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.

Maximum 3,000 words
The indicative allocation for 2018/19 is £50,241.

The University has had a single overarching research strategy for many years which articles the value of research to the Institution, it's place within the organisation, key values and priorities. The values articulated there and underpinned by the Corporate Plan include:
* Research should make original and worthwhile contributions to local, regional, national and international problems, recognised by peers, users and policy makers and having the potential for enriching society and creating opportunities for developing sustainable, cultural and effective communities;

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

* Research and KT activities should lead to a strong reputation for quality and represent value for money;

Therefore we recognise in those documents that we should:
* Sustain and expand our local, regional, national and international community partnerships in order to positively extend the impact of our mission, gain mutual and wider societal benefits; and
* Build and maintain strong and sustainable partnerships in regional and international arenas in alignment with the University's educational ethos and where clear, viable and long term mutual benefits may be derived (although for GCRF the primary benefit must be to ODA country).

Although the detail of research strategy is currently being revised, the Church of England foundation of the University has a very strong influence upon our institutional mission which remains evident in our all our strategies. The writing and approval of this GCFR strategy can therefore form one part of the overall University research strategy in the short-term.

Key aspects of the three year strategic plan for QR GCRF and priority objectives for all development related research
In view of the sum of money available (ca. £50k pa) the University intends to implement a portfolio approach and plans to build upon existing expertise from across the University by supporting a modest number of projects each year (around 5-10). The funding will be used for pilot projects to demonstrate capacity for impact & prepare for larger delivery partner GCRF grant applications and with an emphasis on partnership building with developing countries – as per UK GCRF strategy. Even for these pilot projects the primary benefit to ODA countries needs to be demonstrated. The key topics where the University has excellent research capabilities and will focus the GCRF funds are
Health & nutrition
Environment, disaster recovery & sustainability
Education, social policy & equality

These areas fit well and with the current Department for International Development priorities[2] of "Strengthening global peace, security and governance" and "Strengthening resilience and response to crisis" and with the following UN sustainable development goals:
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

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[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about#priorities

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Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

What is our strategy for using QR?

QR is allocated to areas which have demonstrated, via REF, their ability to produce 'excellent' research – and the likelihood of continuing to produce outputs and impact of at least international excellence – and to central support for research in terms of policy development, general resources, governance etc. We anticipate that the majority of GCRF projects will be associated with areas of the University that have previously been submitted to the REF, but that this will not be an essential criterion as the University has expanded it's academic provision into Engineering since the REF and continues to do so with the establishment of a Medical School. Projects in other areas will be permitted provided that other evidence of the quality of research is available. In some areas of the University, mainstream QR funding will be available to supplement the GCRF funds enabling larger projects to be undertaken, but these projects and funds are decided annually so are not included in Annex 2.

We are conscious of the high levels of interest in development related research around the University and will implement demand management via a process of expressions of interest and internal panel review of proposals.

Key barriers and enablers

One of the key enablers of our strategy will be to use the existing collaborations and links our academic staff have with individuals and organisations in ODA countries. However, sometimes these links are associated with individual staff members, therefore loss of staff can jeopardise impact. The University will manage this risk by supporting some investment into build stronger and wider networks with our staff and local organisations. However the existing links we have will facilitate opportunities for local input to project design and the most rapid facilitation of impact.

The indicative allocation of around £50k pa does not support FEC of projects, therefore the majority of our GCFR research projects will require a cross-subsidy. Therefore there is a risk to delivery given conflicting priorities which need to be carefully managed to meet our obligations. Variable annual levels of funding also make commitments to longer term projects more difficult.

Key activities
Our key activities with be two-fold:
* pump-priming research projects through pilot stages (data collection, analysis, dissemination & initial impact) to enable strong applications for larger grants (though staff time for grant writing itself will not be funded) from the GCRF Development Partners; and
* enhancing research capability building and forging strong collaborations with agencies in the ODA countries.
Our project selection criteria include the demonstration of the capability to have impact (i.e. clear pathways to impact). We anticipate that some of the GCRF funding will be spent within the ODA countries to deliver action and impact on the ground.

Regions:
We favour an approach of building upon the collaborations that the university staff already have in some regions – and these countries will be the initial focus of our GCRF projects.
Africa: Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa & Francophone countries (especially Côte d'Ivoire & Democratic Republic of the Congo)
South America & the Caribbean (Brazil, Mexico & Jamaica)
India, Pakistan and Afghanistan
China

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

Maximum 500 words
Our strategy and selection process for funding projects starts with compliance with ODA and GCRF activities but also emphasises the need to demonstrate the capacity for impact within the ODA country – clearly the impact may be somewhat limited in scope by the amount of funding available – this is where applications for larger grants to the GCRF delivery partners will be important for expanding the scope of projects and scaling up impact.
The University recognises and is sensitive to the issue of developed nations potentially appearing to intend to impose solutions upon ODA countries. This is why a clear part of our strategy is to develop capability in the ODA countries and to work in partnership with local organisations during the research phases and in the delivery of impact.

Our main intended outcomes will be to demonstrate immediate local impact and potential for wider impact to:
* Improve health, nutrition and food/water security for all
* Through better understand of the environment, improve disaster recovery & sustainable economic developments
* Improve access to Education for all and enhance the quality of education as appropriate
* Support the development of local social policy including equality and promoting peace
* Increase access to sustainable energy for rural populations

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

The University already has processes to monitor the expenditure, progress and outputs of research projects funded both internally and externally via interim and final reports. These processes will be expanded to include GCRF projects. The process is run centrally from the Research & Knowledge Transfer Officer by a Grants Officer (Monitoring) and can be accommodated within existing resource.
An evaluation of the monitoring data & reports will be undertaken by a panel of academic peers overseen by the Director of Research & Knowledge Transfer. This panel will report to the Research & Knowledge Transfer Committee (whose papers are accessible to the academic staff via Portal) ensuring transparency. The evaluation will cover the outputs, outcomes and economic and social impacts of projects. Because we anticipate that some of the projects will be presented in phases over a number of years, we intend that the evaluation phase will influence future funding decisions. The panel will also use the evaluation process to assess effectiveness of our strategy and the geographical distribution of activities – advising on maintaining focus on our key targets versus broadening the scope and spread.

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 University intend to allocate a number of small grants (£5000 - £10000) each year, however not all grants will be of the maximum value, hence the totals given are for planning purposes.

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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

Modest changes to the allocation would simply mean that slightly more or fewer projects could be supported, but the basic activities of capability building, building collaborative partnership and pump priming will continue. We have identified our research themes, in priority order and this would influence our decision if funding changes:

1.   Health & nutrition
       Improve health, nutrition and food/water security for all
2.   Environment, disaster recovery & sustainability
       Enhance understanding of environment to improve disaster recovery & foster sustainable economic development
       Increase access to sustainable energy for rural populations
3.   Education, social policy & equality
       Improve access to Education for all and enhance the quality as appropriate
       Support development of local social policy including equality & promoting peace

A substantial increase would open the possibility of supporting one, or more, larger projects – and the capacity exists to do this. The availability of additional funds would be allocated to projects which are able to demonstrate the delivery of additional impact and outcomes. The decision of which theme would benefit would be based upon an evaluation of the projected impact (both short and long term, geographic and economic).

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 stated priorities remain, however, the actual grant allocations will be influenced by the quality of applications. However, we anticipate that some of the projects funded in 2018-19 might be suitable to have expanded scope, either to deliver additional impact in the original ODA country or by expanding research themes to neighbouring countries (where they are also on the ODA list). Over the period of the three years of this strategy we intend to rotate the priority order.

1.   Environment, disaster recovery & sustainability
       Enhance understanding of environment to improve disaster recovery & foster sustainable economic development
       Increase access to sustainable energy for rural populations
2.   Education, social policy & equality
       Improve access to Education for all and enhance the quality as appropriate
       Support development of local social policy including equality & promoting peace

3.	Health & nutrition Improve health, nutrition and food/water security for all

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 Essentially as in 2019-20 except that the priority order will be: 1.　　Education, social policy & equality 　　　Improve access to Education for all and enhance the quality as appropriate 　　　Support development of local social policy including equality & promoting peace 2.　　Health & nutrition 　　　Improve health, nutrition and food/water security for all 3.　　Environment, disaster recovery & sustainability 　　　Enhance understanding of environment to improve disaster recovery & foster 　　　sustainable economic development 　　　Increase access to sustainable energy for rural populations