Section A: Official Development Assistance (ODA) and GCRF strategy

The strategy

1.   Summarise the key aspects of your three year **strategy for development related and GCRF research activity**, including:

   a. Your institution's strategy and priority objectives for all development related research activity funded through all sources for three years from 2018-19.

   b. Summary of the key aspects of your three year strategic plan for QR GCRF in light of the criteria and objectives for the GCRF outlined in the guidance.

   c. How activity funded through QR GCRF fits into your broader strategy and priorities for all development related research activity.

   d. How activity funded through QR GCRF relates to the UK strategy for the GCRF.[1]

   e. How your development-related and GCRF strategies relate to your wider institutional strategy for using QR.

   f. Likely key barriers and enablers to implementing your strategy.

   g. The key activities by which you will realise your objectives, such as capacity and capability building; mono-disciplinary interdisciplinary and collaborative research; generating impact from research; meeting the full economic cost of GCRF activity funded through other sources; rapid response to emergencies with an urgent research need; and pump priming.

   h. The main Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list developing countries you intend to collaborate with.

The University's research is recognised internationally and includes a significant volume of world-leading research. Its overarching research objectives are:

•   To maintain our focus on applied research with clearly defined impact that is recognised and valued by stakeholders;

•   To continue to build research excellence on a sustainable basis as an aspect of our institutional profile and reputation;

•   To develop graduates with the ability to identify and lead positive change, through their experience of a curriculum rooted in research within a community characterised by creative enquiry.

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

In 2014-15, following its strong REF 2014 performance, the University reviewed its research strategy, including its implementation of the 2012 research strategy objective 'to organise our collaborative research strategy to respond to an identified set of substantial challenges'. Integrating the research priorities of (at that time) Horizon 2020, RCUK and the Technology Strategy Board along with the BIS eight great technologies, the University identified, in consultation with its research community, three levels to its strategic map for research that addresses global challenges at international, national and regional levels. These are:

Enterprise networks: zones of collective impact addressing directly mission-led research themes, capable of assembling specific areas of our research and innovation expertise into multidisciplinary capabilities that are a good fit and a close match to national and regional priorities:

•   Health and demographic change
•   Future cities and citizens
•   The social and economic impact of the creative economy
•   Safe and inclusive societies
•   The global food economy

These collaborative networks focused on multi-disciplinary approaches to global challenges support most directly the GCRF priority for equitable access to secure and resilient food systems, sustainable health and wellbeing, and inclusive and equitable quality education.

Areas of specific research expertise, and a set of broadly conceived enabling technologies, underpin these networks.

Expertise areas are research clusters/themes that contribute to the impact of enterprise networks and have the potential to be mobilised across networks (e.g. organ donation, SME development in developing countries, the legal and social wellbeing of asylum seekers, and child sexual exploitation)

Enabling tools and technologies: areas of innovation and research that contribute to the development of solutions to challenges in the mission-led themes, including sensor technologies, language testing, and stakeholder-led policy development.

This framework provides a strategic thematic focus that allows us to take an interdisciplinary approach to meeting global challenges while also developing capacity in specific areas of research and innovation.

Our QR funds are used to support research undertaken within this strategic map, and to build capacity for the future and further development of research of strategic impact. The University pump-primes the development of research capacity at individual and team levels, as well as pump-priming projects with a defined and realistic business plan for

achievement, through a Research Institute structure (9 Research Institutes) within which research centres are created in response to emerging themes and priorities. Through its oversight of progress against the strategic map, the University ensures that its capacity development and its support for research and innovation projects maintains a strong focus on research of significant and strategic impact.

Our current work within the global food economy network focuses on sustainable livelihoods in the context of long-term environmental and economic change. It includes research into food security and agriculture knowledge transfer including work on the AgriTT programme funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK, which deploys our research expertise to developing countries in Africa and Southeast Asia, in order to improve food security by accelerating agricultural technology transfer to low income countries, and work on the role of local food and logistics SMEs in global food security.

Within the future cities and citizens network, the University has recently started work within the Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education and Reform (SPHEIR) of the Department for International Development (DFID), supporting the development of transnational partnerships to assist higher education systems in countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Middle East in meeting graduate and labour market needs and sustainable development goals. The University is a member of the consortium that will evaluate the programme of transnational partnerships established by Oxford, Manchester, Sussex, Edinburgh and Kings College universities, who have partnered with higher education institutions in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Burma, Rwanda, Jordan, Lebanon and Somaliland.

In the health and demographic change network the University has a long-standing internationally recognised track-record in diabetes/kidney care/organ donation at both research and policy level. Our work relevant to GCRF focuses on contribution to national and international policy and practice in the field of organ donation and public engagement, particularly in relation to organ donor procurement programmes leading to increasing numbers of public on organ donor registers, and specifically addressing the challenges and concerns of different communities. This leads to higher rates of organ transplants, reduces transplant waiting times, and increases equity. The University has works with, among others, the MOHAN Foundation in India, which has links with range of medical schools and universities in India. A key part of the University's work in this area has been in supervising PhD students who are based abroad, including, as a current example, an employee of the World Health Organisation (WHO) whilst they work in Geneva and India.

In this context, our three-year strategic plan for QR GCRF focuses on the enterprise networks health and demographic change, future cities, ICT and citizens, and the global food economy. Our current plans involve working in particular with India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Somalia.

We currently use the GCRF element of QR funding to support projects in relation to the health and demographic change, and the global food economy networks. Our work focuses on capacity and capability building, and research with direct and early impact on policy and practice, including collaborative research emerging through the capacity development process. The University seeks funding from sources other than QR for these projects, but without the GCRF funding would not be able to maintain these activities. A key enabler of this work is the University's ability to allocate academic time to projects on a flexible basis reactive to the demands of a particular project and any unforeseen circumstances arising in projects, through its comprehensive academic work planning system. The uncertain sustainability of contribution and commitment from partner institutions in target regions remains a potential barrier to the continuity of projects.

The University identifies these research areas as orientated towards challenges affecting developing countries and with the potential to benefit a large number of people to a significant degree. Each area combines significant University research expertise with the engagement of partners and stakeholders close to the challenges under investigation and actively involved in tackling them.

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

Following our established research excellence in health-related research and mobilising the improved use of ICT and knowledge management technologies for economic impact and capacity building, our three-year strategy will have a number of positive ODA compliant outcomes and impacts and will address key development problems.

For example, our strategy builds on our research in ethnically diverse UK populations, related to clinical audits for diabetes, kidney disease care pathways and extends it to populations resident in DAC countries.

This will include the examination of medical practitioners and policy related staff and the publics' knowledge and attitudes associated to diabetes and kidney disease prevention and management with key stakeholders in selected DAC countries. It also addresses existing problems in the management of serious health, cultural and economic development-related issues and supports them to develop their own evidence-base regarding the key challenges and barriers towards the prevention and management of diabetes and kidney disease.

This will enable DAC countries to develop their research skills and to benefit from mentoring from expert researchers and develop a series of relevant tools, methodologies and capabilities. This also enhances the sharing and promotion of strong and enduring research partnerships and the development of bespoke and culturally competent care pathway models with key stakeholders in selected DAC countries.

Similarly, information and knowledge play an essential role in improving productivity and sustainability through promoting and adopting the most effective and relevant innovations and technologies. With rapid development and advances in ICT our research enables emerging ICTs in DAC countries, to better facilitate knowledge transfer from experts to users.

Typically a main problem limiting economic advancement in developing countries is the knowledge flow and decision making effectiveness that underpins the stability of supply chains. Our research strategy seeks to address key barriers and enablers on how new ICT and developments such as the Internet of Things, Big Data and smart device applications can be advantageously exploited by SMEs in DAC countries to begin the journey to global competitiveness, enhance knowledge and skills, environmental sustainability and in particular supply chains, for example in agriculture and food supply.

Our strategy will continue to build upon and develop our research and educational partnership with policymakers and industry, bridging the gap between research practice and capacity building educational programmes.

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 comprehensive frameworks and processes in place for monitoring the progress of its research and research projects. The Research and Enterprise Committee oversees research at the University through an annual monitoring framework and oversight of the minuted meetings of Research Institute Boards. The Committee reports annually to Academic Board, as well as periodically through its own minutes.   As part of a restructuring of its academic governance structures (December 2017), the Research and Enterprise Committee will operate a GCRF sub-group with specific responsibility for oversight of projects identified as CGRF projects, and also the level of engagement of University research and innovation with GCRF through its enterprise networks and their component clusters as described above.

The GCRF Group will identify the eligibility of projects to be considered GCRF projects, I,e, considering their potential impact on a developing country within the DAC list, the evidence of the need for work in that area, the capacity and capability to deliver the

project to international standard and the specificity and robustness of the pathway to impact.

After project inception, all University research is conducted within the formal monitoring processes operated by Research Institute Boards, and the work of Research Institute Boards is overseen by Faculty Academic Boards. In 2017-18, the University approved and instituted a revised approach to project monitoring, which identified responsibilities and processes for the monitoring of projects reflecting different levels of financial and reputational risk to the institution. Within this policy, the University proposes to consider the GCRF funding as a specific project, the dimensions of which identify it as a project requiring the highest level of scrutiny and oversight, including periodic independent internal audit and monitoring.

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.

This is based on four three-year projects, although costs have been stated for year 1 only. It is assumed that each project will last for three years. Costs are based on estimates per year but any additional costs or increase will be funded from the university.

All of the listed activities are ODA compliant in that they specifically promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries as their main objective and are concessional in character. They specifically address problems to developing countries, have a likelihood of positive impacts on the economic development and welfare needs, support sustainable initiatives with partner countries and grow people based capacity and capabilities to undertake ODA eligible research.

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.

It is unlikely these projects could run without this funding. That said, part of our research development strategy involves developing a portfolio approach to funding within our

research institutes, to which we have had some success. We will continue to consider and apply for comparative and complementary sources of funding to support this strategy.

The main activities of funding period 2018-2019 QR GCRF will entail project design and set up, opening workshops and partnership development and inclusion, as well as initial data collection activities.

ODA compliance is detailed in box 5.

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.

As stated in box 5, it is assumed that the projects will run for three years. Additional activity in year 2019-2020 will include the bulk of data collection and analysis, as well as further developing relationships with policymakers, the seeking of additional funding and impact with the national and regional stakeholders.

As these are continuations of the projects started in 2018-2019, ODA compliance is detailed in box 5.

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.

As stated in box 5, it is assumed that the projects will run for three years. In addition to the work conducted in the previous year, such as data collection and analysis, developing relationships with policymakers, the seeking of additional funding and impact with the national and regional stakeholders work in the 2020-2021 will largely include the finalisation of models tools, models and methodologies to support dissemination of best practice, policy and capacity building. This will include training and workshops as well as published work for a range of audiences.

As these are continuations of the projects started in 2018-2019, ODA compliance is detailed in box 5.