

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.

Maximum 3,000 words

The University of Cumbria is committed to its vision "to be recognised as a catalyst for individual and regional prosperity and pride with national and international relevance, reach and impact". People, place and partnerships play an important part in our activity. The university's research, innovation and enterprise community has a focus on practice-based activity grounded in the real world, in the areas of health, sport and wellbeing, education, arts and culture, the rural and visitor economy, business and leadership, and science, technology and environment. Contribution to global challenges and strengthening capacity to deliver this are core elements, with direct fit to our applied focus and expertise.

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

Our strategy for development and GCRF activity directly underpins our Research, Innovation and Enterprise Strategy, theme 4 - *Collaborative Partnerships and External Engagement*, to “address the societal issues and challenges for our stakeholders with a commitment to ensuring the existence of a sustainable research, innovation and enterprise culture and environment. Our partners will be recognised and engaged as part of our research, knowledge exchange and innovation activity”.

The university prioritises the development of strong, international partnerships and collaborations, in order to apply knowledge and research expertise to development issues. Key areas of focus relate to applied social sciences, including social science aspects of conservation and sustainability issues, health and wellbeing, education and sustainable leadership. As such, our institutional strategy relates primarily to the following areas of the *UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund*:

- sustainable health and well being
- inclusive and equitable quality education
- sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
- resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change
- understand and respond effectively to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities

The university seeks to further develop existing relationships with key partner countries on the DAC list, including Bolivia, Gambia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Nepal, as well as building new opportunities for collaboration. The focus will be on **capacity and capability building** (i and ii), and **pump-priming activities to underpin GCRF and Newton Fund bids to other funders, including relationship building** (i and ii).

It is also an ambition to secure GCRF funding from other delivery partners, and so an element will be to focus on bidding to relevant funding streams. This is contingent on further capacity and partnership building. This could also lead to an element of **meeting the full economic costs of eligible research funded by other delivery partners** within the strategy. Identifying wider resources or funding streams to support development activity could be a barrier, given the small indicative allocation of QR GCRF available.

The approach links to our main institutional QR strategy, through a shared focus on disciplinary areas submitted for assessment in the REF, and through a commitment to support the career development of early career researchers.

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

Maximum 500 words

The outcomes and impacts of the strategy are to enhance existing, and establish new, impactful partnerships with collaborators in DAC countries. This will allow us to apply

research expertise to important development challenges. Key areas for development include:

- Sustainable rainforest livelihoods (Bolivia)
- Conservation and sustainable tourism (Gambia)
- Inclusive and equitable quality education through training and collaboration of research-enterprise development (Kazakhstan/ Uzbekistan/ Nepal)
- Equitable access to education (Nepal)

Outcomes and impacts include capacity building of existing partners, and establishment of new partnerships. It will also include key network meetings and piloting activity, leading to increased capability for partners to directly address development issues. Ultimately, this will involve the leveraging of additional funding to undertake larger scale projects to directly address specific development challenges in some or all of the areas outlined above.

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

All external research income is monitored through our Funding and Contracts Unit, which ensures post-award monitoring and compliance. Our internal approvals for bids for external research income will allow oversight into all proposals with a development element, ensuring that project plans adequately consider our strategy and consider ODA compliance, monitoring and evaluation requirements.

Milestones for the overall strategy will be planned, and progress monitored by the Research Office with financial / project management input from the Funding and Contracts Unit. A specific evaluation process will be implemented for the overall strategy, which will be applied to any activity identified as having an ODA element. These processes will be overseen by the university Research and Enterprise Committee.

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

The indicative amount of QR GCRF has been split evenly between development projects of priority for 18/19. Where possible, this capacity building will be used to leverage additional funding, however, this has not been included at this stage.

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

Our three-year strategy is based on the development of partnerships and capacity to support ODA outcomes in specific partner countries. Our international research collaborations are at a relatively early stage, although they have a strong basis for development and are tightly focused on areas of applied research excellence, tied to key development issues. Due to the developmental nature of our ODA activity, any changes in QR GCRF funding levels can be absorbed by managing the pace and scale of activities. This could include prioritising on a larger or smaller number of projects, or quickly accelerating particular 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

Priorities for funding in 19/20 will include further development of those areas invested in during 18/19. This would aim to include an element of meeting the full economic cost of projects as these develop.

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

Priorities for funding in 20/21 include on-going development and delivery of on-going collaborative research/delivery projects, plus development of capacity building in Nepal, relating to access to education.