

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.

Maximum 3,000 words

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

Strategy and Priority Objectives for Development Related Research Activity

The year 2018 marks 60 years of development research at Manchester. Development-related research is at the heart of our research strategy that aims to combine world class scientific and scholarly breakthroughs with impact, both societal and economic. It is timely that in June we are hosting and part financially supporting the [Development Studies Association 2018 Conference](#) which will focus centrally on Global Inequalities.

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

The support will facilitate wider engagement of non-development academics from across the UK with key potential partners from Global South institutions.

As the UK's largest University, Manchester (UoM) undertakes research in a wide range of areas with many of these addressing global challenges. Our strategic plan identifies five areas of particular strength and commitment over the next 3-5 years (our research beacons). The strategic plan aligns with the [University of Manchester Research Strategy](#) which has the overall ambition "to be a world-leading university where researchers produce work of the highest significance and impact".

An important component of our internationalisation strategy has been to build research-based strategic partnerships with institutions in almost all of the Newton Fund countries. To date we hold over 40 Newton awards. Since the inception of GCRF we have led on circa £20 million of equitable research collaborations in the Newton Fund countries as well as other sub-Saharan African countries, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Colombia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These have provided an invaluable base for further activity in DAC list countries and will be consolidated through the HEFCE QR GCRF funding.

Social responsibility is one of the three core strategic goals in our [Manchester 2020 Strategic Plan](#), with a dedicated Vice-President appointed. Our social responsibility agenda is both local but also international, as evidenced by our Equity and Merit Scholarship scheme that celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. The scheme offers full scholarships to Masters students from Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Ethiopia. Since its inception more than 200 scholarships have been awarded to exceptional individuals who have demonstrated both academic excellence and a commitment to the economic/social development of their home communities. One of our E+M graduates is now the Minister for Transport for Rwanda. We see these graduates as future prime movers in these important sub-Saharan Africa countries, in many cases able to support our long-term plans to address development challenges jointly with DAC list country agencies.

Central to our research strategy and priority objectives are our five research beacons and our portfolio of interdisciplinary research institutes. Through these we will exploit our wide range of capabilities to form new and ground-breaking interdisciplinary combinations across the full range of subjects, with deep engagement with DAC list country partners.

Our **Global Inequalities beacon** is led by our Global Development Institute (GDI), the largest specialist development research and teaching institute of its kind in Europe. The GDI has a three-pronged approach to delivering our vision: producing and co-producing research that extends knowledge frontiers; ensuring our research has a positive impact on policy and practice; and educating future generations of researchers and development leaders. Current GDI research themes cover: Agrarian Change and Political Ecology, Digital Development, Global Production Networks, Trade and Labour, Growth and

Distribution, Migration, Refugees and Asylum, Politics and Governance and Urban Futures. The GDI leads on driving interdisciplinary, development-anchored research across our Faculties. This includes leading the successful submission of our Dams 2.0 GCRF award, which is a truly interdisciplinary, equitable partnership with researchers and decision-makers in South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

Other examples of interdisciplinary research addressing broader issues of **Global Inequalities** include our work with DAC list country collaborators on air quality, access to clean water, urbanisation and our involvement in the N8 AgriFood Programme on food security. Our four other beacons also have very clear development-related pull-through.

Our **Advanced materials** beacon research and innovation focuses on solving some of the world's most critical problems. We are a world-leader in developing new and existing materials for extreme environments and are currently working on a graphene membrane for water filtration that has the potential to produce potable water for all. Next generation sensors are being deployed to increase sustainable coffee production in Colombia.

Under our **Energy** beacon the University has over 600 academics and researchers addressing issues around access to clean and affordable energy for all of the world's population through our work on solar, fuel cells and next generation batteries with collaborators in China. We are also accelerating the change from oil to new, cleaner reserves of gas through better geological exploration models in Tanzania and India. We are working on electricity generation from biofuels using fuel cells in Brazil.

Our **Industrial biotechnology** research is finding less harmful and polluting bio-based ways of producing industrial chemicals and better utilisation of biofuels. The Manchester Institute of Biotechnology (MIB) is one of Europe's leading industry-interfaced institutes, with world-leading capabilities in chemicals synthesis and manufacture. A Rutherford Fund Strategic Partnerships award led by MIB, will bring six postdoctoral researchers from Argentina, Brazil and Colombia over the next year to harness emerging bioscience and biotechnology in addressing challenges of the bio-economy, sustainability and inclusiveness in Latin America.

Our **Cancer** beacon is driven by the Manchester Cancer Research Centre/Christie Hospital, which form Europe's largest specialist cancer centre. Breakthroughs here are transferred through our work in DAC list countries, supported by health data science approaches. Our Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health has many long-term partnerships in the Global South including staff embedded in the Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata, specialising in childhood leukaemia.

It is universally recognised that the rise of chronic non-communicable diseases (heart disease, cancer, diabetes, respiratory diseases) is a major development challenge. Our Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health has long-standing collaborations on NCD's including with the University of Cape Town and, funded by GCRF, is leading on a North-South Partnership in Congenital Heart Disease.

Another Manchester institute that is highly relevant to GCRF activities is our Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI), which undertakes research with the aim of advancing knowledge of peace and conflict responses as well as developing more robust responses to emergencies. HCRI is also a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Emergency Medical Teams and emergency capacity building.

Alignment with UK Strategy for Global Challenges Research Fund

All of our research beacons and institutes align with the Challenge Areas identified by the GCRF Strategic Advisory Group as enablers for change. Under ***Equitable Access to Sustainable Development*** we are undertaking work with DAC country partners on secure and resilient food systems; sustainable health and well-being; clean air, water and sanitation; affordable, reliable, sustainable energy.

Under ***Sustainable Economies and Societies*** we are involved with ODA research projects addressing issues around inclusive economic growth; sustainable cities and communities; sustainable production and consumption of materials and other resources. The Manchester Urban Institute's research agendas address global urban challenges such as Smart and Sustainable Cities and Spatial Inequalities and Poverty.

Under ***Human Rights, Good Governance and Social Justice*** the HCRI is collaborating on a project that will accelerate the development of an international verification and certification process of disaster response training based on WHO standards as well as a DFID funded evidence-based study of surgical procedures and related rehabilitation interventions performed by national and international responders following the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

Key Activities Proposed

The University of Manchester is committed to extending trans-disciplinary approaches to address global development challenges. We recognise that this requires pathways that are multi-disciplinary and set the platform to enable high quality interdisciplinarity to emerge. Our three year strategic plan for the HEFCE QR GCRF funds builds on this solid base and will focus on a mix of capacity building in our partner institutions to allow us to develop strongly interdisciplinary truly shared research and beacon-related, development-focused cutting edge research. The capacity building includes bringing academics from the Global South into the research teams in Manchester as well as having our PhD students spending significant time in the partner institutions. Projects include:

Trans-disciplinary workshops. UoM recognises the need to ensure that GCRF related expenditures maximises its contribution to improving the economic development and well-being of low-income countries and populations. In 2018/9 we will have three

university-wide workshops of key academics to inform our strategy, drawing on the expertise of partners in the global South. The workshops will also reach out to early career researchers. These workshops will focus on our priority themes and will be followed 6-12 months later by international workshops that will include DAC country researchers with the aim of establishing major equitable long-term partnerships to address research challenges that will primarily benefit DAC list countries.

Research visits from scholars from the global South.

To build on the workshop programme, we will invite 10 scholars annually to remain in the UK (after the workshops above) for a further two months on average to enable a shared research agenda and funding bids designed and developed with the aim of delivering ODA impact.

Research partner development and pump-priming fund. We will expand on our University of Manchester Research Institute (UMRI) pump-priming fund, which already supports the preparation of GCRF proposals, and establish a dedicated pump-priming fund for interdisciplinary ODA projects. Where necessary, the fund will support initial relationship-building visits by Manchester academics to potential new partners. The fund will solicit joint bids with colleagues from DAC country institutions for projects across the development themes. The fund will be able to support proof of concept research as well as two-way visits for staff and PhD students. Proposals up to £25K will be considered via two calls in year 1 and an annual call in years 2 and 3. Awards will be made via a robust peer review process that will ensure that funded projects work towards improving the economic development and well-being of low-income countries and populations.

Post-doctoral Scholarships. We will introduce ten one-year post-doctoral scholarships, linked to our research priorities outlined above, for emerging scholars in low-income countries on the OECD DAC list. This scheme will provide an opportunity for talented scholars to benefit from a year in Manchester, as a key part of our capacity building activity. We would anticipate future collaborations through research grant applications made during this year as well as continued involvement and mentoring afterwards with the aim of increasing capacity and capability in partner institutions

Enhanced impact from existing research activities in the Global South. We are committed to ensuring that the outcomes of collaborative ODA work continue to benefit DAC list countries we collaborate with beyond the end of the GCRF initiative. We will develop a small grant fund to share research findings with governmental organisations, NGOs and in-country charities to ensure that the long-term legacy of the research benefits DAC list countries. The expertise of the GDI Communications & Impact Team will be fully utilised. The Team support academics through skill-share training sessions for staff and PGR's and work with early career researchers to instil the requirement to share results with stakeholders in their specific research field. This initiative will also address requests emerging from Southern partners in our [Leverhulme research network](#) about how to make academic research more meaningful to a range of non-academic

agencies in the Global South. All recipients of the awards will be required to write a blog about their experiences for relevant UoM sites.

Support for due diligence. RCUK and other delivery partners of GCRF and associated ODA funding now require lead institutions to undertake risk assessments of partner capacity and capability to manage and deliver the research that they fund. This requirement brings with it a need to evaluate partner's capacity, systems, policies and processes prior to entering into contractual agreements. We will use HEFCE QR GCRF funds to resource a centrally-based due diligence post which will ensure research that will be of primary benefit to DAC list countries is undertaken efficiently to maximise impact.

We will also continue to use the HEFCE QR GCRF allocation to **meet the full economic costs of ODA research** as this will enable us to sustain and expand collaborative research relevant to today's global challenges. We recognise capacity building as one of the cornerstones required in order to demonstrate true and meaningful partnerships, where major components of the research are carried out and funded in the partner institution on an equitable basis. Also crucial is ensuring that partner institutions can maintain the structures and approaches put in place over the 3 years of the funding. We are already working with a wide range of eligible countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and intend to widen our collaborative networks through the use of internal and external funds. Through this combination of enabling strategies the HEFCE QR GCRF funding will support and extend our institutional internationalisation strategy and use of QR generally.

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

Maximum 500 words

Our strategy for using the HEFCE QR GCRF proposes an approach that is inclusive with country choices based on existing academic and non-academic research relations in the context of specific research calls and impact potential but with a specific emphasis on engaging with the needs of the lowest-income countries on the DAC list. We expect the intended outcomes and impacts to include:

- Closer relations with key stakeholder organisations based around shared assessment of the challenges being addressed and a shared aim of ensuring that the outputs will primarily benefit the DAC countries involved.
- Capacity and capability building both within the University of Manchester and in DAC country organisations that we will collaborate with. We believe that the biggest and most enduring legacy of GCRF should be a significant increase in the capacity and capability of institutions and agencies to deliver research solutions to DAC country challenges.

- Pump-priming for larger proposals to ensure sufficient data and collaborative input with the aim of ensuring the outcomes and impacts of large scale proposals bring about maximum benefit to DAC list countries
- Changes to policy and practice. Societal impact can only benefit from academic research if key agencies in DAC list countries are considered or are involved in the formulation of research proposals. We will ensure that government and non-government agencies are involved as early as possible in collaborative research projects. Through this involvement, impact will be greater and long-term relationships can be maintained
- Joint publications with University of Manchester researchers and DAC country researchers will ensure academic impact as well opening up Global South research to a wider audience.

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 approach to GCRF and associated ODA research is overseen by a high-level group, the University GCRF Strategic Advisory Group (SAG). Chaired by our Associate Vice-President for Internationalisation, it has a membership that consists of senior researchers with experience of development research and a track record of collaboration in DAC list countries, and reflects the breadth of development research at the University.

SAG reports directly to the University Research Strategy Group (RSG) which is chaired by the Vice-President for Research and is the main body that determines research strategy at the University. RSG has delegated responsibility for GCRF policies and procedures and associated ODA activity to SAG. RSG receives monthly updates from SAG and ensures that the University approach to ODA research aligns with our overall research strategy. RSG approved our institutional three-year QR GCRF strategy prior to sign off by the President.

SAG meets a minimum of four times a year and will ensure that robust peer review is in place to gain the maximum impact from our use of HEFCE QR GCRF funds based on a set of key metrics. They will have specific responsibility for the pump-priming fund. All the strategic initiatives identified above will be evaluated to ensure we have a portfolio that complements each initiative, with timescales and approaches adapted where we recognise this is not the case. SAG will also ensure that that activity is not concentrated

within a small number of DAC middle income countries that we already have established links with. Funds will be used to expand on or establish linkages with researchers and other organisations in low income countries to ensure that access to our world leading resources feeds into capacity and capability building in organisations with limited resources.

All initiatives funded under the HEFCE QR GCRF funds will require a final report that will be required to include details of the outcomes and future activity emanating from the funding. The SAG will evaluate each of the initiatives periodically to ensure that best use is being made of the HEFCE funds and whether different approaches are required to maximise the benefits of the funds.

Since the middle of 2016 the University of Manchester has ensured that GCRF and related ODA research has a dedicated resource to ensure maximum involvement of UoM researchers in a valuable new funding stream. Our central research office, the Research and Business Engagement Support Services (RBESS) employs an experienced research administrator who devotes 0.6fte exclusively to GCRF/Newton/ODA initiatives. The post carries with it experience of ODA compliance, due diligence and a wide knowledge of HEFCE and funding body processes. This person is also the named contact in the event of queries regarding the institutional GCRF strategy and the annual GCRF monitoring process. The post also leads on the coordination of the university's engagement with GCRF and works closely with researchers and our devolved research administration to maximise our involvement. The post oversees the peer review processes for internal ODA funds and other funding provided by external research agencies. The post will support SAG in ensuring that HEFCE QR GCRF funds are used appropriately and will monitor ODA compliance.

Following the RCUK update of its terms and conditions of its research grants the onus is now on UoM to ensure that we carry out appropriate due diligence on any third parties used to deliver any part of the work funded by RCUK grants. The University of Manchester is in the process of introducing procedures that will ensure appropriate risk assessments of our partners' capacities and capabilities to manage and deliver the research that RCUK funds. This requirement brings with it a need to evaluate partner capacity, systems, policies and processes prior to entering into contractual agreements. We will use HEFCE QR GCRF funds to resource a centrally-based due diligence post that will work alongside the existing dedicated resource to ensure all ODA funds, including HEFCE funds, are expended responsibly and can be accounted for. Ensuring appropriate due diligence of the financial and governance aspects of research collaboration with DAC partners is crucial (a) to the success of funded projects that are intended to have a primary benefit to DAC list countries and (b) for solid legacy after the end of this initiative.

Overall responsibility for HEFCE QR GCRF funds lies within our Directorate of Finance, overseen by the University's Deputy Director of Finance. The fund will be managed from

a central code with journals to and from activity codes requiring the appropriate supporting documentation. The resource based in RBESS will ensure that all activity is 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

Given the breadth of research activity at the University of Manchester, as recognised by the indicative GCRF allocation, we have concentrated on a group of overarching activities rather than specific projects. However, we have provided specific detail where relevant (e.g. number of incoming post-docs). Where appropriate, activities will be awarded in competition. We have chosen not to identify specific countries or geographical areas as our approach will be inclusive as well as strategic. Country choices should be based on existing academic and non-academic research relations in the context of specific research calls and impact potential which will be determined by the emerging UKRI GCRF agenda. However, improving the economic development and well-being of low-income countries and populations will be the main driver of our strategy.

The totals in Column D ('Research Council or other') reflect funding awarded to The University of Manchester from GCRF, Newton and HEFCE funds.

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

We believe that a critical enabling step to long-term collaboration with DAC country partners is support for capacity and capability building in our partner institutions. Therefore, we intend to deliberately front-load activities in this area in year 1. If funds were cut we will do our best to maintain this element. A decrease in funding will primarily

affect the Global South post-docs element. A funding increase would allow us to expand primarily our research pump-priming fund and our enhanced impacts element.

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

In this year our main priority would be to translate the activities in year 1 into sustainable collaborations by supporting the formulation of equitable bids to the GCRF delivery partners with our collaborators. We would also be welcoming most of our Global South Postdocs. A reduction in funding would be absorbed by contraction of the postdocs element. A funding increase would be channelled primarily into the research pump-priming fund with the aim of increasing ODA compliant research collaborations.

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

By this stage we expect to be ensuring that the academic and non-academic impact of ODA research is benefitting DAC country partners and other agencies. Our portfolio of GCRF and other ODA research will have been enhanced by the previous usage of pump-priming funds and continued engagement with returned postdocs. Any additional funds will be prioritised into these areas around high-quality results from investment and legacy planning for the future with an emphasis on benefits to collaborating DAC list countries. Any reduction in funding would prioritise the legacy/future relationships through supporting funding proposals.