

## 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.<sup>1</sup>
  - 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.

Maximum 3,000 words

**A.** Building on significant investment to consolidate our existing research strengths, our development-related strategy and priority objectives are to promote social welfare and economic development by leveraging our internationally excellent and world-leading research base. Focusing on projects that deliver economic sustainability, social innovation, and cultural enrichment as a priority, we will seek to address the most pressing social inequalities and environmental challenges facing diverse populations in the developing world. In order to achieve these aims, our main priorities for the coming three-years are three-fold: We will increase the international character of our research base; we will enable our researchers to respond to new and emerging challenges more effectively; and we will increase the extent and depth of our impact by mobilising our knowledge and focusing on new forms of innovation to address global challenges.

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

Our existing research, knowledge exchange, and significant impact is concentrated in a number of countries in East Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South and South-East Asia. We intend to extend our reach both within and beyond these existing territories over the next three years. We have been building our portfolio of research by investing in building human capital through doctoral studentships and the appointment of outstanding academic staff. Our investment has focused on building research links with established partners and in existing field sites in the developing world. By applying our knowledge in new territories facing similar challenges, we will extend our research and its benefits to new territories in East Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean in particular.

We have actively increased the capacity of our existing research base, recruiting new researchers who contribute to our portfolio of activities that are built on research excellence. Over the next three years, we will seek to become more responsive and challenge-led, by addressing, for example, urgent issues associated with forced migration. We will achieve this by co-designing new research through collaboration, mobilising existing knowledge through interdisciplinary research and new partnerships, and investing in rapid-response funds for our academics to find solutions and have an impact where it is most urgently needed.

Through increasing the scope and scale of our research in the developing world, we will also ensure that this knowledge reaches diverse populations facing unique challenges. By adopting a more strategic approach to building human and social capital, in particular through investment in international PhD studentship and knowledge exchange activities, we will maximise the impact of our existing research base. We will invest in building meaningful partnerships with innovative organisations, to sustain and expand our impact in existing and new territories.

**B. We will use QR GCRF to deliver these strategic ambitions in the following areas:**

- 1) Gender (In)Equalities, Health and Well-being: building on our unique history as the UK's longest serving provider of higher education to women, we strive to address gender inequalities in the global south and its diasporas, through sustained engagement and a focus on social improvement, health and well-being;
- 2) Environmental Conservation and Economic Sustainability: Long-term changes to the climate and to environmental resilience is having a disproportionate impact on the global south. Our research focuses on environmental approaches to improving economic sustainability, particularly focusing on the conservation and the sustainable management of resources.
- 3) Social, Economic and Cultural rights: Our focus on education, social impact and human rights is explicitly global in character. By developing our expertise more specifically in the global south, we address systemic and infrastructural deficits, in order to improve the welfare and quality of life for diverse populations.

We will support development and capacity building in these areas by:

- a) Investing in doctoral researchers, by funding dedicated studentships that address global challenges to international students through our VC's and RUSH studentship schemes respectively;
- b) Using QR GCRF to fund the full economic costing of interdisciplinary and high-impact research grants. However, we will also offer match-funding for PhD studentships on successful grants to build human and social capacity and to consolidate our networks and engagement in these areas;
- c) Providing additional training and development opportunities to enable our staff base to address challenges in the global south;
- d) Investing in the development of our research in low and middle-income countries;
- e) Increasing our financial investment in seed-funding to encourage and enable more responsive, and challenge-led approaches to research and impact.

**C. Gender (In)Equalities, Health and Well-Being:** Building on long-term research strengths that have delivered social and economic benefits in developing countries in social and biological anthropology, human-animal studies, sociology and psychology, we aim to consolidate our impact in this area, and to incorporate other research strengths. Building on established impact in the UK, we also want to apply these research insights to developing world contexts. We will continue to invest in these projects over the next three years, for example the Super Skills for Life (SSL) programme that supports young people with anxiety first in the UK and then in Mauritius. Our research is also promoting access to health care in East Africa to secure maternal well-being, and although this research has been fully-funded by NGOs, we will ensure that resources are ring-fenced in impact seed-funds, to ensure the potential impact is fully realised. We are particularly interested in exploring technological interventions in these areas, as a tool of social innovation and intervention.

**Environmental Conservation and Economic Sustainability:** Our research has recognised that local environments often provide a crucial resource for populations in underdeveloped countries that must be utilised, but also that they need to be managed sustainably. We are actively developing our research in this area, in order to develop sustainable approaches to environmental conservation that safeguards and promotes economic benefits. Our major priority over the coming years is driven by our participation in the GCRF focused AHRC-funded project, *Rising from the Depths: Utilising Marine Cultural Heritage in East Africa* to help develop sustainable social, economic and cultural benefits. This project is the major focus of investment for our QR GCRF funding for the three years from 2018-9, as our institution has committed to providing additional funding for three international studentships for students based in the countries where we will be working. The intention is to build human capital, so as to create a legacy of local research knowledge, economic and cultural impact, and ongoing training opportunities. This investment highlights our commitment to the material benefits of interdisciplinary research, and we are showcasing this work as an example of good practice across the institution to encourage further activity of this kind. We are also working on socio-ecological systems of coffee agroforestry in Ethiopia, to build knowledge and human

capital by investing in a PhD studentship to secure long-term impact. We are also currently working eco-tourists and policy makers in the Caribbean, and anticipate policy impact in the region in 2020. We will continue to monitor development, and will ring-fence seed-funding for impact in future years as appropriate.

**Social, Economic and Cultural Rights:** Our research in Human Rights has global and transnational dimensions, from historical research exploring the forced displacement of huge numbers of disenfranchised poor escaping famine, through to contemporary research on the refugee crisis. Our research is characterised by a particular emphasis on social justice and economic, social and cultural rights. The CRUCIBLE centre for Human Rights research acts as a hub for much of this activity, including research in to work migrants, indigenous populations, land rights and human rights. Our priorities over the coming three years and beyond are to provide timely insights that help address deficits in access to universal human rights, and to promote social equality in the global south. We are actively building our capacity in research into education in global contexts, and have heavily invested in this area through funded PhD studentships which began in 2016-7 and 2017-8, including work on the experiences of Palestinian postgraduate research students in the Gaza Strip, and SEN and inclusive education in Guyana. A major programme of work over the coming three years will involve improving educational outcomes, including a project delivered for UNICEF which will inform education systems and policies in the Middle East and North Africa with a particular focus on life-skills and citizenship education. This project is fully-funded from external sources. However, once the first phase of the commissioned project is completed, we will ensure its legacy is sustained by ring-fencing a portion of seed-funding for impact in 2019/20 if QR GCRF funds allow.

**D.** The research and impact work that we are supporting through QR GCRF explicitly relates to the UK strategy for GCRF. In supporting and developing collaborative and interdisciplinary research and its material benefits in the areas described above, we are explicitly addressing the UK strategy for the GCRF to promote excellent research that contributes to the development and welfare of people in developing countries by:

- 1) Investing significantly in doctoral research and international students, promoting challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research;
- 2) Investing in academic posts and match-funding successful grant capture with PhD students will strengthen capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange;
- 3) Investing in new field sites for research and in the development of partnerships in low and middle-income countries;
- 4) Seed-funding will provide an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need and encourage participation of researchers who may not previously have considered the applicability of their work to development issues.

In addition, our strategic priorities have developed on the foundation of excellent research that we have proactively sought to build on. These areas, which have emerged organically and are now being managed proactively, map onto the priorities outlined in

the UK Strategy for the GCRF. More specifically, our focus on Gender (In)Equalities, Health and Wellbeing, maps on to the Equitable Access to Sustainable Development, including sustainable health and well-being and inclusive and equitable quality education, as well as gender inequalities highlighted in other areas, attesting to the interdisciplinary nature of our research and its diverse impacts. Our focus on Environmental Conservation and Economic Sustainability addresses the Sustainable Economies and Societies priority, considering long-term environmental change, sustainable consumption of materials and other resources. Finally, our research and impact in the area of Social, Economic and Cultural rights explicitly addresses Human Rights and is closely aligned with the Good Governance and Social Justice priority outlined by the GCRF strategy.

**E.** Our priorities for development related research activity to 2021 are closely aligned to, and rely on, the successful delivery of our institutional research strategy. By providing a supportive and stimulating environment for the University's academic staff, students and partners to come together, we will drive the development of research excellence and impact, across all academic departments. Supporting research in pure, applied and professional fields, and encouraging both disciplinary and cross-disciplinary research, we are promoting a research culture that prizes diversity, integrity and ethical approaches to industrial and global challenges.

Our wider institutional strategy for QR funding reflects our commitment to research excellence, in diverse subject areas. It underpins significant investment across all areas of our research base, and we emphasise investment at all stages of career, from doctoral students through to late career staff, and throughout the research life-cycle from inception through to impact. QR funding contributes to our institutional investment in PhD studentships, and our commitment to match-fund PhD studentships for successful grant capture. QR funding also underpins our significant investment in academic posts. It supports substantial research allowances and investment for our staff, and our commitment to provide research sabbaticals for research staff producing internationally excellent and world-leading research for one semester in every three years. It also provides pump-priming funds for impact and knowledge exchange activities, that are built on research excellence. Our adaptable investment in research enables us to respond to our academic staff's research priorities as well as the external research environment. Using the QR GCRF fund strategically, in specific areas of investment, enables us to sustain and increase the international reach of our research and its impact.

**F.** Our main objectives build on existing areas of research excellence, with populations that we have been working with over a sustained period of time. Some of our plans may be susceptible to a lack of buy-in from the communities that we are working with to realise research objectives and sustainable impact, both in terms of collaborators in the UK and in the global south, where changing geopolitical and environmental priorities evolve quickly. It is our intention to mitigate these potential barriers by monitoring the development of our activities regularly and responding to challenges, and opportunities, accordingly. Investing in the development of personal contact and networks will facilitate the successful delivery of our outcomes, but perhaps more importantly will enable us to



ensure that they are evolving in response to the needs of the populations that we are working with. In these instances, we will modify our lines of research enquiry where possible, design new interventions to ensure that our research is having meaningful benefits, or will reconsider levels investment in terms of resources, human and social capital.

Our objective of consolidating and potentially extending our geographical reach, particularly by developing relationships to sustain meaningful research and impact, requires a significant time investment. The lag between the investment in these areas and their establishment, might mean that our objectives are not fully realised in the next three-years. Our commitment to research ensures that investment will be sustained.

Investing in responsive funds for 'challenge-led' research and impact will also need to be carefully managed. In becoming more adept, it is possible that our investment in research and impact in the global south could be splintered, lessening the impact of our investment. We will actively manage our portfolio of research and continue to build on existing research strengths and will focus our investment around core themes. Portions of the seed-funding for impact development may be ring-fenced for specific projects and bodies of work in order to ensure that their benefits are fully-realised.

The successful delivery of internationally excellent and world-class research has been demonstrably sustained. Increasing impact through knowledge mobilisation and innovation will require careful management, as opportunities for achieving real world impact is more difficult to realise within definite timelines. We will remain open to opportunities to pursue dissemination and communication of research knowledge through engagement and collaboration.

**G.** We will realise our objectives through the development of our mono- and interdisciplinary research in existing populations and field-sites; by building human capital and capacity through investing in international studentships, with a particular focus on the promotion of interdisciplinary and collaborative research; ensuring the availability of rapid response funds to meet emerging global challenges; pump-priming funds for the delivery of impact activities and to further our existing relationships and partnerships to deliver innovation.

**H.** More broadly, across our portfolio of development related research and impact, our focus is on East Africa & the Middle East, Latin America & the Caribbean, and South & South-East Asia respectively. We are working across a range of communities in low, middle and upper middle countries. In East Africa, we have a diverse range of engagement with Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Madagascar where our engagement in these vast populations is related to health and well-being outcomes in particular. We are also due to imminently commence work across the Middle East and North Africa regions, with specific pilot projects beginning in Tunisia, Egypt and Palestine. In Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively, we are working with Belize, Colombia, Guyana and Montserrat. We intend to broaden our reach to include other territories in this region, as our research

has major implications for the management of human-animal interactions and the environment. In South and South-East Asia our focus remains primarily on India, Nepal, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Bhutan, with the potential to deepen and broaden our existing research impact within these populations.

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

The main intended outcomes of our strategy are to:

- 1) increase the international character of our research base: success will be evidenced by the consolidation of existing research, the development of research in new territories in the global south, the application of existing research and research-related activity in new territories, and the development of our knowledge exchange and research impact across these territories;
- 2) enable our researchers to respond to new and emerging challenges more effectively: success will be evidenced by staff utilisation of dedicated rapid-response funds to support challenge led research and research-related activities, any resultant research or research related activity, and its impact;
- 3) increase the extent and depth of our impact by mobilising our knowledge and focusing on new forms innovation: success will be evidenced by furthering the reach and significance of our impact, the development of new kinds of impact, an increased range of activities with existing partners, the development of new partnerships, and examples of the application of new social innovations and interventions.

The main impacts that will flow from these outcomes in our priority areas are:

- 1) Gender (In)equalities: our research and research-related activity will improve social welfare, health and well-being outcomes for women across the global south, primarily focused on maternal well-being, gendered violence both in the global south and its diasporas, and widening access to health care, particularly through interventions delivered by technology. Research and research-related activity in this area is being supported by external research funding, and seed-funding through 2017/8. The development of our impact in this area in East Africa, and access to healthcare in particular, will continue through 2018/9. We will support the impact of this work by providing ring-fenced access to rapid response funds for impact in 2018/19, following the end of an externally-funded research consultancy in 2018.
- 2) Environmental Conservation and Economic Sustainability: our research and research-related activity will ensure the conservation and protection of endangered species and marine cultural heritage, respectively, in order to deliver economic sustainability through changes to policy and practice, changes in approaches to tourism and management, and will improve the welfare of communities. The major programme of work will take place in East Africa, and is financed by a GCRF AHRC award, and match-

funded from QR GCRF funds and institutional resources. We are supporting research into human-elephant conflict in India through a PhD studentship. Building from a research base in Anguilla, we are also seeking to develop impact in other areas in the Caribbean by facilitating access to rapid response funds for impact in 2019/20, following the end of an externally-funded research project.

3) Social justice: our research and research-related activity will address educational inequalities to promote equal access to justice, political engagement and literacy, in order to ensure economic, social and cultural rights are safeguarded and advanced. These projects will be focused in the Middle East and North Africa over a three-year period. A match-funded HESPAL/British Council PhD studentship will provide unique insights into educational experiences in the Gaza Strip. A UNICEF funded research consultancy project will be a major focus over the coming year in terms of research and impact. Any further research impact opportunities after the end of this project will be supported by providing ring-fenced access to rapid response funds for impact in 2019/20. We will also deliver work in this area in South America, through match-funding a Commonwealth PhD studentship, and in Mauritius through a programme on anxiety prevention among high-risk children.

### Management of GCRF

3. How will your HEI **monitor** and **evaluate** its progress and compliance in ODA and GCRF activity, including assessing geographical distribution of activity, outputs, outcomes and economic and social impacts?

Please describe the policies, procedures and approach you have in place to measure progress, evaluate outcomes, identify lessons learned, and ensure ODA compliance.

Maximum 1,500 words

Our monitoring and evaluation of ODA and GCRF activity will take place within our broader research support infrastructure and robust governance structures. Utilising our existing frameworks for managing research and supplementing them with additional oversight for ODA and GCRF specific activity will enable us to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our work in the global south and to drive research activity and impact in this area.

Organised within our ten academic departments, our research infrastructure provides support and leadership for all research across the institution, and functions by monitoring and evaluating progress against our strategic ambitions and related objectives. Centrally, this work is coordinated and overseen by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Provost for Research and External Engagement, and the Director of Research Development.

Each Department is represented on our University Research Committee, which has ultimate responsibility for all research in the University, reports to Senate and is chaired



by the Vice-Chancellor. The University Ethics Committee also meets three times a year and is responsible for establishing and monitoring Departmental procedures, including undertaking audits in order to ensure that staff and students are aware of the ethics issues involved in the work and that the University's Ethics Guidelines are observed. All research outside of the UK is monitored through the overseas background information form, associated with the ethics process, which is completed by applicants for research overseas, and insurance is confirmed for both the applicant and the project itself.

Each Department has a Research Lead tasked with oversight of the research environment, who is responsible for driving forward research and advising the Head of Department on all research-related activity. All Departments submit annual business plans, which incorporate all research and research-related activity, and ensures that research is suitably embedded. Individual researchers are also provided with research mentors, who advise and support them to increase the quality of their research and the scale of their impact. Individual researchers also prepare and submit five-year research plans, which includes their plans for bidding, research, outputs, knowledge exchange and impact. In addition to overseeing this activity, Research Leads work closely with Research Degrees Conveners to ensure that oversight of research student activity is brought together with other research and research-related activities and managed proactively. Alongside an assessment of current research performance, these plans and assessment of our current position inform the investment in research and research-related activity at University-wide and departmental levels.

All research information is collated and stored in our Current Research Information System (CRIS), which also acts as a repository for our research output and impact activities and outcomes. This system enables us to monitor, report, and evaluate on our research, which informs strategic decision making and interventions.

Academic staff are also supported by a team of Research Facilitators, who are managed centrally but are based within our ten academic departments. Core functions fulfilled by this team are the development of knowledge exchange and evaluating impact, with oversight of a Research Manager (Impact and Environment). The outcomes of research related activity, and the geographical reach, as well as the intensity of social, cultural and economic impact, are monitored and reported on by this team, and reports are made to Research Committee on the full extent of impact generated by research conducted at the University.

These structures support oversight of all research and research-related activity, inclusive of QR GCRF, particularly as it relates to the research environment, output, and all associated impacts. They enable the University to manage and understand its research performance.

From 2018 a Global Challenges Working Group will be tasked with advising on the compliance of the University's development related research activity with the GCRF and supporting the delivery of the University's objectives. The group will be required to report

to Research Committee on the progress towards our goals and objectives for QR GCRF, and also to advise on the development of other GCRF related research, for example for RCUK bids. The group will be comprised of individual academics and research leaders from a range of departments, who are best placed to advise on all development related research and associated activity. This group will be asked to report on a quarterly basis, which will include the distribution of activity, outputs, and impact measured against objectives.

The Global Challenges Working Group will also have a role in advising the Vice-Chancellor's Office on the allocation and distribution of seed- and pump-priming funds for challenge-led research, and impact work, in support of GCRF goals. The University's Financial Strategy Group, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, will consider advice from Research Committee and the Global Challenges Working Group in determining where, and the proportion of, QR GCRF investment for discrete bodies of activity. Reports on the outcomes achieved from this investment will enable the group to measure progress against the strategic objectives.

All reports and additional investment will have Finance Department oversight to ensure that they are GCRF and ODA compliant.

## **Section B: Use of QR GCRF 2018-19 allocation and future QR GCRF priorities**

4. Please complete the table in Annex A2 detailing the expected spending and activities for QR GCRF in the academic year 2018-19. Note that the total QR GCRF spending must equal the indicative allocation (available in Annex C), and all activities must be ODA-compliant for strategies to be assessed as ODA-compliant overall.
5. Please add here any explanatory notes on how you have completed the table in Annex A2 that will help inform assessment of ODA compliance.

Maximum 200 words

The Strategies Template has been completed by staff from across the Vice-Chancellor's Office, the Research Office, and the Finance Department. An analysis of existing research and impact activities, inclusive of externally-funded projects and the previous allocation of GCRF and Newton Funds was undertaken, to fully understand the range of our activities and our financial commitment to research and impact activities in ODA and GCRF compliant territories. Following a period of consultation in the Vice-Chancellor's Office and Finance Department, the Strategies Template was completed to reflect current levels of investment in GCRF activity in 2017-8, proportionate to our objectives and the development of our strategy. Additional capacity within the QR GCRF budget has been identified to encourage and support a challenge-led approach to research and impact activities, by providing a specific budget for pump-priming and seed-funding this activity.

Our commitment to research in the global south exceeds, and additional resources are invested beyond, the QR GCRF funds. We will continue to commit additional resources to research and its impact where it is built on research excellence and aligns with our broader research strategy.

6. How would your **priorities and activities** for 2018-19 QR GCRF change if the funding level differs from that outlined in indicative allocations? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Maximum 500 words

Our investment in QR GCRF eligible activity far exceeds the amount indicated for 2018/9. This forms part of our broader commitment to research, and our priorities for the coming year are to consolidate our existing research base in the territories and areas that we are currently operating, and to extend the reach and significance of our impact accordingly. We will achieve this by building capacity in research through investment in PhD students in particular. We will also prioritise successful grant capture, and the match-funding of international PhD studentships, especially where it relates to QR GCRF compliant research and research-related activity. Encouraging a challenge-led and impact driven approach to research and extending the reach and significance of our impact will also be a priority throughout 2018-19.

The main activities we will undertake over the coming year to support these priorities will include the following:

- a) We will actively manage our portfolio of research and its impact in the Global South through the establishment of a Global Challenges Working Group which along with research leadership and mentoring more broadly, will cultivate the development of our international reach;
- b) We will publicise and encourage applications to a new 'rapid response fund' to deliver research and impact that is 'challenge-led' and promotes our GCRF priorities;
- c) We will promote investment in knowledge exchange partnerships and collaboration, through use of funds in 2017-8, to deliver material impact in 2018-9 and beyond.

An increase in GCRF QR funds would enable us to adjust our approach to building human capital and impact in the following ways:

- a) Continue investment in international PhD studentships offered to researchers in the global south through our RUSH studentship scheme;

- b) Expand our policy of match-funding of PhD students for successful grant capture, beyond our major investment in the GCRF AHRC funded project 'Rising From the Depths' and to invest in new research endeavours where possible;
- c) Increase investment in challenge-led funds and promote further activity that will facilitate more knowledge of, and innovative solutions to address, some of the most urgent issues affecting populations and environments in the global south.

A reduction in funding would require us to focus our investment on the consolidation of existing activities and to adopt a less ambitious approach to delivering challenge-led research and social innovation. In particular, we would necessarily limit our investment in the international scholarships delivered through the RUSH studentship scheme and also limit the funds dedicated to partnership development for knowledge exchange and impact.

7. Based on indicative funding allocations, what are your **priorities** for QR GCRF activity in 2019-20? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Maximum 1,000 words

Our priorities for 2019-20 will evolve according to the success of our strategy in 2018-19, the work of the Global Challenges Working Group, and the research and impact achieved through QR GCRF investment. If our focus areas of Gender (In)Equalities, Health and Well-being, Environmental Conservation and Economic Sustainability, and Social, Economic and Cultural rights, continue to be the most strategically viable research areas, in terms of new knowledge and significant impact, we will seek to:

- a) Consolidate these existing research strengths, actively managing them and looking to expand them by investing in grant capture and interdisciplinary strengths in particular;
- b) Continue to invest in mono- and interdisciplinary research through generous match-funding PhD students for successful grants, and invest in international PhD studentships where possible;
- c) Assess the viability and return on investment of challenge-led research support through dedicated funds in comparison to the investment in existing research and impact strengths, and either look to develop these existing strands of activity further, or address new challenges;
- d) Continue to develop our impact activities, particularly in the Caribbean, Middle East and East Africa where policy impacts in particular are our priority, during this period.

An increase in GCRF QR funding would enable us to concentrate a greater proportion of our resources in growing this area of activity, rather than sustaining our current levels of investment. Our commitment to continue match-funding of PhD studentships for grants that were successful in 2017-18 will still require significant investment in 2019-20.

However, an increase in GCRF QR funding would enable us to continue to invest in international PhD studentships beyond these projects. In addition, any increase in funding would enable us to invest in legacy projects to sustain the impact that we hope will be achieved from a number of major projects that will conclude in 2019-20 and 2020-21, for example a measurement tool of '21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills' which will inform education systems and policies in the Middle East and North Africa delivered with UNICEF, depending on their future viability in terms of both research and impact.

A reduction in funding would require us to focus our investment on existing activities, for example, supporting GCRF AHRC project 'Rising From the Depths' through full-economic costing, given our significant investment in match-funding PhD international studentships for this project. It would also restrict our ability to ring-fence resources for responsive and challenge-led funds to develop research and impact.

8. Based on indicative funding allocations, what are your **priorities** for QR GCRF activity in 2020-21? Please include detail of how priorities will change with increases and decreases to QR GCRF funding, and details of how each priority meets ODA criteria.

Maximum 1,000 words
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By 2020-21 we anticipate that our priorities will be to consolidate our research and impact activities in new areas, including challenge-led research, research in new territories, and knowledge exchange and impact activities across our portfolio. By 2020-21 our investment in international PhD studentships should begin resulting in increased human capital and new knowledge in the global south, through the successful completion of doctoral programmes within standard duration. Building on this activity, and our portfolio of research more broadly, we will continue to invest in the development of impact and ensuring that its benefits are felt in as broad a context as possible. Assessing the success of our strategy and priority activities against our objectives will determine whether our investment has yielded proportionate results, and we will look to refine or readjust our strategy and objectives beyond 2021 accordingly.

Following this assessment to establish appropriate channels and levels of investment, an increase in funding in 2020-21 would enable us to:

- d) Continue our investment in new PhD studentships for international students in the global south, to build on existing areas of activity or to pursue new lines of research or challenge led inquiry;
- e) Ring-fence larger amounts of funding for providing seed-funds for challenge-led research and impact activity.

A reduction in GCRF QR funding in 2020-21 would restrict our investment in the following areas:

- a) We would have to restrict or stop providing seed-funds for challenge-led and impact activity;
- b) Our investment in international PhD studentships would have to focus on fulfilling our financial commitment to those studentships already financed, rather than continuing our approach to match-funding PhD studentships for successful grant capture, and investment in new international PhD studentships;
- c) It would necessitate consideration of targeted investment in research in the global south for our academic staff base, and would instead require us to invest in research excellence, wherever it was found, more broadly.