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.

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a.   Strategy and priority objectives

Following key changes to the Senior Management Team, Kingston University is currently revising its Corporate Plan and aligning its research and business strategies to a refreshed mission, vision and set of core objectives. The heart of the Corporate Plan is a commitment to the development of social capital and to demonstrate societal impact, the practical translation and application of research and learning, and an explicit collaborative approach: '*our local and global community will benefit from our commitment to sustainability and support*'. Our GCRF priorities adhere to these core objectives intending to make a demonstrable difference to peoples' lived experiences and to experimentally develop new methods to capture and archive the evidence of the difference we make. Kingston has a modest, high-quality research base; our strategy and priority objectives for GCRF 2018-21 reflect the need to consolidate and build on areas of existing and emerging quality research.

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

We will subsequently expand on these and our existing partnership networks to co-develop applied research that will evidence positive benefits to DAC 'middle income countries'. We will work collaboratively, exploring all appropriate routes to build skills, exchange knowledge, strengthen partnerships, build trust and an effective critical mass, building capacity and relationships with capability to bid for competitive GCRF and other research & development funding.

Priority Objectives:

- support and develop existing areas of ODA research, considering internally as priority for pilot funding to foster and mature relationships and to fully scope local needs and most appropriate responses. These will be encouraged and supported to seek Newton funding and to work with international, government and local agencies to support both research and its impact.

- generate funded research, working closely with industry and developing social innovation. Partnership clusters will be expected to seek external funding to facilitate further collaboration. In particular, Newton funding will be sought for initial/pilot stages and competitive RCUK GCRF as research collaborations mature.

- invest in development and training to support researchers, to ensure they are appropriately equipped to respond to unfamiliar social and cultural contexts, part of our commitment to equality and diversity.

- work with existing 'in-country' partners to plan and support integration and oversight of project support, to prevent the risks of disjointed responses to in-country challenges. Partnership resilience and quality project management will ensure strategic oversight and effective linkage of projects where possible, to form a coherent 'in-country' or 'in-region' strategy.

- ensure integration of financial, impact and quality monitoring processes (see section 3). We will share and develop our 'impact tools and workshops' and learned skills, to enhance economic development but also diversify the impact realised and evidenced.

In aligning groups of GCRF researchers to Kingston's revised mission, we are committed to working with partners to develop the reach and significance of research impact and how it is captured and effectively communicated. Research partnerships that have already demonstrated impact will also be supported and encouraged to foster new geographical alliances and to extend and share their research to ensure knowledge exchange benefits are amplified.

Specific strategies will include:

- Targeted localised support for project development and bidding for external funding. Workshops will develop interdisciplinary collaboration and funding proposals in response to GCRF aligning with KU's mission, vision and strategic research priorities. Systematic mapping with our partners, of 'in-country' funders, foundations, charities and NGOs that may facilitate and augment projects and provide pathways to impact will develop a shared resource and build business intelligence.

- integrate QR-GCRF monitoring within existing QA and progress reports, monitored regularly through RBI committee and University Senate.

- focus on countries and regions where we have more mature relationships; invest proportionally in specific themes where there is evidence of research excellence.

- funds will be allocated on the basis of research excellence and clear pathways to impact. Proposals will be reviewed by an expert panel drawn from senior researchers and specialist expertise of visiting professors or externals as appropriate. We will limit our research themes (see below) reviewing annually to ensure strategic focus and research integrity are maintained and remain aligned with KU's evolving social and humanitarian mission and strategies

- ensure a balance between the development of existing research strengths, co-development of career opportunities for researchers and in-country partners, to achieve and develop the desired impact and make a strategic and economic difference in our selected regions.

- plan to allocate c.25% of our total QR-GCRF allocation to 'responsive mode', enabling KU to contribute to global events or disasters, to draw on resources where need for independent evaluations becomes apparent, as well as to facilitate pilot studies in emerging research fields (e.g. via post-doctoral or PhD projects), in response to new interdisciplinary research areas or appointment of new academic colleagues.

b.   Key aspects for QR-GCRF

The above priorities and strategies will direct use of KU's QR-GCRF allocation. As funding available to Kingston through this route is modest, we will maximise its effectiveness to build expertise, intelligence and resilience and to focus on achieving research excellence and impact.

Our GCRF expert panel will both review the strategic fit for KU and interrogate shared expertise between projects, to bring together enabling KU to build expertise within particular geographical regions and specific research fields through core trusted local delivery partners.

The responsive mode fund and open calls will enable unearthing relevant interests within specific themes across the University, enhancing opportunities for interdisciplinary activity and also ensuring highest quality research proposals are supported, with impact maximised.

KU will target investment to both specific geographical regions and initial research fields, subsequently building QR-GCRF strategic funding and ODA needs/circumstances into the new integrated strategy for Research Business and Innovation which will be developed during 2018/19.

2019/20 and 2020/21 plans will be aligned to the new strategy and will aim to build critical mass and researchers' capability and capacity over the final two years, increase our interdisciplinary research, invest in new emerging areas and integrate GRCF awareness within our doctoral research community through our Graduate School research training programme.

The basis for 2018/19 will draw on the initial allocation and the relative successes of the pilot projects, all of which have already outlined areas for future development.

c.   Fit to broader strategy

Given the appointment of a predominantly new Senior Management Team: VC (Spier), PVC Research Business & Innovation (Boddington), Registrar/Secretary (Brennan) PVC Civic & Public Engagement (Rhodes); KU's institutional strategies are under major review.
Current research strategy:
https://staffspace.kingston.ac.uk/dep/planningoffice/strategy/Documents/Strategies/SEN28%20-%20Research%20Strategy%202015-2020.pdf

Our strategic aims for GCRF will augment existing strategy and inform development of the new integrated strategy for Research, Business & Innovation at KU. Critically, this GCRF initiative is timely to integrate key social, cultural and economic drivers of our revised Corporate Plan.
1. Focused competitive bidding will prioritise quality research and links to established centres of activity and strength;
2. KU-wide competitive calls and dedicated thematic workshops will focus on fostering interdisciplinary research, opportunities for research leadership, developing mentoring skills and training/career development for ECRs and postgraduate research students;
3. Senior research leaders will support cross-KU strategy decisions, allocations and monitoring;
4. Focused, themed projects will enhance KU's international research reputation, building capacity and expertise in enabling impact that complements our professional practice, knowledge exchange and business engagement;
5. Linking postgraduate research students to GCRF initiatives significantly enhances their training and is beneficial when developing funding applications;
6. Leveraging pilot funds to build larger strategic collaborative applications for external competition will be prioritised;
7. Refining and consolidating the basis and nature of our collaborative partnerships for development and delivery will be a priority;
8. GCRF activities will be an enabler to: enhancing targeted quality research outputs/impact; stimulating activity and opportunities for intellectually-extension for our researchers; more fully integrating our research within global development goals and strategies.

Building from our new Corporate Plan, emerging key themes in our Research, Business & Innovation strategy are:

Impact: In positive response to the Stern Review, Kingston's new impact strategy is defined as the 'difference we make, and the evidence for the difference we make'. Impact will be central to revised structures and is central to our GCRF strategy and to a more integrated approach to KU's mission and vision.
Academic Roles: KU is developing a revised career framework intended to refine and clarify academic roles, responsibilities and performance at all levels.
Its core aim is to create a refined and more nuanced reward and recognition framework enabling academics wishing to undertake quality research, or to integrate and apply

research in the field or industry, to make an impact and to be recognised and rewarded for their distinctive contributions, in particular to innovations in monitoring and measuring effective and affective impact.

Communication and Training: Leadership, research and impact training and the inclusion and mentoring of staff with PGR students as an element of GCRF activities are of particular value and will also be accessible to 'in-country' partners, either via our pilot programmes or through online training and development access.

Showcase: GCRF outcomes will be a key element in redevelopment of our academic profiles for all staff, evidencing and showcasing their research and impact.

Management: Clear leadership and strategic revisions to our research environment and approach to impact will enhance GCRF priorities.

Research Focus: Our GCRF plans include targeted approaches to research and will be mutually beneficial in focusing our revised policy;

Post award support: Significant improvements in support will in particular assist with monitoring/evaluation of international collaborations, costs and outcomes.

Relationships: Support and facilitation of cross-institutional collaborative relationships and business intelligence (e.g. resource mapping, above) will enable more direct project support; e.g. enabling business engagement skills accessed in support of GRCF projects conducted in similar DAC countries.

Our QR-GCRF strategies will help to create an evidence base and in identifying and complementing key international priorities in our 5-year Knowledge Exchange (KE) strategy:

Support Business: Key delivery aims will include support to transform local business in DAC countries e.g. by developing economic resilience

Key partnerships: Local partnerships within DAC countries will be our priority and essential for delivering research outcomes and impact. Associated research collaborations will also be encouraged to strengthen networks.

Economic Development: A specific ODA aim and a beneficial outcome. Mechanisms for achieving economic development will be an assessment criterion for competitive projects;

Creative approach to practical outcomes: Capitalising on KU's existing research strengths we aim to drive innovative approaches in response to ODA challenges as well as to co-develop impact tools, measurement methods and models.

Educate: This specific ODA aim will draw on KU's strengths in educational diversity and be a key criterion in evaluation and assessment of internal competitive GCRF projects

d.   UK GCRF strategy.

Our QR-GCRF strategy for 2018-21 will consolidate from a modest and distributed research base, aligning projects geographically to build 'in-country' knowledge, fostering networks of delivery partners to enable formation of coherent integrated responses in defined thematic fields.

Our priorities and strategies will specifically promote research aiming to solve specific challenges, stimulating interdisciplinarity and impact, inclusive of researchers at all career stages, and strengthening KU's research capability/capacity as well as benefitting identified DAC countries.

Our intention is to retain and manage c.25% of the funding in responsive mode, enabling KU

to address global emergencies. The initial strategy will build on KU's existing research in the following priority areas:

Equitable Access to Sustainable Development :
•   Sustainable Health and Wellbeing
•   Inclusive and equitable quality education
•   Clean air and water
Sustainable Economies and Societies
•   Sustainable livelihoods and strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
•   Resilience and action on short term environmental shocks and long term environmental change
Human Rights Good Governance and Social Justice
•   Understand and respond to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises
•   Reduce conflict and promote peace justice and humanitarian action
•   Reduce poverty and inequality including gender inequalities

In addition, KU also have funding-eligible research that fulfils many UN Sustainable Development goals and specific GCRF priorities not listed above.

Our panel-led targeted funding will consider all proposals fitting both theme and criteria, and where appropriate allow projects/researchers to combine to facilitate wider impact.

e.   Institutional QR strategy

Institutional QR has been assigned and used in support of the Institutional research strategy referenced above. In the first half of this cycle (2015-2018), under the former PVC RBI, QR was assigned by formula, depending on the basis of earning and from where originally derived. This was assigned to discipline-based areas against locally derived plans to grow research, support researchers and progress the research strategy in each area. Plans were approved at senior management level for ongoing central research and finance monitoring.

In the second cycle (2018-21) and aligned with the GCRF initiative, the distribution of QR will be reviewed. A recently concluded comprehensive external review identified some key strategic challenges to be addressed in support for impact and to a lesser degree in development of the research environment.

Impact, Environment & Scholarly Infrastructure and targeted distribution of QR will be revised against external assessments, benchmarks and strategies for 2018-21, with particular emphasis on enhancing research quality, and fostering interdisciplinary collaborations locally, regionally and internationally. QR-GCRF will be a key element in these discussions and in strategy development, as the outcome-driven ethos fits well with our central positioning of impact, in providing opportunities to internationalise research strengths and capability.

f.   Barriers and enablers

	Barriers	Enablers
Internal	Combining research with teaching-led culture Poor interdisciplinary communication	Strategic scheme should allow time release New focus on impact stimulates staff to focus on delivering to strengths Call-themed bidding workshops Development opportunities for staff
Management	Activities and partners based overseas	Fund travel for site visits/relationship building Business tools e.g. Skype Consolidation of local partners allows trust building, better management; visits provide value for money to assure delivery
External	Delivery organisations have different timetable/ethos Engaging with different cultures	Relationship building at pilot builds common understanding Consolidation of local partners allows improved understanding and substitute delivery routes Cultural exposure develops staff and improves future communication

g.   Key activities

Institutional change has meant that specific activities are not yet mapped in detail.

KU's plan is to conduct and evaluate research pilots planned to date and to develop a series of local interventions, including the following:

Policy: Providing contributions to strategic and sustainable development and policy. Includes disseminating and extending research findings to benefit wider communities however defined.

Education, Doctoral and Staff Development Training:
Creates up-skilling and development of all participants and opportunities for knowledge exchange, development and skills training, to increase capacity, capability and sustainability of 'in-country' delivery partners.

Personal Mentoring, Individual & Professionals Practice support:
Working directly with individuals, subject associations or professional groups, NGOs and/or academics to contribute to and improve lives, learning, skills and knowledge transfer.

Economic/industrial:
Fostering attitudinal change, developing new business models, stimulating engagements and investment from businesses to create new employment opportunities.

Instrumental: The design of machines/mechanisms, systems, strategies or processes that adapt or alter local operations 'in-country'.

Each of these interventions requires similar project activities:

Site visits: UK-based researchers will be expected to visit the locality, both to build relationships with local delivery partners and to understand the social, cultural and political realities of any given situation.

In-country fieldwork/research: Data collection and contextual research will need to take place in-country. This will vary between projects whether this occurs on site visits, is carried out by local delivery partners, or local research partners included.

UK based research: A significant amount of research e.g., analysis of local data will take place within the UK, for the benefit of the DAC country.

Intervention design: the culmination of the research may include the design and testing of a solution to a local issue, iteratively improving as required. Potentially also be conducted in a UK or a local base, and varying project by project; both locations are likely in the majority of cases.

Embedding and Evaluating: Interventions must be embedded and local training provided. Immediate and later benefits as uptake embeds must be captured, evidenced and evaluated.

Future Activities Considered:
Fellowships, Residencies and Exchanges

We have prioritised Southern/South-East Asia (primarily India) as an initial base for consolidation of activity. 'The Future of Design Education in India, led by PVC RBI (Boddington) , initiated through the Tech Summit and the Prime Minister's visit to India (2016) examines capability and capacity building needs to deliver sustainable and innovative design education and research across India at a point of considerable expansion. Hosted via British Council, Indian Design Council, National Institute of Design, part sustained by Global Initiative of Academic Networks, it developed a network of over 70 HEIs and associated NGOs and business partners. We will consolidate and build on this network initiative, to focus our research and strengthen existing partnerships. Pilot projects associated to India have been prioritised to link, forming the basis of an initial series of planned research activities:
    Disaster resilience,
    Clean water initiatives
    Capacity building in design education

Two further pilots projects identified and supported will explore opportunities for growth:
    Health Education (Brazil and Africa) and Narratives of Migration Trauma (Beirut)

h.   DAC collaborations

To achieve the most effective GRCF outcomes, Kingston will consolidate activity. We intend to localise activity and therefore in 2018/19 the majority will occur in south/southeast Asia, with plans to extend links and develop partnership networks in central Asia and subsequently the Middle East.

Our initial focus will be on selected projects located primarily in India where the university has established academic partnerships in a number of key locations. By providing consolidated management support to this cluster we aim to maximise value for money and ensure that the chosen projects gain from inter-project benefits; e.g. shared mapping and understanding of political/policy landscapes, education, business and cultural frameworks, to effectively mobilise support for researchers to focus on achieving desired impact.

Our competitive scheme will invite future proposals for new development and to complement existing research. There is potential to extend our reach to any DAC-eligible country, yet we will be mindful of our capacity and capability to address specific country/regional issues unaligned with other projects. Such issues will be considered by the evaluation and assessment panel to ensure we deliver appropriate quality.

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

The primary anticipated outcomes from our initial strategy will include a series of mutually beneficial co-development partnerships that embed the benefits of our research within local communities to improve quality of life and future prospects 'in-country'.

We intend to build on existing projects already underway, the majority funded by 2017/18 QR-GCRF. We would subsequently add appropriate compliant research that will be identified and needs-specified through the pilot projects.

Although difficult to anticipate the precise outputs with any certainty these may include both practice-based products as well as more traditional forms of text-based research in the form of co-authored papers and books, policy documents and reports, training and development materials, databases and digital resources providing reusable developmental tools e.g. webinars.

Other important outcomes to capture are the mutual benefits of co-development for our partners and for KU's researchers in expanding horizons and opportunities for their research and for cross-cultural dialogues that such work engenders for all participants.

Equitable Access to Sustainable Development
The majority of our initial outcomes will be in this field.
Our current pilots all include some local educational and training outcomes, we anticipate more will be developed as the partnerships strengthen and mature.
These are also likely to include:
Access to PhD supervisor training and opportunities for co-supervision to enable partner institutions to develop doctoral capacity and capabilities, professional teacher education in specific fields (e.g. Design), co-development of methods for capturing and measuring impact, and specific forms of research training, particularly in areas of design and innovation where KU has specific expertise and where capacity has already been identified as a key issue.
Up-skilling of local research partners in Asia, new cooperative learning models and the potential to develop a collaborative doctoral training centre for design that draws on the collective expertise of a number of UK HEIs and builds from previous AHRC funding (currently under discussion).

Papers detailing local problems and raising awareness, policy recommendations and their implementation, and new methodologies based on local materials and pilot testing followed by implementation of domestic water treatments, under the clean air, water and sanitation outcome.

A delivery network model from consolidating these activities is also intended, allowing better direction, oversight and local mutual support.

Other pilot projects will produce outcomes within sustainable health and wellbeing, including the mitigation of trauma in migrants and training and development tools to improve ward-based incidents and lengths of hospital stays in southern Africa.

Sustainable Economies and Societies
Implementation of policy recommendations and local uptake of these and of water technology aims to contribute to the sustainability of cities and communities and help to address resilience and action in the context of short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change.

Human Rights Good Governance and Social Justice
Needs assessments, tailored workshops, data analysis, and creation of material documenting first-hand migration experience in lay-accessible forms, are intended to assist understanding and enable more effective responses to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises, reducing poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities.

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.

Built on our strategies above, funding will be primarily allocated on the basis of ODA compliance. Target countries must be from the DAC list and proposed projects must seek to address specific local issues, and partnership with appropriate delivery agencies is expected. Once awarded, projects will be monitored and evaluated against the proposed outcomes and impacts specified during the bidding process, through our standard quality processes outlined below. However, we recognise that applied research in particular is sometimes unpredictable by its nature, with interim results often redirecting final outcomes. In DAC regions, the context is sometimes less predictable meaning that issues change, or implementation can become impractical. Monitoring and consolidation will allow such issues to be regularly reviewed and considered to ensure that responses to problems retain ODA compliance. Significant changes e.g. a change of country due to civil unrest will require resubmission to our evaluation panel to ensure that any changes are compliant and acceptable.

In line with other UK HEIs, Kingston University has financial systems in place to ensure financial transactions are monitored and maintain the standards required by all major

funders such as HEFCE and RCUK. This includes routine assessment of financial risk with respect to the stability and capacity of new partner organisations.

Progress of projects towards stated deliverables is monitored and supported by our team of locally-based Research Operations Managers (ROMs). They remain in direct and regular contact with Principal Investigators (PIs) to monitor projects and to support the management of projects, either assisting directly or signposting and acting as intermediaries to specialist areas of support. They interact routinely with our impact team. We utilise the Vertigo Ventures Impact Tracker software and all projects are able and expected to use this to monitor and evidence their project impact. In addition to providing training and support for use of the software, the impact team also engage directly and systematically with PIs of projects, supported by the ROMs to do so.

In addition to providing advice on how to build impact pathways within their research, and which would be most appropriate in any given situation, our impact team also work with PIs throughout the project to monitor and evaluate the potential for impact as the project progresses. This ongoing oversight and evaluation allows evidence or gaps in impact to be identified in a timely fashion. Thus planning, evidence capture and expected scope of impact as defined within the tracker software are all monitored and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they continue to provide the best and widest benefit for each project. If an independent post hoc evaluation of a project is required to underpin the evidence of impact, it will be identified through this process, and funding needs for this process will be identified on a project-by-project basis.

Our impact and financial processes combine to monitor international partnerships. Commonly, when reimbursing partners overseas, or those with increased financial risk, KU will request the proof required for claims etc. to be provided with the invoice. Requiring evidence of work actually undertaken and the benefits and impacts arising, we shall continue this process for our 'in-country' delivery partners in receipt of QR-GCRF to meet their costs. However, as is the nature of ODA work, many delivery partners are charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that must direct all operating budget towards specific in-country activities, and thus have limited capacity to buffer delayed cash-flow arrangements. In such cases, we will work with the organisations to find solutions that fit both requirements, such as staged funding on a more frequent basis, with limited pre-financing topped up regularly, on the production of appropriate evidence.

It is University policy to require internal reporting from holders of budget from internally-funded initiatives. This will be used to gain oversight of progress across projects and to collect and assimilate lessons learned. As noted above a strategic imperative for this GCRF will be to build knowledge and confidence such that we can consolidate and maintain relationships over a more sustained period, so allowing us to build more strategic access to 'in-country' delivery partners and academic institutions and so that we can assess and evaluate ongoing impact, the spread of initiatives and their effects and affects.

Indicative Measures of Success – to be designed into projects
As a relatively modest contributor to the GCRF landscape, KU is particularly committed to the development of innovative impact measures that are accessible and can capture and

evidence impact in holistic effective and affective ways. Central to our mission and vision as a university the social and societal difference we make is a key and driving factor.

Policy: This is generally measured by the levels and extent of implementation regionally and nationally, including local advocacy, engagement and uptake to facilitate and promote activity to broader audiences. Efficacy is also a good measure, but may demand or be compromised by circumstances beyond our control e.g. when testing disaster relief policy.

Education and Training. In addition to generic feedback and engagement, the implementation of 'train the trainer' cascaded models, the development of blended and online access to training programmes, reusable learning resources and the longitudinal monitoring of their uptake and development, all provide evidence of impact on communities and require early planning and implementation at the outset of projects to establish monitoring cycles. Specific measures of benefits deriving from trainees (e.g. reduced hospital stays above) will be monitored project-by-project.

Personal. Personal testimonials, continued partnerships and research development, user feedback questionnaires, enhanced qualifications and professional standing and improved wellbeing.

Economic/industrial: Levels of implementation, local engagement and application. Efficacy, and demonstrable economic improvement and/or efficiency measures, new business and/or job creation measures

Instrumental. Efficiency measures, local engagement, uptake and development of products or artefacts. Spread of application, use and integration within the local economy.

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.

As stated above, in 2018/19 (see below), we will concentrate on expansion and consolidation of an existing body of work, supported in pilot form by competitive 2017/18 QR-GCRF funding.

Given the relatively modest scale of Kingston's research initiatives, our strategy will be to consolidate and build on The 'Future of Design Education in India' network and initiative, linking associated pilot projects proposed for India to focus our research and strengthen existing partnerships.

Annex A2 has been completed using assumptions on this basis, building on previous formal costings using fEC methodology where possible; internal support for e.g. fEC overheads is indicated. Allowance for new activity has indicative fEC values from previous competitions.

Our plan for activity over a three-year cycle is in principle to consolidate and invest in 2018/19 prior to planning further growth and development. We therefore anticipate a transitional approach to funding once we have examined 'proof of concept' in more depth.

For further funding, we will aim to maintain a balance of c.75% to sustain project support and delivery and c.25% to fund new responsive mode projects, or enable positive response and contribution where appropriate to natural disasters, global emergencies and humanitarian calls.

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.

Throughout the 3-year period, our priority will remain to achieve co-development partnerships for learning, research and development that are based on co-designing and building mutually beneficial expertise, through the strategies outlined above.
Selection criteria for funding of projects would be based on ODA compliance, as outlined above, in addition to alignment to core themes and expertise and the quality of the proposed research.

Given our modest foundations, a decrease of funding in 2018/19 would considerably constrain our activities even within the existing priorities, and may potentially render them unsustainable due to an inability to maintain and monitor activities we are committed to. Existing and funded activity would continue and infrastructural support for that prioritised to ensure we maintain quality, delivery and our research integrity.

We will build on existing research in the areas outlined in section 2.
These would be prioritised and refined to extend policy in relation to disaster resilience; and improving and extending the scope of our clean water initiative; capacity and capability building design education. Our further pilot schemes in health education and in trauma in relation to migration would be reviewed, but our capacity to sustain and build on activities would undoubtedly be constrained. The precise scope would depend on the level of funding offered and our expert panel assessment of our capacity to develop GCRF projects alongside other institutional research priorities.

An increase in funding would offer greater scope, particularly in the development of innovation in capturing and communicating the impact of its research and teaching. Kingston is committed to situating impact (in the broadest sense) as the engine for the integration of research, business and teaching and for sustaining an outward looking approach to all activities. As an HEI focused on bringing together expertise and experience, and committed to developing quality research and identifying and testing its applications in practical contexts, GCRF is a significant opportunity within which to extend and expand our activities.

Depending on the extent of the increase, we would consider three options:

Initially we would wish to explore how we could innovate in developing impact, evaluating
   and communicating the outcomes of this, in particular the expansion and utilisation of
   narrative studies, media, film and visual communication in which we have considerable
   expertise.
Secondly, we would review our proposed timescales and consider the scope of our
   prioritised projects and the rate at which we might extend the challenges into new
   contexts so as to examine different political, geographic and socio-political issues.
Thirdly we may open up a further internal competition to unearth new interdisciplinary
   activities and to build on existing areas of strength in new geographical regions. This may
   include a reconsideration of our health education projects and how these may be
   extended and advanced.

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.

In the proposed second year of a three-year strategy, our initial priority for 2019/20 will be a
review and reflection on our consolidation strategy and its effectiveness in delivering a more
integrated series of projects. As identified above, support for uncoordinated areas of
excellence can lead to disjointed responses to in-country problems and place strain on our
capacity to provide appropriate support and development.

The decision to focus and consolidate ongoing projects in 2018/19 was to ensure improved
institutional learning, providing strategic oversight and linking of projects to form a more
coherent and collaborative overview of a region and its challenges and opportunities. This
will also allow us to test models of co-operation based on the evidence drawn from our
2017/18 evaluation.

The prioritised projects are each based in southern or Southeast Asia and all have bases and
potential strands in India. Our activity will continue to build on and expand existing projects,
amalgamating emerging research from our portfolio as it arises and complements ongoing
activity that is ODA compliant.
In 2019/20, we would anticipate being in a strengthened position to be able to attract
external funding either as a partner or as part of a consortium or in leading a network
proposal or a medium scale research proposal.

As with 2017/18, changes in funding level would not radically alter our research priorities
but may adjust the scope of our activities and the opportunities to innovate in the ways we
capture and develop impact.
Any decrease in funding would reduce the pace and scope of consolidation and ongoing
project activities and an increase would provide similar options as in 2018/19.

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.

If our 2018/19 and 2019/20 strategies are successful we would anticipate extending the research, reach and significance of our GCRF projects in 2020/21 and in particular building our capacity to 'make a difference'.

We will continue to maintain focus and to identify and build on strengths, develop external links and seek external research and industry funding support if our capacity building activities have succeeded in delivering the knowledge and networks within our chosen region.

Expanding the scale and scope of our activities will depend on the capacity we have and the successes and learning from the prior activities. We are mindful of the considerable risks associated with research across international borders and particularly in contexts where the activities are subject to rapid change.

Our commitment to focusing, building resilience and sustainable partnerships, including the consolidation of contacts into a key delivery team, and brokering networks across more than one country, are all means to provide the foundations for growth and for extending benefits and learning geographically.

More critically than year on year reductions or extensions to QR-GCRF funding is the ability to plan year on year and to understand the parameters of any income stream such that it can be utilised to maximise its investment in these important research fields. We hope that some degree of stability can be provided in order that we can plan strategically, contribute positively and deliver effectively in our chosen fields.