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
Institutional strategy and priority objectives
As set out in our University Strategy, *Designing our Future (2017-2026),* Anglia Ruskin University aims to bring about "a step change in our research capacity to maximise its impact for the communities we serve."

Our *Research and Innovation Strategy (2018-2022),* currently in late draft stage, identifies the following ten priority areas for our research and innovation:

Health; Ageing; Health systems and workforce; Medical devices; Vision
Science and Engineering: Built environment and future cities; Sustainability
Social Sciences; Crime and policing; Entrepreneurship and applied innovation; Marginalised communities

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

Arts and Humanities; Creative practice; Music Therapy

We have a number of research activities underway in several of these priority areas that are making a major contribution to the challenges faced by developing countries, as set out below. In particular, we are pursuing research relevant to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):
• Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
• Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
• Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
• Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Key aspects of our three year QR GCRF strategic plan
Our three year QR GCRF strategy will see Anglia Ruskin University focus on the following subthemes of our priority areas which are most relevant to development research:

- Health and resilience (Goals 3 and 11):
Anglia Ruskin University's Vision and Eye Research Unit (VERU) has an international reputation in addressing the challenges to reduce the global burden of eye disease and in particular to help reduce blindness resulting from diseases such as diabetes. Work within VERU has attempted to address how we can improve awareness of diabetes and its impact on sight through new and innovative tools for self-help and diabetes control. VERU's work on estimating global blindness, causes of blindness and gender differences has been published in Lancet. In South East Asia VERU has focused its efforts to reduce impact of retinopathy as it is a major cause of blindness in this region.

Anglia Ruskin University also has a research group working on disaster mitigation and how to build more resilient healthcare systems. A particular focus of work by this group is to develop new healthcare systems through implementation of innovative and transformative healthcare models to make them more resilient following a natural disaster. This includes looking at how to design a productive, resilient and affordable healthcare system.

- Sustainability and resilience (Goals 2, 7 and 11):
Anglia Ruskin has multidisciplinary groups working in collaboration to develop new solutions and innovations to overcome a number of challenges under this area. Our Global Sustainable Institute (GSI) and Department of Engineering and Built Environment (EBE) are working together to tackle a series of issues around water quality, energy justice and climate change. The GSI are also working on sustainable consumption, global risk and resilience and education for sustainability. This unit is also involved in a EU H2020 €3m project 'RRING', to bring together the UN's 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDG) with the EU's 'Responsible Research & Innovation' (RRI) concept, through a focus on energy, digital, bio-economy, and waste challenges. The work has representation from all continents and a commitment from UNESCO to maintain the consortium's links

through the launch of a network (which it will fund/manage) post-project. In addition in EBE, researchers are using their expertise in urban resilience to tackle the growing tensions between nature and wellbeing and the impact of natural disasters on city infrastructures.

As part of our QR GCRF strategy we will also enhance our institutional capacity to apply to, manage, administer and support GCRF funding.

Activity Funded Through QR GCRF

The QR GCRF funding received by Anglia Ruskin will be allocated to the above strategically aligned areas on the basis of a yearly internal competitive call for proposals. The process will be administered by the central Research and Innovation Development Office and proposals will be judged by senior staff on the basis of quality, potential impact and alignment with both the University strategies and ODA criteria / UK strategy for the GCRF. Provision will be made to allow for programmes to be funded for multiple years.

Links to UK Strategy for GCRF
As outlined in Anglia Ruskin's *Research and Innovation Strategy*, the university intends to substantially increase our capability and capacity in research and innovation. The programmes that are funded by the QR GCRF will support this objective as well as the objectives in the UK Strategy for GCRF.   The competitive nature of the system to access the funding and the robust review of proposals will ensure that they are challenge-led and meet the other criteria in the strategy. In particular, Anglia Ruskin has a strong focus on multi-disciplinary research and will continue to drive this focus through the QR GCRF funding competition. Above all programmes will be selected on the basis of the impact they will make in enabling change.

More broadly, our QR GCRF work will aim to support work that leads to ensuring equitable access to new knowledge and innovation in the areas of priority we have identified. We will also prioritise work that contributes to addressing issues of human rights, good governance and social justice.

Relation to wider institutional strategy
As described above, the application of the QR GCRF funding will be intimately linked to the wider institutional strategies, with all new programmes supported falling within areas of strategic importance and focused on developing outcomes in line with the wider Anglia Ruskin strategies as well the UK Strategy for GCRF.

Our institutional QR allocation has been used strategically in a number of ways to support the groups where our GCRF priority lie. For example VERU and GSI have been provided core funding to support key staff posts to free them up from teaching duties in order to develop their national and international research and innovation profile. Through this support VERU have developed a strong presence in China and their work to determine the barriers which lead to increased blindness due to diabetic retinopathy. This

has led to funding from Newton Grant (for a workshop in China) and College of Optometrists (to support work in India) Institutional QR has enabled GSI to develop a portfolio of ODA compliant activities. This has enabled them to secure NERC funding on climate services and river basin management and energy justice. EBE through a RAEng funding have worked in Brazil on a water quality project. They also lead a major EU H2020 LIQUEFACT collaboration which is addressing important challenges around community resilience to disasters. Within Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) the QR allocation has been used to create new appointments to develop expertise around more resilient healthcare systems.

Key barriers and enablers to implement our strategy
In a number of areas through QR funding and external grants, ARU have developed strategic activities aligned to working with developing countries on areas that overlap with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A challenge for the university is sustaining these relationships in order to deliver long term and lasting impact, which often requires regular funding which, until now, has not always been available. Another potential barrier is the challenges in ensuring that staff are able to undertake the GCRF related research, in terms of balancing this activity with other demands, both research and related to activities such as teaching. Anglia Ruskin will carefully monitor staff resourcing to ensure that we have the ability to build on and capitalise on existing strong links.

Recognising these barriers, the University has prioritised creating a number of enablers.
1. We are working to ensure that all staff with a significant responsibility for research are allocated at least 30% of their time to spend on research activities.
2. A new Ruskin Fellows scheme has been initiated to bring into the University outstanding mid-career research staff, enhancing capacity in our priority areas.
3. An annual programme of Vice Chancellor's PhD Studentships has been created, bringing in increased numbers of fully funded PhD students working in our priority areas.
4. As well as finalising our next *Research and Innovation Strategy*, we are updating and revising key policies on IP, commercialisation and knowledge exchange to enable a positive, supportive research environment.

Key activities and our focus on developing countries to realise our QR GCRF objectives
Within VERU the focus will be on exploring barriers and developing and delivering culturally specific interventions to reduce diabetic retinopathy in *India and Nepal*.

Within GSI the aim will be to strengthen links with *Turkey, India and Sierra Leone* through setting up short scale visiting Fellowships, setting up networking and workshop events. The overall aim of these activities will be to create the capacity to enable the group to target other external funding via GCRF and Newton funding.

EBE will focus on pump priming work on water quality in *Brazil* and urban resilience in *India*.

The disaster mitigation group will focus on building current links with partners in *Pakistan* to design an optimised and integrated regional healthcare model. The group will do this through using the funds for small scale pump priming research projects to develop capacity and capability. Their work will focus on building on the links the group has with *Pakistani* partners to design an optimised, integrated and effective regional healthcare model.

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

Maximum 500 words

Through this QR GCRF we aim to deliver a range of outcomes and impact as detailed for the specific areas below:

VERU will deliver educational activities to enhance knowledge that will lead to improved lifestyles in India, Nepal and China. These projects will be tailored to delivering impact within different demographics groups (i.e older women, younger males etc). They will also look to extend the reach of this work into Thailand. . In the area of diabetic retinopathy screening, the main outcomes will be to improve awareness of the importance of diabetic control and pilot improved screening and management of diabetes through inexpensive community based retinal screening in patients. The overall impact of this work will be to improve eye health in patients suffering from diabetic retinopathy in targeted ODA countries. This will lead to improved quality of life and economic productivity.

GSI and EBE are looking for a range of outcomes and impacts. Their work will aim to find solutions for sustainable production and provision of food, water and energy. On the topic of sustainable agriculture, they will work with smallholder farmers to find better ways of working with their soils to achieve sustainable intensification. In the area of management of risk and resilience the work will aim to mitigate the impact from climate change on: food risk, risk of conflict, food riots and systemic economic risks, and community resilience to disasters. On the issue of urban environments they will work with local stakeholders to identify best practice projects on sustainable urban design. Other more softer outcomes will include; developing new and lasting collaborations; identifying project ideas that can be cultivated into bids when new opportunities open; establish partnerships so that the unit is able to react rapidly to up and coming calls. This will be supplemented by capacity development work to deliver impact from their research.

The disaster mitigation group will work towards developing an innovative regional healthcare model that will; (1) create new knowledge to build capacity in order to respond effectively to sudden increase of demand associated with major hazards/crises or mass displacements, and (2) promote sustainable economies and societies by enhancing resilience, minimising economical waste and promoting local enterprises through implementation of system thinking and mathematical constructs.

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

As described above, in deciding which areas to fund in a given year, we will run a competitive process, calling for proposals from the strategic areas named above, noting that over the term of this strategy, some of the areas may change, or new areas be added. The proposals will outline clearly what the key objectives will be in relation to SDGs, the ODA countries they will work with, as well as the impacts and outcomes. The University (through Research and Innovation Development Office) will ensure that any GCRF activity undertaken will target eligible geographies by keeping an up to date list of ODA compliant countries.

We already operate a centralised monitoring system whereby all projects considered 'high risk' are checked quarterly for compliance with funder requirements and progress against both budgets and outcome targets. A specific proforma will be developed to collect and collate all relevant inception information for projects awarded under this funding stream. Each project awarded will have an individual entry in our grants awards system and individual project codes will be allocated for relevant spend activities. These codes will be used to ensure projects are spending funds in line with requirements to meet ODA compliance. The post award team within the Research and Innovation Development Office will be responsible for oversight of and monitoring of these projects. Quarterly reports will be generated and reviewed with the appropriate Faculty project teams and management teams and any concerns about compliance and/or progress will be escalated to the Dean and/or Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation).

Within Faculties there are existing robust processes to ensure all new spending is approved by the relevant head of department. These will be expanded to incorporate checking of the ODA compliant countries list at project inception and periodically thereafter. Given the relatively small allocation of GCRF core funding the spread of geographies is likely to be small although we will not put a restriction on this.

Three months after completion of each funded programme, the lead researcher will be asked to produce a report describing the outputs, outcomes and economic and social impacts produced. On a yearly basis, the Research and Innovation Development Office will collate the outcomes and impacts across all QR GCRF funded programmes, and provide a report, including 'lessons learned' to Research 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
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> The responses are based on the discussions with key groups involved in development work and the feedback they provided on projects they would aim to deliver and their intended impacts and outcomes.

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
> **Changes in funding – priorities and activities**
> As a result of the competitive method of allocation to programmes of work arising from priority areas, increases or decreases in the funding will be easily accommodated by Anglia Ruskin University. Only projects which meet ODA criteria will be funded.
>
> The *Research and Innovation Strategy* will make provision for new areas of priority to arise. Where relevant to development research, these areas will form new focus areas for the purpose of this strategy.

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
> Our priorities for QR GCRF funding are unlikely to change significantly from those outlined above for 18/19.
>
> As described in the section above, changes to funding will be easily accommodated within the competitive funding allocation, which will also ensure compliance with ODA criteria.

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

Our priorities for QR GCRF funding are unlikely to change significantly from those outlined above for 18/19, although new areas of research strength in the University may emerge as priority areas. Where new priorities areas are relevant to development research, they will be included in the areas eligible to apply for the QR GCRF funding. As above, all proposals will be judged on the basis of alignment with ODA criteria / UK GCRF Strategy alignment and proposed impact.

As described above, due to the competitive nature in which the funding will be allocated at Anglia Ruskin, changes to funding levels will be easily accommodated and will not change which priority areas are eligible, but rather the number and/or the size of the programmes funded.