

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.

Leeds Beckett University launched an ambitious strategy in 2016 to be an excellent, accessible, globally engaged university contributing positively to a thriving Northern economy. An important part of this strategy is to develop the research maturity of our organisation. To achieve this, we are working hard to significantly grow the number of staff engaging in research, increase our research student numbers and improve the income we get from research and enterprise activities.

Institutionally, The QR allocation is managed by the Research and Enterprise Directorate, and overseen by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise). It is used strategically to support the activity that supports our ambitions to grow and develop our research. We allocate QR in 3 ways:

- To provide extensive central resource to support research initiatives across the University and beyond

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

- To provide funds for each school in direct proportion to the QR earned that can pump prime and encourage additional research activity
- To provide a central competitive fund that supports areas of growth and excellence across the University.

The University strategy provides the overarching framework that informs and shapes our strategy for GCRF activity. However, there are also two important strands of the overall strategy which are also pertinent to the GCRF activity. The global engagement strategy states clearly that we will contribute to global challenges through education, research and business collaborations, reflecting the challenges posed within the UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund. Building on this, the University Research and Enterprise strategy recognises that we can frame our research into three distinct themes that reflect our existing strengths and allow a greater cohesion between academic disciplines and schools. These themes are cross cutting and bring together units, schools and research centres from across the university into a framework within which we can evidence our world leading research which is having real impact on some of the critical issues facing our industries, our society and the health and wellbeing of the population both of the UK and the world. The themes reflect, in part, our university's history of engagement with the 'grand challenges' facing us in terms of the sustainability of our society and its economic, community, political and physical structures. These themes map well onto GCRF Research Agenda, as shown below, and we will use this framework to build and enhance our current and future GCRF activities going forward.

Leeds Beckett Research and Impact Themes	UK GCRF Strategy (Summary)
<p>Sustainability We will bring together subject areas and schools relating to the built environment, travel, tourism, engineering, business, technology and computing to address key issues pertaining to environmental, financial and social sustainability.</p>	<p>Equitable access to sustainable development Research and innovation so everyone has access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • secure and resilient food systems • sustainable health and well being • inclusive and equitable quality education • clean air, water and sanitation • affordable, reliable, sustainable energy

<p>Health and Wellbeing The collaborative theme cuts across many subject areas within units and schools. It relates to all aspects of health and wellbeing drawing on physical, mental, nutritional, and environmental (technological, spatial awareness and design) elements. Health economics and business will also to address the challenge of improving personal and societal wellbeing across the globe.</p>	<p>Human rights, good governance and social justice Research and innovation that enables us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand and respond effectively to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises • reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action • reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities.
<p>Culture and Society This is interwoven across many schools and subject areas yet drawing predominately on the arts and humanities. We will use the wider spectrum of architecture, business, technology and computing, creating and defining physical and social space and awareness to develop knowledge and impact that can inform new societies and cultures.</p>	<p>Sustainable economies and societies Research and innovation that builds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth • resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change • sustainable cities and communities • sustainable production and consumption of materials and other resources
<p>By way of exemplars, described below is a selection of current research activity (some of which is externally funded) that is overseas development-related and currently being encouraged and supported by schools and research centres.</p> <p>Sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve and develop the water quality infrastructure and operational reliability of rural community water points in developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa. - frugal innovation for low income economies <p>Health and Wellbeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enabling local people in Myanmar to represent and share their knowledge in culturally appropriate ways, through which they share their understanding of the conflicts, violence and peace strategies. - supporting a non-violent peace force in Philippines, Myanmar and South Sudan - health and wellbeing of migrant populations to reduce disability and premature mortality worldwide from risk factors related to nutrition and physical activity. 	

Culture and Society:

- feasibility of using wheat straw as a source of natural cellulose fibres for use in construction of low cost dwellings
- Dark Tourism and its impact on local economies in countries in conflict

So based upon our three themes, our GCRF strategy is simple; “to encourage and support research and innovation that addresses the problems faced by developing countries whilst enhancing our ability to deliver excellent research”. Because we are in the early stages of our journey to build our leading research and academic enterprise, we plan to use the GCRF strategy as a developmental activity to support, encourage and underpin new academic activity. The focus of the support will be to build capacity, specifically around new partnerships and enhancing expertise and to pump prime activity that will lay the ground for future ODA activity. Thus, we have a 3 strand strategy to address the GCRF challenges, which we will interpret through our interdisciplinary theme leadership:

Strand 1: Build Collaborations

We will use some of our GCRF allocation to provide a central competitive fund to support academics to build collaborative links within DAC compliant countries to provide future research capability. This will take the form of travel grants to visit countries to develop relationships.

Strand 2: Academic Activity Support

We will encourage our 11 Directors of Research to identify emerging and current research areas that support ODA and support them to pump prime using existing QR allocations to enable future successful GCRF research bids.

Strand 3: In Country Research Partnerships

We will develop collaborative doctoral programmes focussed on strategic areas of research for the country in question working with Universities to graduate PhD students that will return to countries to further build research capability and sustainable activities. In the first instance this will be to build partnerships with China and Tanzania to launch the new Knowledge Economy of the 4th Industrial Revolution aimed at generating new jobs before there is widespread unemployment and so maintain harmony in society.

Leeds Beckett University has a global engagement strategy that will inform our engagement with the GCRF fund. This strategy has identified 7 International Hubs where we will develop in country relationships. There are 4 of these Hubs that reside within DAC compliant countries; South Asia and South East Asia (India and Vietnam, Lower Middle Income) and East Asia and Africa (China and Mauritius; Upper Middle Income.) These hubs will form the starting point for both in-country engagement and current and future research relationships informed, by academic endeavour.

In some ways, because we are at an early stage in our research maturity journey, we have few barriers to implementing our strategy, however it does mean that it will be

important to provide central support and strong leadership to see significant progress. Other issues we acknowledge at Leeds Beckett, include our mix of disciplines and knowledge. We are extremely well placed to support policy, social issues and similar research activities. However, we do need to work hard to maximise our STEM research and ensure it is directed appropriately to support development activity and this will be an area of focus for us.

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

The GCRF strategy is complementary with the University strategy in that it is developmental and aimed at building both academic capability and capacity to grow future research. Because our allocation is small, there is a need to use it to leverage existing activity and future funding to realise significant impacts and outcomes.

Strand 1: Build Collaborations

The main outcome of this strand of the strategy is to enable our academics to build and grow in country relationships such that the networks and partnerships are in place to underpin future research activity. By focusing on this aspect of activity, we will be well placed to respond rapidly and successfully to future calls for research from this and other funders and thus encourage welfare and economic development of a country or countries on the DAC list of ODA recipients. Our outputs and impacts will be associated with our strategic themes, "Health and Wellbeing", "Sustainability" and "Culture and Society". We expect impacts to be particularly focused around migrant support and fresh water provision but we will evaluate collaborations individually and support those with best impact potential. The fund will be centrally led to ensure the GCRF grant allocation is used strategically.

Strand 2: Academic Activity Support

This is a bottom up approach using the leadership of our internal network of the School based Directors of Research. By responsively identifying ODA compliant activity that focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries, they will be expected to use a proportion of their QR allocations to provide pump priming support that will encourage academics to engage in such research and thus develop future impact.

Strand 3: In Country Research Partnerships

The thrust of this strand is to work with DAC compliant countries to develop the researchers of the future such that they are best placed to collaborate with other countries, or indeed develop their own impacts and solutions. For example, our collaboration with Tanzania should develop a research community in their universities that can work in collaboration other universities on areas of research which have a key significance for the Tanzanian economy.

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.

The University has robust academic governance in place and it is proposed that this will be used to monitor and evaluate the GCRF strategy for compliance and success. Leadership will be provided by the DVC (Research and Enterprise) and supported by the Director of Research and Enterprise to ensure ODA compliance. Academic Board is the parent committee for academic matters and is responsible for overseeing general issues relating to the research, scholarship, teaching and courses of our University. The Research and Enterprise Committee is responsible to the Academic Board for overseeing the University's research; enterprise; other scholarly activity and the provision of research degrees. It is this committee which is chaired by DVC (Research and Enterprise) and which will require an annual GCRF report to be presented to the committee to provide compliance and delivery assurances. This report will measure progress, evaluate outcomes, identify lessons learned, and ensure ODA compliance.

The University Research and Enterprise Forum is a subcommittee of the Research and Enterprise committee that is led by the Directors of Research and responsible for implementation of the various strategies. It is they that will oversee the detail of the strands and be responsible for transparent and equitable allocation of the funds.

All academics must follow a peer review process and attend a panel when applying for external funding. This process is administered by the University Research Team and they will ensure compliance and quality of bids for additional GCRF funds.

All research applicable to the GCRF fund and supported either directly or indirectly will be covered by the relevant policies and processes in place that cover all academic staff at Leeds Beckett University. These include The Research Ethics Policy, Open Access Research Policy, and The Open Data Policy. In addition, and research degrees funded directly or indirectly through the GCRF strategy must comply with the regulations contained within the Graduate School's Research Student Quality Manual.

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.

Leeds Beckett University's allocation is modest and so is our plan. We have allocated funding to strand 1 and 3 and intend to support strand 2 through our existing QR allocation. We plan to use 2108/19 to set up the processes and activities that will underpin GCRF activity over the coming years. This means it is difficult to be explicit about exactly what the money will be allocated against. We expect and intend that in coming years, as our activity matures, we will want to support successful and emerging research endeavours and will be able to be more definitive about the projects' remits.

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.

Obviously with a larger allocation comes greater ambition with better outcomes and impacts.

Strand 1: Build Collaborations

This activity would increase with a greater allocation. With a smaller allocation we would have to reduce the fund.

Strand 2: Academic Activity Support

Because we are not allocating any GCRF to this activity, an income reduction would not make a difference. However additional income would make a huge difference in this strand. We would identify important and emerging activity across our 3 themes to provide some significant pump priming support and, perhaps more importantly, fund research. The allocation of this funding would be led by the Research and Enterprise Committee and would be used to fund our activities such as:

- improving the water quality infrastructure and operational reliability of rural community water points in developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- supporting a non-violent peace force in Philippines, Myanmar and South Sudan
- development of wheat straw as a source of natural cellulose fibres for use in construction of low cost buildings

Strand 3: In Country Research Partnerships

A reduction in our allocation would require us to reduce our ambition in this area and we would have to launch with just China instead of China and Tanzania. Further allocation would allow us to support more students to study for research degrees and roll out to other countries more rapidly.

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.

Funding for 2019/20 would build upon our current 3 strand strategy, priorities would not change and, assuming a favourable review of effectiveness, we would continue to support activity as below. We appreciate that as our ODA activity matures, and academics have built the relationships and networks necessary for GCRF activity, more funding will be directed to strand 2 to support actual research. Changes would affect the priorities in the same way as 2018/19.

Strand 1: Build Collaborations

This activity would always continue and we would expect to be funding follow on travel grants to support strengthening and deepening of relationships.

Strand 2: Academic Activity Support

We would hope that our previous funding in strand 1 and 2 would have generated some additional activity and perhaps successful funding bids. Thus our strategy in this strand is to remain responsive to need and use our QR to encourage and develop ODA compliant activity.

Strand 3: In Country Research Partnerships

Our strategy is for a rolling programme of support and as this is just year 2, it will be too early to judge effectiveness, thus we will continue to develop the partnerships and programmes.

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.

Three years into the GCRF strategy, will allow us to review and hone our plans to support more effectively what is working. Thus it is difficult to be fully prescriptive here. At this stage, we would still be looking to build on our 3 strand strategy but would expect the travel grants to decline as academic activity increases. We would hope to see the start of success grant application in collaboration with our in-country networks and partners and would use some funding to support and enhance this activity. Towards the end of the 20/21 academic cycle, we may start to see our first doctoral students coming to the end of their research study and this will be the ideal time to review the activity to understand current and future impact potential for China and Tanzania.

