Brazil – sustainable health and wellbeing (psychology, biomechanics)

India – sustainable health and wellbeing (psychology, biomechanics, computing)

China - affordable, reliable, sustainable energy; resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change; sustainable health and wellbeing (geography, renewable energy, computing, sport science)

The following country has been identified as an emerging area with increasing emphasis to be identified over the three years, building on our established teaching and learning partnerships:

Malaysia – Sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and Smart innovation (computing)

We aim to support at least one activity in each of the priority countries. Activities supported will be selected through an application process to assess ODA compliance and fit with this strategy and delivery of the development issues identified about. Further detail on research areas of expertise in line with these development issues are outlined in Annex 2.

e) How this strategy relates to our wider institutional strategy for using QR

Our QR allocation is devolved to schools as investment in research activity. The funding is allocated based on previous performance. This allocation follows this model as we are looking to build from established excellence to increase activity and impact in priority countries. However, there will be an internal application and monitoring process to assess and monitor ODA compliance of this element of QR.

Other QR resources are allocated in the same manner; pump priming activities to stimulate an increase in research performance through staffing resource and researcher development activities.

f) Key barriers and enablers to delivering this strategy

A key barrier we face is around staff capacity, we have pockets of research excellence so have an organisational need to build on these. The pockets act as opportunities and this QR GCRF strategy is designed to use this staff expertise to develop their research contacts into broader collaborative relationships and increased in country benefits for our partners.

The ability of most staff to travel is restricted through limited resource in staff development budgets and a small international research funding income portfolio. This funding will support the removal of this barrier in priority areas. Over the medium to longer term this pump priming activity will leverage associated funding and further cement these priority relationships.

By developing a focussed strategy, we are looking to deliver to plan within the designated timeframes and with efficient project management support to meet reporting requirements.

g) Key activities through which we will realise our objectives

Activity	Bi-directional researcher exchange programme	Research cost funding allocation to support data collection, etc in ODA countries	Collation and articulation of research impact material	Introduction of a Staffordshire University International Fellowship
Capacity and capability building	√	√		
Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, collaborative research activity	√	√		
Generating impact from research in and beyond sector			√	
Pump-priming activities to underpin GCRF and Newton Fund bids to other funders, including relationship building.	√	√		√

h) The main developing countries we will collaborate with

As an institution we have identified 9 countries from, the DAC list as the focus for developing relationships. Within this strategy the following five are prioritised:

- Jordan
- Brazil
- India
- China
- Malaysia

These are all countries with which we have established relationships with key partners. This includes research collaborations, funded project activity (e.g. Erasmus+ ICM) and teaching and learning partnership relationships. We will monitor for emerging areas of

collaboration and support for activity in any new areas outside of these countries will be considered by the University Research and Innovation Committee (see section 3). An exemplar for this existing work is our collaboration with Muhimbili University College of Health Science and Abbas Medical Centre Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on diabetic foot complications. This project aims to produce a diabetic foot stratification system specific to non-Caucasian populations and to assess the effectiveness of biomechanical assessment in reducing ulceration in diabetic neuropathic patients. This project has had significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the population in Tanzania by increasing prognosis accuracy, which allows appropriate measures to be put in place to reduce the likelihood of ulcer and amputation, and overall reduces the impact of diabetic foot. So far we presented some of the results in the Diabetic Foot Study Group meeting (European Society of Diabetes), 8-10 September 2017, Porto, Portugal.

University ODA priority countries

Brazil

China

Colombia

Indonesia

Jordan – ICM partner

Malaysia

Mexico

Peru

Vietnam

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

Maximum 500 words

Our organisational Research and Innovation Strategy is designed to deliver a step change in our research capacity and culture. As part of that strategy developing focussed research relationships with longevity is fundamental to supporting our research capacity, capability and delivering impact. At this stage of our development, we have over 40% of our publications published with international co-authors. However, these are often based on individual relationships rather than more strategic departmental or institutional research relationships. We have had limited engagement with Newton and GCRF funding streams but see these activities and programmes of research as instrumental to our research aims. Therefore, our outcomes are focussed on delivering established research relationships over the strategy period to deliver and demonstrate increased research impact in our organisational priority countries.

Outcomes

- Collaborative research activity and outputs with priority countries
- Career development opportunities provided for partner employees within ODA countries institutions
- Bi-directional research staff exchanges with priority countries
- Increased income for collaborative research to support sustained ODA compliant collaborations

Intended Impact

In line with ODA requirements, the following impacts will be expected:

- Demonstrable evidence of research outputs informing policy or practice within developing countries.
- Delivery of social or economic benefits in priority ODA Countries.
- Demonstrable research networks in ODA countries

These impacts will be focussed on the identified GCRF priorities:

- Sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
- sustainable health and wellbeing
- affordable, reliable, sustainable energy;
- resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change.

At the point of application to request resources, pathways to impact will need to be defined to ascertain intended research impacts for specific activities as part of the application process.

CPD activities have **not** been costed into this strategy, but any visiting researchers will be able to join mainstream university researcher development events when they visit Staffordshire University or participate in any online provision.

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

This strategy will be managed through Research, Innovation and Impact Services (RIIS). The project management will be delivered through the Project Delivery Team (PDT) within RIIS. The PDT consists of experienced project managers and will track project activity and expenditure through a unique cost centre using Prince 2 project management processes. Operational management will be delivered through a monthly Research, Innovation and Impact Services SMT with governance through the University's Research and Innovation Committee. Progress will be measured on a quarterly basis through a written report to the University Research and Innovation Committee, chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Minutes from these meetings will be viewed and approved by Academic Board.

The geographic distribution of activity has been determined in this document. The outcomes, outputs and social and economic impacts will be tracked through the Project Delivery Team. Academics will be required to complete an application proforma before commencing expenditure to ensure ODA compliance and alignment with this strategy. This application will be assessed by the RIIS team. Feedback questionnaires will be provided to lead academics at the start and end of each academic year to capture outputs and outcomes. Impact will be tracked using our Impact data collection system (VV Impact Tracker). ODA compliance will be captured through this feedback to ensure:

- Evidence of need in the developing country for the specific research question is identified and captured.
- Contribution of our expertise to solve this issue/problem/desired outcome
- Identification of initial pathways to impact.
- That research is of internationally excellent standard.

We will measure our progress through the performance against the following areas:

- Increased % of international publications with countries on the DAC list (measured via our institutional repository (STORE E-prints) and SCOPUS.
- Bi-directional research staff exchanged with priority ODA countries.
- Impact case studies linked to ODA Countries.
- Case studies will be shared internally and externally by all participants to promote best practice exchange and further extension of relationships and impact dissemination activities.

Secondary outcomes to ODA country participants and Staffordshire University will be:

- Increased applications for Newton and GCRF funding (using research funding database).

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

Costings are based on exchanges at £3000 per exchange to cover travel and small amount of research costs. An indicative allocation has been split between the travel and subsistence and research costs, however flexibility will be given within this £3000 maximum to meet the individual exchange needs.

CPD activities have not been costed into this strategy, but any visiting researchers will be able to join mainstream university researcher development events when they visit Staffordshire University or participate in any online provision.

It has been proposed that in this first year the allocation will be ringfenced to those four countries with which we have established links. However, any allocations will be subject to an application process for ODA compliance and alignment with this strategy.

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

We would look to support the detailed priorities with a focus on established expertise and relationships. Therefore, the volume of activity would increase or decrease with a variance in allocation – with activities prioritised through the application process to support those delivering most impact. With an increased allocation we would look to support more exchanges, with a reduced allocation we would look to support less. The priorities would remain the same and therefore fall in line with ODA criteria as outlined above.

The budget allocation includes provision for:

£2580 Impact case study production.

£30000 Travel and data collection within established areas priority areas.

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

All activities would require to be assessed for ODA compliance and be prioritised through this process before any allocation of funding. We would look to support the same priorities but with an increase in allocation for emerging areas of expertise. The amount of resource being used to support emerging areas would fluctuate depending on the QR GCRF allocation. With an increased allocation more resources would be dedicated to emerging areas (Malaysia). We would also consider the introduction of a Fellowship in this year with an increased resource.

With a decreased resource we would reduce the support for the emerging area and prioritise specific activities according to their ODA compliance and delivery against this strategy.

The indicative budget based on a similar allocation would include:

£2580 Impact case study production.

£25000 Travel and data collection within established areas priority areas.
£5000 Travel and data collection within Malaysia (emerging area).

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

As above, all activities would require to be assessed for ODA compliance and be prioritised through this process before any allocation of funding. We would look to support the same activities but with an increase in allocation for emerging areas of expertise. The amount of resource being used to support emerging areas would fluctuate depending on the QR GCRF allocation. With an increased allocation more resource would be dedicated to emerging areas (Malaysia). We would also consider the introduction of a Fellowship in this year with an increased resource.

With a decreased resource we would reduce the support for the emerging area.

The indicative budget based on a similar allocation would include:

£2580 Impact case study production.

£20000 Travel and data collection within established areas priority areas.

£5000 Travel and data collection within Malaysia (emerging area).

£5000 International Fellowship – 1 month.