

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

The Harper Adams University (HAU) strategy for the majority of development-related research activity is to contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) by addressing the global challenge of food security in DAC List countries.

The HAU strategy for GCRF QR will be focussed on supporting capacity building for food security research in universities and research institutes in DAC List countries. This capacity building will enable more researchers in DAC List countries to undertake high quality research to understand and resolve the specific problems of inadequate animal and crop production, which lead to food insecurity.

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

The key activity will be research training of Visiting Researchers (VRs) and PhD students from DAC list countries by HAU staff in the skills needed for sustainable agriculture research. Requests from VRs (including PhD students) in DAC List countries to visit HAU and train with HAU staff have been increasing in recent years as the research-base at HAU has expanded and the research at HAU has become better known internationally. Many requests have to be declined, since some VRs, especially from lower-income countries, do not have any financial resources. Other VRs have financial support for flights but not accommodation, food or training costs, and the limited resources available at HAU often lead to curtailed training with shorter visits than desirable and less-successful outcomes. The GCRF QR allocation will be used to support these VRs by covering some of these costs whilst undertaking training. This will ensure that they are able to visit HAU for a successful period of training.

This use of GCRF QR is in line with use of other QR allocations to support increasing internationalisation of research at HAU.

The main barrier will be lack of visibility of HAU as a collaborative partner to researchers in DAC list countries. This will be overcome through recent new appointments of staff with extensive international experience and contacts. DAC List countries with which we intend to collaborate in training of VRs and PhD students in the near future include (but are not limited to): Brazil, China, Egypt, Ghana, Sri Lanka.

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

Maximum 500 words

The main outcomes will be that VRs will be trained in specific animal and crop production research techniques, leading to an increase in standard of research on return to their place of work or study. VRs will gain experience of research at international standard, with a key output from the training period being a peer-reviewed international journal or conference paper. This will be demonstrable evidence of enhanced research capability of the VR on return to their home institution.

The impacts resulting from the higher standard of research in DAC List countries are expected to include greater output and sustainability of animal and crop production to give greater and more reliable food supply, thereby enhancing food security and contributing to UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger).

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

The QR GCRF will be administered through the Research Office in conjunction with the Finance Department. The Research Office maintains a register of VRs which is analysed in depth at weekly Research Management meetings between the Research Co-ordinator and Research Grants Administrator for UKVI and ODA compliance.

Publications resulting from VR activity are recorded in the Annual Research and Knowledge Exchange Report. Both the VR Register and the Annual Research and Knowledge Exchange Report are presented to the Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee to evaluate outcomes, assess progress and identify lessons learned.

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

Expenditure in support of several Visiting Researchers has been pooled, but all VRs are from DAC List 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.

Maximum 500 words

The priority is capacity building in DAC List countries by supporting Visiting Researchers to develop their skills in sustainable agriculture research to improve food production, which thus meets the ODA criterion of promoting economic welfare and development. If the QR GCRF allocation decreases, then fewer VRs will be supported. Normally, more VRs from DAC List countries apply to come to work at HAU than can be supported by the current allocation, so if the allocation increases this will enable more VRs to be supported.

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

Regardless of changes in the allocation, the priority will continue to be the support of Visiting Researchers from DAC List countries in sustainable agriculture research to improve food production, which thus meets the ODA criterion of promoting economic welfare and development.

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

Regardless of changes in the allocation, the priority will continue to be the support of Visiting Researchers from DAC List countries in sustainable agriculture research to improve food production, which thus meets the ODA criterion of promoting economic welfare and development.