

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.

a. Strategy & Priority Objectives

Manchester Met is committed to engaging in development related research activity through the development of sustainable international partnerships and investment in high quality research, which addresses the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To do this we will acknowledge and build on existing areas of strength and experience benefiting DAC nations, investing in activities, which will enhance the reach and translation of our research, strengthen our connections with stakeholders in DAC nations and prepare our researchers to engage in development related research.

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

This activity takes place against a background of significant investment in Research and Knowledge Exchange under the leadership of PVC Research and Knowledge Exchange and Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange.

We have established University Centres of Research and Knowledge Exchange (UCRKEs), elite research groupings through which we will drive our all our future research activity. All Centres have are developed five-year strategic plans that will focus efforts on key research priorities and wider international collaboration, including key development goals.

We have also made investment in developing the expertise, processes and systems required to successfully deliver development related research and generate impact. This has included (a) refocusing of pre-award support to align with development related research and funders, (b) the establishment of robust post-award management frameworks, which can support this activity effectively and (c) investment in expertise in generation of impact, public engagement and communications.

For the period 2018-2021, our overarching priorities relating to development related research are to:

P1. Increase Manchester Met's engagement in development related research with a global impact & DAC nation emphasis – we will invest in activities to develop individual researchers' understanding of capability to undertake development related research. We will provide opportunities for researchers to collaborate with and in DAC nations, enhancing networks growth and greater understanding of cultural contexts. We will ensure appropriate infrastructure is in place to working internationally.

P2. Build sustainable and equitable partnerships with stakeholders in DAC nations – we will focus resource towards activities which support development, expansion and sustainability of networks with key in nation stakeholders including academic organisations, NGOs, industry and policy makers. We will create platforms for cooperation and coproduction that ensure our research addresses local needs and generates appropriate solutions.

P3. Translate our excellent research into impact for DAC nations – we will invest in activities to accelerate the impact of our research for DAC nations. We will identify research and outcomes with applicability to the UN's SDGs and invest resources in their translation. We will actively seek out opportunities to maximise the reach of our research and outcomes where there is clear and evidenced multi-country benefit.

P4. Embed development related research into the planning and governance of our elite research groupings – we will embed development related research in our UCRKEs. We will invest in developing DAC nation representation within governance structures so they constantly reflect on mutually beneficial research priorities and coproduce knowledge of primary benefit in DAC nations. We will explicitly consider the opportunities for expansion

and initiation of development related research within UCRKEs and tailor investment to support these opportunities.

P5. Increase our researchers' participation in externally funded development related research (including GCRF) – we will ensure our researchers are aware of the underpinning principles of development related research. We will promote external opportunities to researchers, and ensure that they receive appropriate advice on primary aims of funding streams supporting development related research and ensure wide understanding to enhance the focus and quality of submissions. We will ensure that University governance systems and processes are in place to support the additional requirements of the robust delivery of development related research activities

b. Summary of key aspects of the QR GCRF Strategic Plan

Our strategic plan will enable Manchester Met to refocus resources towards specific areas of our research portfolio to be address the challenges that DAC nations face, and reflects the overarching priorities of our development related research as outlined in Q1a. The QR GCRF Strategic Plan has the following key aspects:

Direct investment in DAC nations

As outlined in the detailed responses below and in A2, we will use a proportion of our QR GCRF in direct support of researchers and collaborators from DAC nations. This will include funding: (i) attendance at thematic capacity building workshops, (ii) participation in UCRKE external advisory boards, (iii) participation in and hosting of international network workshops and (iv) short fellowships to Manchester Met.

Development of equitable partnerships

We will focus all activity on the development of equitable partnerships with organisations and individuals in DAC nations. This will include the direct investment in DAC nations, but more broadly we will support Manchester Met researchers to develop collaborative relationship in DAC nations that can directly inform, contribute and participate in UCRKE research activities. This close working will ensure that our research is shaped by DAC nation need, and will improve understanding of the priorities, barriers and risks associated with undertaking development led research

A portfolio of appropriate activities

We will combine targeted support with more general activities to increase the engagement of our research community with international development challenges. We will achieve this through focus towards sectors in which Manchester Met is already engaged in development-focused research, such as environmental management, creative industries, healthcare and tourism. We will also combine activities with a broad reach that are likely to expand the range of DAC nations and sectors with whom we collaborate.

Adapting investment over time

Our investment profile over the three-year period covered by this plan will shift from a focus on relationship building activities to financing of directed research projects. This will reflect the maturing of relationships with partners and stakeholders in DAC nations as well as an increased capability and capacity for our researchers to undertake development-related research. This will include adaption based on the selection and prioritisation of DAC nations, the process for which is outlined in section 1(h) and reviewed through the governance structure detailed in section 5.

Investment in internal support structures as described in Q1a above will not draw on QR GCRF, and forms part of our institutional investment in establishing and expanding our international research.

c. Fit with Broader Strategy & Priorities

The strategic plan outlined in this document aligns Manchester Metropolitan University's key strategies. It is informed by our five strategic themes: **place, ambition, partnerships, community** and **sustainability** (<https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/about-us/our-strategy/>), which reflect our global outlook and our commitment to creating impact, enabling communities and developing sustainable solutions underpinned by high quality research.

It is closely aligned with Manchester Met's thematic Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy (<https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/rke-strategy/>), which sets out the University's ambition and priorities for the development of high quality sustainable research with impact. Specifically, it will provide investment aligned to our University Centres of Research and Knowledge Exchange (UCRKEs) to build capability and capacity. The measures outlined in more detail in other areas of this document will contribute to targets and ambitions relating to increasing the volume, quality and impact of research and supporting the development of researchers' careers.

The QR GCRF strategic plan also contributes to elements of the University's International Strategy, which focus on the expansion of productive international academic partnerships (<https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/internationalisation-strategy/>).

d. Fit with UK GCRF Strategy

Our strategic plan aligns with the UK GCRF Strategy in both its underpinning principles and the activities that it will support. Through strategic investment and refocusing of existing resources, we will promote excellent challenge-led research and strengthen capacity through partnership. All investment will be in line with OECD ODA guidelines and we will seek to maximise the impact of our research both directly and through its contribution to improving the evidence base for sustainable development policy and practice. The research focus of activities supported will respond to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and reflect the overarching priorities of '*Equitable access to sustainable development*', '*Sustainable economies and societies*' and '*Human rights, good governance and social justice*'.

Both our approach and our areas of excellence align with the UK's GCRF strategy. In terms of approach, we look to be **challenge-led** by working with academics and partners in DAC nations in developing an understanding of local need and policy drivers, in the context of the UN's SDGs. We will look to **strengthen capacity** by upskilling academics and colleagues both in the UK and in developing nations so that a long-term partnership and research legacy remains. Overtime, through strategic investment, we will become more able to address **emergencies** when urgent research is needed, as identified by and then coproduced with partners in DAC nations.

As to disciplines of relevance, our new UCRKEs can contribute to many of the areas which are included in the UK's GCRF strategy. Examples include: **Sustainable development** and, in particular, clean air and water are among the focuses of the Ecology & Environment Centre. Providing **quality education** in developing countries is already the focus of work in the Education & Social Research Centres. Staff in Integrated Health & Social Care, Musculoskeletal and Biosciences are sharing the expertise to help access to **sustainable health & wellbeing**. The Future Economies, Work Productivity, Education & Social Science Research and Applied Social Sciences centres can all help deliver research relevant to a **sustainable economy & society**. Staff across all the centres are working with partners in DAC nations and this strategy can help ensure further impact and capacity building there.

e. Fit with wider QR Strategy

The QR GCRF Strategic Plan complements Manchester Met's wider QR Strategy, providing a focus on investment in measures to support increased engagement with development related research. In particular, it broadens the reach of existing initiatives to (a) broaden international networks (including with DAC nations), (b) develop our University Centres of Research and Knowledge Exchange, (c) develop our early career researchers, and (d) increase the impact of our research.

f. Key Barriers & Enablers

Barriers

- 1, A potential lack of alignment between the national priorities in DAC nations for social/economic growth and institutional research strengths at Manchester Metropolitan University.
- 2, Limited in country links in areas of strength and/or lack of experience in translating research.
- 3, Limited research infrastructure in partner countries – as well as associated investment in health and education – can make it difficult to generate excellent research with impact.
- 4, Geo-political situation in some of our proposed partner countries will require sensitive and flexible approaches to research.

Enablers

- 1, The University has made a broad institutional commitment to international research.

- 2, Experience in generating impactful research through strong partnerships both internationally and with UK a wide range of organisations.
- 3, New investment in research infrastructure to monitor and manage projects, including pre and post-award management system and robust ethical & research governance.

g. Key Activities

We will undertake a range of activities described below and in Qs 6-8 and Annex A2.

Much of our initial investment will be in **capacity and capability building** and **pump priming funding** to increase the range of development related research undertaken within our University Centres of RKE (UCRKEs). We will use funding to supplement existing schemes for development of international networks, visits of international researchers and pilot research projects. We will also make support available to embed representation from key international partners in the governance structures of our UCRKEs, ensuring a sustained focus on development. Funding will also support joint capacity and capability building activities such as thematic capacity building workshops and visits designed to establish and develop equitable partnerships with organisations from DAC nations.

We will also make additional investment in **mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research** in key areas aligned to the five-year plans of UCRKEs, with a particular focus on the development of Early Career Researchers who wish to develop their capability, capacity and understanding of development-led research.

In order to **generate impact from our research**, we will make additional investment in activities to develop impact in DAC nations. We will invest to maximise the reach of our existing research outcomes where there is clear in-country need and benefit to DAC nations and explore opportunities to generate multi-country benefit.

Whilst **meeting fEC of GCRF activity funded through other sources** is not a priority for 2018/19, we envisage that as our engagement with GCRF and other development related funding increases, this may be an area of investment in future. It is also unlikely, given the nature of our research strengths, that we will invest significantly in activities relating to **rapid response to emergencies with an urgent research need**, but will retain flexibility in our plans to engage where there is a unique capability at Manchester Met.

h. Main Developing Countries

Whilst our intention is to retain flexibility for engagement with a wide range of DAC nations, we anticipate extending work with the following countries and regions: *Brazil, China, Colombia, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, and West Africa*. The University is currently working with organisations in these countries and regions, and this focus builds on existing investments by the University and established in-country relationships.

Our decision to invest in collaborations with specific countries will be informed by assessment of the feasibility and impact of collaboration with the DAC nation, the plans

of our UCRKEs and previous experience of working with the DAC nation as evidenced through analysis of measures such as joint publications and externally funded research projects.

This assessment will include consideration of:

1. Needs of DAC nation

What are the key needs of the DAC nation as reflected in their national policies and associated action plans and reports of respected international organisations including WHO, UNHCR & OECD?

To what extent can Manchester Met's research strengths within our UCRKE offer a solution to the needs of the DAC nation?

2. Potential for development of long-term equitable partnerships

What is the potential for creating or expanding a network within the DAC nation which reflects the breadth of the local organisations and agencies needed to ensure uptake of results of research?

To what extent is the country identified as an explicit target for collaboration by UCRKE strategies and our International Strategy?

What is the potential for expanding Manchester Met's relationship either within a specific discipline or on an interdisciplinary basis

3. External risks

Classification of the level of risk within the DAC nation based on key external sources e.g. Foreign and Commonwealth Office, commercial databases and reports (e.g. coface – www.coface.com).

The maturity of structures to support international collaboration between the DAC nation and the UK (including robustness of infrastructure).

Potential that individuals taking part in proposed research may be put at risk (e.g. due to geo-political situation in specific DAC nation)?

Collaborations will be approved via the governance structure outlined in Q3, in consultation with strategic partners in the targeted DAC nations. All collaborations will be subject to appropriate due diligence to minimise risk associated with transfer of funds and project delivery with organisations in DAC nations.

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

Many of the activities supported in the 2018/19 funding period will be supported through schemes that are flexible in terms of DAC nation and proposed thematic focus. As such, the specific challenges addressed, outcomes and impacts will be captured prior to investment in line with arrangements described in Q3 and will be recorded on a project by project basis. The following provide an indication of the high-level outcomes and impacts we would expect to see as a result of investment. The detail will vary depending on the DAC nation's specific challenges and needs and the nature of projects.

Main outcomes and impacts for the benefit of DAC nations

(1) Joint research projects responding to specific needs

Outcomes: Defined by project. Research will directed address the in country need or/challenge identified. Where projects involve teams from DAC nations, we would expect outcomes including; increased research profile through joint publication, experience of international working, increased understanding of international research agendas and infrastructure.

Impact: Specific impacts relating to DAC nation needs and SDGs will be defined on a project-by-project basis, but we would expect research to contribute to evidence-based policy development and offer benefits to improve the sustainability and wellbeing in the target countries. On an individual basis, we expect an impact on the employability and future career prospects of the DAC nation researchers.

(2) Creation of individual development opportunities

Outcomes: Defined by project. Researchers from DAC nations will increase their technical skills, gain experience of international working, increase profile through joint publication and increase their understanding of UK research agenda and infrastructure.

Impact: Specific impacts relating to DAC nation needs and SDGs will be defined on a project-by-project basis, but we would expect research to contribute to increasing the capacity of organisations for future collaboration in international research. On an individual basis, we expect an impact on the employability and future career prospects of the individual.

(3) Translation of research for the benefit of DAC nations

Outcomes: Defined by project. Activities to broaden the impact of our research will lead to development and implementation of solutions for specific DAC nations.

Impact: Specific impacts relating to DAC nation needs and SDGs will be defined on a project-by-project basis, but we would expect activity to contribute solutions to challenges

related to sustainability and wellbeing in target countries. At an organisational level, we will create opportunities for key stakeholders in DAC nations to inform the focus of future research.

Secondary outcomes and impacts

In addition to the outcomes and impacts for the benefit of DAC nations, we also anticipate secondary outcomes and impacts of benefit to Manchester Met. We expect our capacity to undertake development related research to increase leading to a growth in ODA-related research. Through the development of an increased number of higher quality broad partnerships, we will enhance our understanding of cultural contexts and establish ourselves as a 'partner of choice' in DAC nations across the public, private and community sectors. Our investment will also provide individual development opportunities for our researchers to increase their skills and experience of working internationally and specifically in a development context.

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.

Manchester Metropolitan University's commitment to international research, including in ODA countries, in both its recent Research and International strategies as well as in the development of University Centres for Research & Knowledge Exchange. This strategic framework underpins the policies, processes and approaches in terms of both strategic and individual project monitoring & evaluation.

Strategy Monitoring & Evaluation

ODA strategy will be reviewed at institutional level in terms of activity, outputs, geographic distribution and impacts identified by a sub-group of the University Research & Knowledge Exchange committee. This ODA sub-group will include representatives of the RKE Centres, Early Careers Researchers, Post-Graduate Research and professional support staff so that it is inclusive in terms of its governance and reach. The group will also bring in external expertise on research in developing contexts either via development specialists joining on a permanent basis to advise the group or on an ad hoc basis to bring in particular knowledge of a particular DAC nation.

This sub-group will:

1. Monitor growth in volume and value of sustainable, high quality ODA activities. The University will produce a quarterly tracking report for the group detailing opportunities and grants awarded using established information systems..

2. Annually review the number of journal and other academic publications related to research with or in target ODA countries based on existing systems information. This will help check both research quality (e.g. through weighted citation impact or other relevant measures) and the number of staff engaged in ODA-related activity.

3. Track the outcomes from Research and Knowledge Exchange centres international strategies and advise on future ODA activity. We will also monitor the number of incoming and outgoing Visiting Researchers from target DAC nations aligned to each of the centres.

4. Have control and oversight of internal investment awards and will be responsible for monitoring performance and directing future investment towards those projects that have achieved success against their objectives for growth.

5. Review which countries are strategic priorities on an annual basis and take decisions on the investment of the ODA elements of the QR income, in line with this strategy, successful investment to date and emerging national/international priorities. This will be in line with the process detailed in section 1(h) of this form.

In addition, each Research Centre will be encouraged to have ODA-linked representation where appropriate on its governance boards either through academics with links to a relevant country or by bringing in an external representative to voice relevant issues.

Project Monitoring & Evaluation

All internal investment from QR funds which align to ODA priorities will be subject to the following scrutiny:

1, Each project will be asked to complete an ODA compliance statement, in line with UKRI's procedures, and any expenditure will be contingent on positive review of this.

2, In line with existing financial practice, due diligence in relation to transfer of funds to international partners, financial monitoring and auditing will take place on each project. Distinct finance codes will be used to track and review expenditure.

3, All projects will need to go through appropriate ethical and research governance procedures at both Manchester Met and in partner institutions in the target country.

4, Each project will be asked to provide an evaluation report to accompany the financial review to track outcomes and compliance. These in turn will help inform institutional strategy setting. On projects involving substantial investment, an independent visit to the target county may be the best way of evaluating and monitoring investment.

These project reports will include a review of the economic and social benefits in the target country, particularly in relation to the project brief and compliance statement produced at the start of the investment. During the project life, academics will need to

keep evidence of, for example, those involved in research projects, dissemination to local audiences, the role of co-investigators in the co-production of knowledge, evidence of impact (e.g. further research, political, social or economic changes) etc. As outlined in Annex A2, additional evidence will also be collected depending on the nature of the research undertaken; for example funding plans, joint publications, evidence of networking meetings etc. All of this will confirm ODA compliance and provide case studies for future investment.

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.

All activities listed in Annex A2 will be funded from QR GCRF. Column G of the table lists specific benefits aligned with investments in projects aligned to UCRKEs, however it is not possible to provide information at this level of detail for all activities.

Capacity Building Workshops and Visits will offer direct benefits to DAC nations through engagement in co-creation of research and external funding plans, which be shaped by specific in-country priorities and allow the development of joint programmes of research and sustained collaboration.

Support for **internal funding schemes** will offer similar benefits, but in many cases will also have a research focus on the priorities of DAC nations as well as a focus on building capacity in those countries. It is not possible to provide detailed information at this stage, as the explicit benefits to DAC nations will depend on the nature of the projects supported.

Potential recipients of funding will complete an ODA compliance statement outlining the countries directly benefitting, relevance to development challenges in these countries and how outcomes will promote the economic development and welfare of a DAC nation/s.

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.

Our overarching priorities for 2018-19 will not change if funding levels differ from initial allocations. The majority of our investment will relate to priorities P1, P2 and P4 as described within Q1a. Initial investment will focus on exploratory work and seed funding. In later years, we will explore the potential for offsetting fEC costs of externally funded projects and funding expansion of projects to incorporate a development element, generating impact and translating research.

Priorities 1 and 2 will encompass activities which will develop equitable partnerships between the UK and DAC nations and identify development challenges and the way in which Manchester Met's research expertise can address these needs. In many cases, they will provide funding directly to researchers from DAC nations to undertake development activities.

Priority 4 will see funding provided for individuals from DAC nations to participate in governance structures of our UCRKEs. In addition to providing opportunity at an individual level, their involvement will provide a channel through which to shape research to reflect the development challenges in their countries.

If funding levels **increase** we would anticipate increasing the level of support available via the internal funding schemes highlighted. We would also be in a position to identify additional larger scale investments from our emerging UCRKE plans.

If funding levels **decrease**, the impact on each of the activities outlined in Annex A2 would be as follow:

UCRKE Development Advisors – this activity would be retained without review. Embedding Development Advisors within our governance structures is key to ensuring a strong focus on development related research, and as such, we would prioritise support for this activity.

Capacity building workshops – we would retain this activity, but would review the number of workshops and/or the scale of workshops. Outputs will be adjusted accordingly.

Capacity building visits – we would retain this activity, but would review the number of visits and the level of attendance proposed for each visit. Outputs will be adjusted accordingly.

Internal funding schemes – we would prioritise use of QR GCRF to support incoming international researchers (*International Visiting Researcher Scheme*)

Investment in UCRKE specific projects – in order to invest QR GCRF to generate the broadest impact across our research base we would review the capacity to invest in UCRKE specific projects.

International Impact Accelerator – we would retain this activity, but would review the number of projects supported and level of financing per project.

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.

Subject to annual review, we expect that our overarching priorities for 2019-20 will remain unchanged from those described in 1a. However, there is likely to be a shift from investment in capacity and capability building (P1, P2 and P4) to greater investment in actions related to externally funded research and activities relating to maximising impact (P3 and P5).

Priorities 1, 2 and 5 will encompass activities which will develop equitable partnerships between the UK and DAC nations and identify development challenges and the way in which Manchester Met's research expertise can address these needs. In some cases, they will provide funding directly to researchers from DAC nations to undertake development activities.

Priority 3 will encompass activities which aim to increase the impact of Manchester Met's research. It will provide funding for the translation of research and activities to support uptake by policy makers and other key stakeholders in DAC nations.

Priority 4 provides funding for individuals from DAC nations to participate in governance structures of our UCRKEs. In addition to providing opportunity at an individual level, their involvement will provide a channel through which to shape research to reflect the development challenges in their countries.

We envisage that **over the period 2019-20 we will:**

Retain investment in:

Existing UCRKE Development Advisors – once established within UCRKE governance structures, we will continue to invest in UCRKE Development Advisors for the funding period covered by this plan in order to embed their involvement in the governance of our UCRKEs.

Targeted workshops and visits – this investment will be increasingly aligned with specific funding opportunities.

Internal funding streams – this will include funding for development of international networks, mobility of researchers, small scale development-oriented research projects and the generation of impact from development focused research.

Increase investment in:

New UCRKE Development Advisors – we envisage that additional UCRKEs will identify Development Advisors. We will provide support in order to embed them in existing governance structures.

Strategic projects aligned to UCRKEs – we will make strategic investments to support specific projects identified in UCRKE plans.

Funding increased DAC nation participation – providing funding to increase DAC nation participation in externally funded projects where these are not borne by the funder/where this could increase impact and reach of research

Impact of changing funding levels

If funding levels **increase** we would anticipate increasing the level of support available via the internal funding schemes highlighted. We would also be in a position to identify additional larger scale investments from our emerging UCRKE plans and increase investment to expand DAC nation participation.

If funding levels **decrease**, we would prioritise investment as follows:

Existing and New UCRKE Development Advisors – this activity would be retained without review. Embedding Development Advisors within our governance structures is key to ensuring a strong focus on development related research, and as such, we would prioritise support for this activity.

Targeted workshops and visits – we would retain this activity, but would review the number and/or the scale of workshops and visits. Outputs will be adjusted accordingly.

Internal funding schemes – we would prioritise use of QR GCRF to support incoming international researchers (*International Visiting Researcher Scheme*) and generation of impact (*International Impact Accelerator*).

Investment in UCRKE specific projects – in order to invest QR GCRF to generate the broadest impact across our research base we would review the capacity to invest in UCRKE specific projects, prioritising existing commitments over new project investment.

Funding increased DAC nation participation – in order to invest QR GCRF to generate the broadest impact across our research base we would review the capacity to invest in increasing DAC nation participation.

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.

Subject to annual review, we expect that our overarching priorities for 2020-21 will remain unchanged from those described in 1a. However, the shift from investment in capacity and capability building (P1, P2 and P4) to greater investment in actions related to externally funded research and activities relating to maximising impact (P3 and P5) is expected to continue.

Priorities 1, 2 and 5 will encompass activities which will develop equitable partnerships between the UK and DAC nations and identify development challenges and the way in which Manchester Met's research expertise can address these needs. In some cases, they will provide funding directly to researchers from DAC nations to undertake development activities.

Priority 3 will encompass activities which aim to increase the impact of Manchester Met's research. It will provide funding for the translation of research and activities to support uptake by policy makers and other key stakeholders in DAC nations.

Priority 4 provides funding for individuals from DAC nations to participate in governance structures of our UCRKEs. In addition to providing opportunity at an individual level, their involvement will provide a channel through which to shape research to reflect the development challenges in their countries.

We envisage that **over the period 2020-21 we will:**

Retain investment in:

Internal funding streams – this will include funding for development of international networks, mobility of researchers, small scale development-oriented research projects and the generation of impact from development focused research.

Targeted workshops and visits – this investment will be increasingly aligned with specific funding opportunities.

Existing UCRKE Development Advisors – once established within UCRKE governance structures, we will continue to invest in UCRKE Development Advisors for the funding period covered by this plan in order to embed their involvement in the governance of our UCRKEs.

Strategic projects aligned to UCRKEs – where appropriate, and according to agreed investment plans, we will continue to invest in strategic investments in projects initiated in the 2020/21 period.

Increase investment in:

Funding increased DAC nation participation – providing funding to increase DAC nation participation in externally funded projects where these are not borne by the funder/where this could increase impact and reach of research

New UCRKE Development Advisors – we envisage that additional UCRKEs will identify Development Advisors. We will provide support in order to embed them in existing governance structures.

New strategic projects aligned to UCRKEs – we will make strategic investments to support specific projects identified in UCRKE plans.

Impact of changing funding levels

If funding levels **increase** we would anticipate increasing the level of support available via the internal funding schemes highlighted. We would also be in a position to identify additional larger scale investments from our emerging UCRKE plans and increase investment to expand DAC nation participation.

If funding levels **decrease**, we would prioritise investment as follows:

Existing and New UCRKE Development Advisors – this activity would be retained without review. Embedding Development Advisors within our governance structures is key to ensuring a strong focus on development related research, and as such, we would prioritise support for this activity.

Targeted workshops and visits – we would retain this activity, but would review the number and/or the scale of workshops and visits. Outputs will be adjusted accordingly.

Internal funding schemes – we would prioritise use of QR GCRF to support incoming international researchers (*International Visiting Researcher Scheme*) and generation of impact (*International Impact Accelerator*).

Investment in UCRKE specific projects – in order to invest QR GCRF to generate the broadest impact across our research base we would review the capacity to invest in UCRKE specific projects, prioritising existing commitments over new project investment.

Funding increased DAC nation participation – in order to invest QR GCRF to generate the broadest impact across our research base we would review the capacity to invest in increasing DAC nation participation.

