

Annex A1: Template for institutional three-year GCRF strategies (AY 2018-19 onwards)

Please complete this form and the excel table in **Annex A2**. Text boxes may be expanded to the required length, and are expected to be in proportion to the level of formula Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) allocations received in 2017-18. Please do not attach other documents or annexes. Guidance for completing the forms is at Annex B.

The completed form and table should be emailed to dbeards@sfc.ac.uk by **noon on Monday 26 March 2018**.

Name of institution	Edinburgh Napier University
Contact person for correspondence who is also responsible for ensuring that the head of institution has approved this strategy for submission to SFC.	
Name	Janet Taylor
Position	Leader of External Funding
Address	Merchiston Campus Colinton Road
Email	j.taylor2@napier.ac.uk
Phone	0131 455 6283
Note that we intend to contact this person in the event of queries regarding the institutional GCRF strategy. We will also contact this person annually as part of our GCRF monitoring process.	
Has this GCRF strategy been approved for submission to SFC by the head of institution?	
Yes	
Name: Andrea Nolan	
Email address: principal@napier.ac.uk	
Signature: 	

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 formula GCRF in light of the criteria and objectives for the GCRF outlined in the guidance.
 - c. How activity funded through GCRF fits into your broader strategy and priorities for all development related research activity.
 - d. How activity funded through 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 REG.
 - 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. Your institution's strategy and priority objectives for all development-related research activity funded through all sources for three years from 2018-19.

Edinburgh Napier University's current strategy, Strategy 2020 Building Success, has identified 3 broad priority research areas that the University has committed to pursue. These areas are Sustainable Communities, Wellbeing and Information Society and they form the basis of the University's 3 year GCRF strategy.

Edinburgh Napier aims to build strategic partnerships both at home and in targeted regions of the world, while also establishing a thematic, interdisciplinary academic focus.

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

In line with the overall strategy, the priority objectives for Edinburgh Napier University over the next 3 years are to:

- Build and strengthen international partnerships including buy in from stakeholders
- Capacity and capability building
- Excellent research that is impactful and innovative which addresses global issues

Building from our position as an established international university, we aim to have a global outlook and reach, developing graduates who are highly valued by employers worldwide. We conduct research and knowledge exchange activities which are internationally relevant and recognised. Using Edinburgh Napier talent, we shape and deliver solutions to new and emerging local, national and international issues, delivering research outcomes that together transform communities.

We create and support personalised learning and research opportunities that nurture talent from around the world. For example, the University is building research capacity within Kenya, working with the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, by supporting PhD students through funded collaboration.

In line with the overall strategic objectives outlined above, the University is keen to strengthen existing relationships and establish new links with developing countries where the University's expertise can be utilised effectively to deliver outcomes with lasting impact within the country.

The following projects build and strengthen international partnerships with developing countries, ensuring buy in from our stakeholders. They all include capacity and capability building within the local communities and are based on excellent, impactful and innovative research from our academics being used to address global issues.

Led by one of our conservation biologists, the university has been working in Kenya for over a decade to understand the role of Mangrove forests in coastal ecosystems. The Mikoko Pamoja arose from this work. It has been successful over the years in environmental protection and community development through conserving the mangroves in Kenya. Mikoko Pamoja was the world's first community-based mangrove conservation project to be funded by the sale of carbon credits, which funds development work in education, water and sanitation as well as environmental conservation. This model is now being extended through the Vanga project in Kenya and Tanzania which will mean a significant expansion in terms of area and funding, being three times the size of the current Mikoko Pamoja site.

The School of Health and Social Care is leading work to improve maternal care and health in Improving Respectful Midwifery Care in Rural Malawi. This programme of work aims to develop, implement and evaluate respectful care using a human rights approach to maternity care in Malawi. It aims to raise the profile of human rights within rural villages, incorporate a human rights approach into pre-registration midwifery education curricula, build capacity for midwifery educators and improve clinical environments to promote the dignity and privacy of women during childbirth.

The Electrolysed Water (EW) for Post-Harvest Washing (JadooJal) project is assisting the development of a novel, electrolysed, water based application to reduce spoilage and microbial contamination of a variety of fresh produce types of importance to Indian commerce. Led through the work of our School of Applied Science, the work will generate novel insights into the microbial communities present on commercial fresh produce in India and generate information relevant to the application of EW treatment for the treatment and preservation of these valuable commodities. Benefits will include improved shelf-life of produce, less risk of food poisoning and reduced exposure to microbial produced toxins (primarily mycotoxins).

Between 2017-18 GCRF funding has been used for Pump-priming activity to enable researchers to form new interdisciplinary collaboration in developing countries such as Bangalore, Mongolia, Ukraine and Mexico in the areas above this year, the funding has enabled 6 such projects.

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

The key aspect of the Edinburgh Napier strategic plan for formula GCRF allocation will be to prioritise areas that have the strongest impact and demonstrable expertise to deliver maximum benefits to developing countries.

All activity will promote enduring and equitable partnerships between academic communities in the UK and developing countries, which are based on research excellence and best practice sharing. We will do this by taking opportunities to present our research to collaborators and stakeholders in the developing countries, to hold seminars with them, and to undertake pilot research projects with them, wherever there is a need that we can address.

The issues faced by the developing country will drive the development of projects in our area of expertise and investment, utilising expertise from around the world to deliver a solution that will have a positive impact on the economic development and welfare needs of the developing country. The projects will be underpinned by a strong commitment to inclusion, equality and diversity.

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

In juxtaposition with the University's overall Strategy 2020, the 3-year GCRF Strategy initial priority objectives are in the following GCRF challenge areas:

- Equitable Access to Sustainable Development (in line with our theme of sustainable communities and welfare)
- Secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable marine resources and agriculture
- Sustainable health and well being
- Sustainable Economies and Societies (In line with our theme of sustainable communities and information society)
- Sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
- Resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change
- Sustainable production and consumption of materials and other resources
- Human Rights, Good Governance and Social Justice (In line with our themes of welfare and sustainable communities)
- Reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action

Activity directly related to the GCRF formula allocation between 2017-18 has included pump-priming activity to enable researchers to form new interdisciplinary collaboration in:

- Malaysia - clean water and sanitation as well as affordable and sustainable energy
- Bangalore - earthquake engineering
- Mongolia, Ukraine, China and India - Movement and Vulnerability
- India - Fungal Food Spoilage
- Mexico - innovative transportation management systems and transport policies, improved access to health-care services in rural communities through scheduling and routing of mobile hospital services

The GCRF strategic priority objectives have been identified based on existing University expertise in development related research activity. This activity contributes to the UN sustainable Development goals, addresses the UK GCRF Strategy and is ODA compliant. Our strategy allows for flexibility to enable us to adapt our challenge areas to reflect emerging expertise within the University.

The University strategy 2020 and the International Strategy 2020 have committed the University to

- Conduct research and knowledge exchange activities which are internationally relevant and recognised

- Have a holistic approach to internationalisation
- International Knowledge exchange

The indicator of success will be measured by the global reach of our activities and lasting impact within the developing countries.

d. How activity funded through GCRF relates to the UK strategy for the GCRF.

The UK Aid Strategy recognised that research and innovation has a critical role to play in tackling global challenges which most significantly impact upon developing countries. The strategy has set out the government's intention to tackle global challenges in order to eliminate poverty.

Activity that will be funded through the GCRF will relate to the UK strategy in the following way:

- The activity will be challenge-lead disciplinary and interdisciplinary research that generates solutions to the problems faced by the developing countries
- Strengthen capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange between the UK and developing countries
- Work across disciplines and in partnership with colleagues in developing countries to formulate new approaches and practical solutions to global development problems that are fit for purpose
- Deliver excellent research and impact

The activity is directly and primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries and focuses on the outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD DAC list countries.

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

Edinburgh Napier's strategy for using our SFC REG is to distribute this to schools according to a formula which replicates the SFC REF2014 formula. ENU receive REG based on their REF performance and so we therefore use REG to invest in the areas of research excellence present within the University, while also remaining agile and ensuring that an element of the funds is available to invest in emerging areas of expertise, as they arise.

Spend is approved against REG activities, which makes it straightforward to report and collate information on how the money was spent at the end of the year.

Our GCRF strategy is to be as open to new ideas from our researchers as possible. As a small institution it is important to be able to be responsive to calls where we have the expertise. We therefore do not wish to prevent anyone from the opportunity of contributing. For this reason, we do not restrict our GCRF strategy to those who are already involved in research excellence and REG activity, but encourage others to also participate. However, it is likely that the main contributors will be in areas already benefiting from REG, as this is where the excellence is already developed and developing. We have an institutional policy of encouraging our ECRs to partner with our more experienced researchers to help them to develop their research skills, knowledge and contacts and to contribute real impact in society, including outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD DAC list countries.

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

There are several risks to the successful implementation of this strategy. These have been considered during the strategy development, and ways to mitigate such risks will be built into the project development.

One potential barrier is around the development of a strong partnership with the developing country, lack of buy in from within the country could prevent a project leaving lasting impact. To enable success, all projects must be developed to suit the developing country's needs, taking into consideration the local situation and gaining buy in from the local communities whose involvement would be key to delivering the ambitions of the project.

Another risk is due to a break down in communications between the delivering partners. To mitigate this all projects will have a comprehensive communication plan to ensure there are regular points for the partners to review project process, identifying any potential issues at an early stage.

There are also risks around ODA compliance if, for example, there are failures in the governance and monitoring of the project. To mitigate this Edinburgh Napier carry out stringent due diligence checks, continuously monitor the project progress and will actively share best practice and governance procedures with partners to also assist their compliance and understanding.

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.

In order to realise the previously stated objectives, Edinburgh Napier University will use the SFC funding allocation for pump priming activities as well as capacity building. This will help grow and strengthen partnerships with developing countries as well as providing the potential for face to face meetings to assist proposal planning and development. We will also facilitate workshops and learning events to increase our academics knowledge and understanding of ODA compliant project requirements, therefore mitigating risk.

Edinburgh Napier is a small institution, which undertakes excellent research in distinctive areas and excels at excellent innovation. This allows us to provide added value to projects when partnering with other institutions. We are also actively encouraging early career researchers to partner with more experienced researchers or with other UK institutions to gain experience of ODA compliant projects, building capacity for future ODA compliant projects.

It is a longer term aim to position Edinburgh Napier, through establishing our networks, to be able to respond to any relevant rapid response calls.

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

Edinburgh Napier has strong existing collaborations with Kenya, Tanzania, Indonesia, Brazil, Sri Lanka and Malawi which we will continue to nurture.

The University also has existing and emerging development activity with the following countries Ukraine, Azerbaijan, India, Bangalore, South Africa, Nepal, Swaziland, Mexico, Ghana, Mongolia, Columbia, Malaysia, Zambia and Uganda.

As a small institution it is our priority to nurture partnerships with developing countries where our expertise can assist in solving global problems. We therefore, do not wish to limit our opportunity to foster any unforeseen partnership opportunities. However, our main focus at the moment is the countries we have been working hard to build partnerships in, particularly the countries where we have used this year's pump prime funding.

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

ENU is already working towards building stronger collaborations and knowledge with partners in DAC countries where we already have contacts, and improving on these. In the academic year 2017/18 we have distributed our SFC GCRF Development funds to those academics already working with partners, or who have excellent research

and innovation which could be utilised in partnership, and for development in the DAC list areas. The funding has been distributed with an emphasis on stakeholder engagement and ensuring that good partnerships are made with the organisations, representative of, and working for the benefit of, the populations in these areas. Stakeholder engagement is vital to ensure that these projects are successful and effective. Only those researchers who could show that they were working towards future GCRF/ODA bids, were granted funds. The recipients of those funds, and others, at an earlier stage of their projects, will be encouraged and supported by our Research Office as much as possible to progress this work. This will include specific workshops, using some of the funds to outsource specialist presenters and facilitators to develop these projects, and subsequent applications.

The funds have been used to visit and facilitate partner meetings in India for work relating to fungal food spoilage and also on ecologically sound and ethical textile products and on technology to enhance earthquake resistance; Mongolia, Ukraine, China and India on movement and vulnerability; Malaysia and Thailand on clean water and sanitation and affordable and sustainable energy; and Mexico to use computing technology to reduce pollution in major cities and improve access to healthcare in rural communities.

The main intended outcomes and impacts of our strategy are to support our academic community to produce excellent research and innovation to the benefit of ODA DAC list countries, thus ensuring the excellence and competitiveness of Edinburgh Napier University as a research institute. This strategy also allows us to fulfil our organisational values and put our knowledge and expertise to good effect.

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 uses an Information Management System (Work Tribe) which allows the recording and storage of management information of project activity from 'cradle to grave' via the existing Pre and Post award processes. This ensures that all development activity information is stored in one place, which allows easy access to monitor and evaluate progress and compliance and to evaluate outcomes as well as identify lessons learned.

At the pre award development stage all applications are allocated a unique application number which includes identifying tags for any GCRF or ODA activity. The

GCRF and ODA tags enable the University to easily access information on all ODA compliant projects including information to assess the geographical distribution of activity, outputs, outcomes and economic and social impacts.

At the pre-award stage, we carry out due diligence checks and complete an ODA compliance checklist/project which is based on the RCUK Research Council Financial and Capability Due Diligence Questionnaire. All applications are subject to a two-stage approval process which is inbuilt in the system.

Within the existing Information management system, the University has included a post award process that allows continuous monitoring of project progress and evaluation of outcomes against expectations. At this stage each school has been allocated a financial account code that holds all ODA compliant funds. This enables the post award process to monitor project progress, compliance, impact and milestones, which have been identified and recorded at the outset of the project, in the information management system to ensure that the information is captured as well as utilised for future project planning.

The final evaluation is carried out by the post-award team with the academic researchers who will evaluate proposed outcomes with actual outcomes and identify lessons to be learned for future projects.

Section B: Use of GCRF 2018-19 allocation and future formula GCRF priorities

4. Please complete the table in Annex A2 detailing the expected spending and activities for GCRF in the academic year 2018-19. This should show how all expected GCRF will be committed to ODA-compliant activities.
5. Please add here any explanatory notes on how you have completed the table in Annex A2 that will demonstrate ODA compliance.

The proposed activity for the 2018-19 SFC GCRF allocation is based on our previous 2017-18 allocation.

ODA Compliance will be demonstrated by:

- All development research activity will take place in ODA DAC list countries
- Due diligence will be completed for all partners and projects and this process has been built into our internal GCRF procedures
- Development research activity is relevant to the problems of the developing country, contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

6. What are your priorities for GCRF activity in 2019-20? Please describe how the profile of activity will adjust to increases or decreases to expected GCRF funding.

As the expected University GCRF allocation is fairly small the 2019-20 priority activity will build on the priorities set for 2018-19.

The 2019-20 priorities include:

- Pump-priming - Via application process centrally managed by the research office, applicants are asked to make a case for the funding based on their expertise and research record. Priority will be given to our three themes of Wellbeing, Sustainability and Information Society.
- Capacity and capability building – increasing networks suitable for GCRF project development.
- Meeting full economic costs of GCRF research funded projects.

If there is any decrease in the GCRF allocation the University would prioritise our activity. For example, to prioritise pump priming activity.

Any increase in our expected GCRF allocation would allow the University a wider range of activity. For example, funding a collaborative preliminary research GCRF project to acquire pilot data that can be used to build a larger project.

7. What are your priorities for GCRF activity in 2020-21? Please describe how the profile of activity will adjust to increases or decreases to expected GCRF funding.

The 2020-21 priorities, based on our previous GCRF allocation, will aim to build on activity achieved on 2019-20.

Priority will be given to:

- Maintenance and strengthening of partnerships
- Continuing development of research excellence and innovation in the technologies and research areas already being developed, whether or not GCRF funding continues to be available
- ENU Research Office continue to horizon scan for funding sources which support our work and the expertise and excellence gained from this continues to be fed into our teaching

If there is any decrease in the GCRF allocation the University would prioritise activity which maintains our partnerships. For example, supporting project development with partners.

Any increase in our expected GCRF allocation would allow the University a wider range of activity. For example, the development of larger projects which will lead to significant lasting impact within partner countries.

Note: 'GCRF' = 'Global Challenges Research Fund'; 'DAC' = 'Development Assistance Committee'.

Project	Type of activity	Formula GCRF (£)	Research Council or other (£)	DAC nations	Benefits to DAC nations	Outputs and impacts
Description of the activity or project title.	Capacity and capability building. Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research. Generating impact from research. Meeting full economic costs of research funded by other sources. Rapid response to emergencies with an urgent research need. <i>Pump-priming</i>	Level of funding used from formula GCRF allocation.	Project funding from Research Councils or other sources (please indicate whether these are GCRF awards).	Nations involved or benefitting as listed by the DAC.	Description of primary benefits to economic and welfare development in partner DAC nations.	Description of intended outputs and impacts.
	Pump-Priming	Applications are made to the Research and Innovation Office at ENU. Provisional budget: up to £39,779	No current GCRF Awards	We will continue to award this pump prime funding to any academic who has collaborators and research interests in any country on the DAC list, which meets our criteria.	Applicants are asked to make a case for the funding based on their expertise and research record. Priority will be given to our three themes of Wellbeing, Sustainability and Information Society.	Feasible project plans for future GCRF eligible research. Strong collaborations with representative stakeholders and research institutes in DAC countries.
	Capacity and capability building.	Provisional budget: up to £20,000				Workshops and training for potential applicants
	Meeting full economic costs of research funded by other sources.	As required for eligible projects. Provisional budget: up to £20,000				As required for eligible projects
		Total: £79,779	Total:			