



SFC Announcement

Global Challenges Research Funding: Request for 3 Year Strategies

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Summary: To notify higher education institutions about indicative levels of Global Challenges Research Funding for 2018-20 and to invite 3 year strategies for the use of this funding.

FAO: Principals / Finance Directors of Scotland's universities

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Global Challenges Research Fund: Request for strategies

Summary

1. I'm writing to announce indicative allocations and changes to SFC's process for allocating and monitoring funding from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). Formula GCRF allocations to Scottish institutions will rise to £8,303,114 in AY 2018-19.
2. Institutions wishing to receive GCRF are invited to produce a three-year strategy for their formula GCRF allocations and to participate in an annual monitoring exercise.
3. This will enable SFC to give additional assurance that we are meeting the conditions attached to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) funding, of which the GCRF is part. While this will involve some additional work we think it will be useful to introduce a forward look to enable more strategic planning for the use of these funds.
4. You are therefore invited to submit a three-year GCRF strategy, to be assessed before the allocation of formula GCRF from 2018-19.

Background

5. The GCRF is a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries. Annex B contains information on the GCRF and conditions attached to this funding. Additional detail on the aims of the GCRF can be found in the [UK Strategy for the GCRF](#).
6. From 2016-17 SFC offered formula allocations of GCRF to all Scottish higher education institutions (HEIs) in proportion to their Research Excellence Grant (REG). All institutions accepted the offer of grant, and in 2016-17 the funding supported 120 projects in 51 DAC countries. This demonstrates the broad range, creativity and outward-looking nature of the Scottish research community.
7. We are now seeking institutional strategies and participation in annual monitoring to enhance the planning and accountability for this funding stream.

Principles of the GCRF

8. The overarching aim of the Global Challenges Research Fund is 'to ensure the UK takes the lead in addressing the problems faced by developing countries, whilst developing our ability to deliver cutting-edge research' ('UK Strategy for the GCRF'). GCRF allocations must be used according to ODA principles, which

state that only research directly and primarily of benefit to the problems of developing countries may be counted as ODA [Global Challenges Research Fund Guidance](#).

9. Any benefit to Scotland or the UK from GCRF activity must be a secondary consideration. GCRF activity must also comply with ODA guidelines by working with and supporting development in countries and territories on the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)'s list of ODA recipients](#). Any part of an HEI's GCRF allocation that is not spent on ODA-compliant activities will be recouped. All spending using GCRF allocations must also be in line with the broader GCRF strategy developed by the delivery partners ('UK Strategy for the GCRF').

Strategies

10. To demonstrate that GCRF funds are being spent on ODA-compliant activity and to support the case for continued funding, SFC (and the other UK HE funding bodies or equivalents) is implementing a triennial exercise in which each HEI sets out an overarching strategy for development-related research activity and how it intends to prioritise and spend allocations of GCRF. Strategies should cover the indicative allocations for GCRF that SFC is due to receive from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). This exercise will begin in the lead up to AY 2018-19 and will cover funding for three years.
11. Submitting a strategy will not be mandatory, but HEIs will only be able to receive GCRF allocations for three years from 2018-19 by submitting a strategy that is assessed as compliant with the aims of ODA. SFC will publish institutional strategies on our website.

Reporting

12. We will continue to monitor the use of grant through annual reports. These should provide a breakdown of how GCRF allocations were spent, including information on the types of activity funded, the DAC list countries involved and the impacts and outputs produced. HEIs will be required to report annually against their strategies. A template for these reports is attached.
13. Reports for 2018-19 and beyond will also need to cover progress against intentions outlined in institutional strategies, and explain how activities align with the strategy (or why any activities have diverged from the strategy). Completing the annual monitoring process and reporting sufficiently on strategies will be a condition of grant. If an institution fails to participate successfully in the monitoring process, or if any of its activities are assessed as not ODA compliant, SFC will reserve the right to adjust future funding allocations to recoup the GCRF grant, to refuse future GCRF funding, or both.

Further information

14. Please contact David Beards for further information, tel: 0131 313 6520, email: dbeards@sfc.ac.uk.
15. HEIs wishing to receive a GCRF allocation should complete and return Annexes A1 and A2. Guidance notes for completion are available at Annex B. Institutional strategies should be emailed to dbeards@sfc.ac.uk by **noon on Monday 26 March 2018**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fancey', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Dr Stuart Fancey

Director of Research and Innovation

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

Please complete this form, available in a separate Word document **Annex A1**, 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	
Contact person for correspondence who is also responsible for ensuring that the head of institution has approved this strategy for submission to SFC.	
Name	
Position	
Address	
Email	
Phone	
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/No (delete as appropriate)	
Name:	
Email address:	
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

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

Maximum 500 words

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?

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

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

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.

Maximum 500 words

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.

Maximum 1,000 words

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.

Maximum 1,000 words

Allocations and guidance on strategies

Introduction to GCRF and ODA compliance

1. The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) is a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries. The fund forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). GCRF is administered by delivery partners, including the four UK HE funding bodies, the research councils and the four national academies. More detail on the aims of the GCRF can be found in the 'UK Strategy for the GCRF'².
2. From academic year (AY) 2016-17 SFC has been a delivery partner and has distributed GCRF allocations to all Scottish higher education institutions (HEIs) in receipt of quality-related research funding (QR) in proportion to their mainstream REG allocations. SFC distributed £2 million from the GCRF³ in AY 2016-17 and is distributing £4.012 million in AY 2017-18.
3. The overarching aim of the GCRF as set out in the GCRF strategy is 'to ensure the UK takes the lead in addressing the problems faced by developing countries, whilst developing our ability to deliver cutting-edge research'. The formula GCRF funding delivered through SFC has a unique role in achieving this aim. This funding stream complements the project-based GCRF grants allocated by the other delivery partners. The GCRF allocation delivered by SFC – like those delivered by the funding bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland – is unique in that it provides flexible institutional grants that can be used strategically to support ODA-compliant activity. This may include underpinning GCRF activity funded through other delivery partners, or by directly supporting valuable research that addresses the problems faced by developing countries and is not (and would not be) funded through the GCRF grants of other delivery partners.
4. GCRF allocations must be used according to ODA principles, which state that only research directly and primarily of benefit to the problems of developing countries may be counted as ODA⁴. The costs may still be counted as ODA if the research is carried out in a developed country⁵. Consequently, activity funded

² UK Strategy for the Global Challenges Research Fund,
<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/challenges/>

³ SFC also allocated £392,400 of Newton Funding in AY 2016-17

⁴ Global Challenges Research Fund, Guidance, <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/>

⁵ Is it ODA?,

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm>

through GCRF allocations must promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective. Any benefit to the UK or other developed countries from GCRF activity must be a secondary consideration. GCRF activity must also comply with ODA guidelines by working with and supporting development in countries and territories on the Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) list of ODA recipients⁶.

5. The GCRF delivery partners that administer competitive funding calls have identified four core criteria for assessing bids. HEIs funded through GCRF allocations should apply the same considerations when determining which activities to fund through these GCRF allocations. These criteria are:
 - a. Activity should be focused on problems and solutions.
 - b. Activity should be underpinned by research excellence, and partners in developing countries should play a significant role in this where possible.
 - c. Activity should have a high likelihood of positive impact on the economic development and welfare needs of developing countries.
 - d. Activity should promote strong, enduring and equitable partnerships between academic communities in the UK and in the global south⁷.

6. A key challenge for all development processes is to be sustainable. GCRF allocations support sustainable initiatives with partner countries in multiple ways. In particular, GCRF allocations could be used in the following ways:
 - a. **Building capacity and capability.** GCRF allocations can be used sustainably to strengthen capacity for research and innovation in the UK and developing countries by supporting excellent research and researchers to address challenges faced by developing countries. Activities should build on the strengths of the UK HEI and can involve:
 - i. Establishing or enhancing equitable and sustainable partnerships with researchers and other organisations in developing countries. We encourage HEIs to develop partnerships with a diverse range of DAC list countries – including across a diversity of geographical locations – and particularly to collaborate with the lowest- and lower-income countries on the DAC list while remaining sympathetic to economic geographies.
 - ii. Growing people-based capacity and capability to undertake ODA-eligible research across career stages in the UK and developing

⁶ Development Assistance Committee list of Official Development Assistance Recipients, <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>

⁷ Global Challenges Research Fund Strategic Advisory Group: Criteria for GCRF Funding, <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/sagtor/>

countries, to enable the best research to address challenges faced by developing countries.

- iii. Investing in people capacity to support the delivery of ODA-eligible research, outcomes and impacts in the UK and developing countries.
 - iv. Increasing the engagement of the UK research community with international development challenges, particularly by enhancing expertise and focusing this expertise on the challenges faced by developing countries.
- b. **Mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research activity.** Formula GCRF allocations can be used to facilitate mono-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative research activity that sustainably promotes the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Interdisciplinary activity and collaboration may be within the UK or with global organisations, or may involve sustainable partnerships with organisations in developing countries. We encourage HEIs to establish equitable partnerships with collaborators in developing countries.
 - c. **Generating impact from research in and beyond the sector.** Formula GCRF allocations can be used to translate research into sustainable social and economic impact that promotes economic development and welfare in developing countries.
 - d. **Meeting the full economic costs of eligible research funded by other delivery partners.** Formula GCRF allocations can be used to meet the full economic costs of ODA-eligible research funded through GCRF awards from other delivery partners, and of research not funded by GCRF awards that still meets ODA and GCRF compliance criteria. This enhances the sustainability of ODA research activity by allowing HEIs to meet full costs.
 - e. **Rapid response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need.** Formula GCRF allocations can be used to respond rapidly to emergencies in developing countries that urgently require research, for example disease outbreaks or natural disasters, as long as that research promotes the economic development and welfare of developing countries.
 - f. **Pump-priming activities to underpin GCRF and Newton Fund bids to other funders, including building relationships.** GCRF allocations may be used to enable pump-priming that will lay the ground for future ODA activity to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Funding may be used in this way to facilitate:

- i. Networking meetings and other events to develop sustainable strategies and partnerships for future activities.
- ii. Small pump-priming projects to generate preliminary data for future applications.
- iii. ODA-compliant research activity on a HEI's overseas campuses as well as its UK campuses.

It is expected that the outcomes of pump-priming activities will inform more substantive research into and impact on the welfare and economic needs of developing countries. HEIs should note that using GCRF allocations to provide staff time or any other resources to assist in the development of bids to other funders (for GCRF or non-GCRF awards) will not be considered ODA-eligible activity.

7. To aid the UK Government's reporting to the OECD, SFC is required to assure the Department for Business, Energy, Innovation and Skills (BEIS) that GCRF allocations have been spent in compliance with both GCRF and ODA criteria. From April 2018 this responsibility to provide assurance to BEIS will transfer to Research England. To demonstrate that GCRF funds are being spent on ODA-compliant activity and to support the case for continued funding, we are implementing a triennial exercise in which HEIs submit a three-year GCRF strategy. This strategy will outline the HEI's overarching strategy for development-related research activity, and how it intends to prioritise and spend GCRF allocations in advance of the distribution of funding over the three-year period. This exercise will begin in 2018 and will cover funding for three years from AY 2018-19. HEIs are asked to complete the strategy based on the indicative allocations for GCRF outlined in Annex C.
8. All Scottish institutions are invited to submit a GCRF strategy. Submitting a strategy is not mandatory, but HEIs will only be able to receive GCRF allocations for the three years from 2018-19 by submitting a strategy that is subsequently assessed and approved as ODA compliant.

Three-year Institutional GCRF strategies

9. HEIs should each submit a three-year GCRF strategy to SFC, setting out the institution's overall strategy for development-related research activity and plans for the use of GCRF in 2018-19, as well as priorities for GCRF in the subsequent two years covered by the strategy. Plans and priorities for spending should be based on the indicative allocations for GCRF in Annex C.
10. In subsequent annual monitoring processes from 2018-19 onwards, we will ask for a breakdown of the previous year's GCRF allocation to assess ODA

compliance and progress against institution's strategies.

11. SFC's acceptance of an institution's strategy is necessary for the institution to receive a GCRF allocation for 2018-19 onwards. The strategy should cover 2018-19 and two subsequent years.
12. Strategies will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - a. A sound and sustainable approach to ODA activity, in line with the HEI's core strategy, the wider GCRF strategy produced by the delivery partners, and ODA guidelines.
 - b. An appropriate and compliant plan for spending GCRF allocations in 2018-19, in line with GCRF and ODA eligibility criteria.
 - c. Appropriate and compliant intentions for future spending of GCRF allocations in line with both GCRF and ODA criteria.
 - d. Identification of main intended outcomes and impacts.
 - e. A sound approach to managing ODA activities, including appropriate processes to monitor, evaluate and report GCRF and ODA activity in the HEI, and the ability to account for actual funding body GCRF expenditure.
13. Institutional strategies should be emailed to dbeards@sfc.ac.uk by **noon on Monday 26 March 2018** using the Word template at Annex A1 and Excel template at Annex A2. Institutions should take account of the description of relevant policies given in this annex in developing their strategies and plans to ensure ODA compliance and alignment with broader GCRF strategy. Detailed guidance for completing the templates is given in paragraphs 32 to 38.
14. The UK government is required to report to the OECD on ODA spending and activity, including for the GCRF, and funding is contingent on activity being assessed as ODA-compliant. It is important that HEIs provide us with full and substantive documents, with length appropriate to the level of GCRF allocation and scale of ODA activity. This is about producing a strategy that is true to the particular institution, its mission, institutional and academic capabilities, ODA activities, DAC list country partners and intended outcomes and impacts. We anticipate that different HEIs will produce quite different strategies; this is to be expected and welcomed.

Assessment of institutional three-year QR GCRF strategies

15. All institutional strategies will be assessed against the criteria listed in paragraph 5. Final decisions will be made by SFC, advised by a group of ODA experts from Research Councils UK (RCUK), supported by the expert researchers who will be assessing the strategies.
16. HEIs will be informed whether their strategy has been approved as compliant for funding by SFC ahead of the AY 2018-19 funding allocations. SFC will aim to

inform HEIs that have produced strategies assessed as compliant on the first iteration of final outcomes as early as possible.

17. SFC may withdraw, reduce or attach conditions to an HEI's future funding if, in our judgement, its strategy does not adequately meet the criteria listed in paragraph 5. GCRF 2017-18 allocations will not, however, be changed. Eligibility to receive annual allocations in future may also be affected by progress in delivery of the strategy, as assessed through annual monitoring.
18. On the advice of our expert researchers, we may ask HEIs that submit strategies that appear subject to clarification to meet the above criteria, to expand or clarify their strategies, before final allocations are made. Exceptionally, we may advise an institution that its strategy does not meet the published criteria, and ask for a resubmission, which will then be reassessed. We expect to notify institutions of requests for clarifications or resubmissions by 30 April. HEIs will have a maximum of three weeks to submit clarifications and resubmissions and should ensure that they have the staff resource available to meet this finite timescale. If, exceptionally, there is a delay to the final approval of a small number of strategies before the distribution of 2018-19 GCRF allocations, SFC will reserve the right to issue a rebalancing payment to the HEIs concerned.
19. We reserve the right to ask HEIs to submit an updated institutional strategy, potentially addressing new priorities, at any time over the three-year strategy period. This would occur if the UK Government were to request that we demonstrate that HEIs can meet new opportunities and priorities for ODA activity, or if there were major structural changes at an HEI, such as a demerger.

Commending strategies

20. We intend to commend a small number of strategies that demonstrate best practice, leadership and commitment from HEIs to address the challenges faced by developing countries through GCRF activity. We will publish details of the commended strategies on the SFC website.
21. We will not ask HEIs to provide any additional information to inform the process of commending strategies. Decisions on commendations will be made by SFC on the recommendation of a group of ODA experts in RCUK, and based on analysis by the researchers undertaking the main assessment. We will contact the HEIs we wish to commend prior to publication of the strategies. All institutional strategies (the narrative documents, omitting the data) will be published on the SFC website.

Annual monitoring

22. As a condition of grant from 2018-19, all institutions in receipt of formula GCRF

will be asked to report annually on the progress of their three-year GCRF strategy, including details on the breakdown of use of the previous year's GCRF allocation to assure ODA compliance. We are developing our annual monitoring template, which will be informed by the assessment of strategies conducted by the appointed researchers and aligned with monitoring and evaluation processes used by other GCRF delivery partners.

23. For annual monitoring from 2018-19, HEIs should expect to be required to quantify and break down activities by spending for their whole GCRF allocation, as well as to provide information on the types of activity funded, the DAC list countries involved, and the impacts and outputs produced. Institutions should also expect to report on their progress against the intentions outlined in their strategies, and explain how activities align with their strategy or why any activities have diverged from their strategy. Furthermore, HEIs should expect to provide evidence as to why any activity funded through GCRF is relevant and primarily beneficial to the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Any part of an HEI's GCRF allocation that is not spent on ODA-compliant activities will be clawed back.
24. We will provide further details of how we will monitor GCRF from 2018-19, and the data that that will be required in autumn 2018, when we have assessed strategies.
25. Reporting on GCRF for AY 2017-18 will continue to be done using our current process. Reports should provide a breakdown of how GCRF allocations were spent, including information on the types of activity funded, the DAC list countries involved and the impacts and outputs produced. Institutions will be invited to provide additional narrative on up to three projects funded through their GCRF allocation in 2016-17, and to assure SFC that total GCRF allocations were used for eligible activity.
26. We will visit institutions if we have concerns about the progress of delivery of the strategy in relation to achievements on outcomes, impacts or ODA compliance. This will allow us to understand the changing barriers and enablers that may have affected progress.
27. We expect GCRF strategies to reflect enduring institutional and academic capabilities and long-term partnerships with DAC list countries, and intended outcomes and impacts which will not change rapidly. However, in the case of a wholesale change of strategy, HEIs should either reflect this in annual monitoring or approach us directly.
28. We expect to notify HEIs of their GCRF allocation as part of the annual Outcome Agreement funding announcement. We expect to continue to distribute formula GCRF from 2018-19 in proportion to institutions' REG funding. Annual allocations will reflect:

- Availability of funding for formula GCRF as confirmed to SFC annually by BEIS.
- Changes in the distribution of formula GCRF due to requirements to recoup or alter allocations arising from the assessment of strategies or monitoring returns.

Publication and transparency

29. The strategies and monitoring returns produced by HEIs for formula GCRF will be subject to ODA transparency requirements. These requirements are under development and exact requirements will be communicated to HEIs as necessary. At the very least, we plan to publish all GCRF strategies on our website. HEIs should also expect that monitoring returns and any analyses made of them will be shared with BEIS, other GCRF delivery partners and other ODA groups.

Detailed guidance for completion of institutional strategies

30. Annex A1 provides a maximum word limit for each question. You may wish to make your response proportionate to your GCRF allocation and scale of ODA activity.

Question 1: Development-related research and QR GCRF strategy

31. This question should cover all development-related activities, funded from all sources including your GCRF allocation, but should make clear which elements of your strategy are particularly funded through GCRF. Your response should also outline how your approach to GCRF activity relates to the UK Strategy for the GCRF. Policy and guidance on ODA compliance and the UK Strategy for the GCRF can be found at:
- [UK Strategy for the GCRF](#).
 - [RCUK GCRF and ODA guidance](#).
 - [‘Is it ODA?’ factsheet](#)
 - [DAC list of ODA recipients](#)
32. In our monitoring of GCRF we will assess institutions’ progress and achievements against their key priorities and strategy for the funding, as well as assessing that these intended activities are ODA-compliant. This question is therefore very important. This is about producing a strategy that is true to the particular institution, its mission, institutional and academic capabilities, ODA activities, DAC country partners and intended outcomes and impacts. We anticipate that different HEIs will produce quite different strategies; this is to be expected and welcomed.

Question 2: Outcomes and impacts

33. In monitoring GCRF we will assess institutions' progress and achievements against their main intended outcomes and impacts described in response to this question, and will also assess the ODA compliance of these outcomes and impacts. This question is therefore also very important. Only research and activity that directly and primarily benefits developing countries on the DAC list may be counted as ODA-compliant, and intended outcomes and impacts should be linked to specific DAC list countries. Any benefits to developed countries must be secondary considerations. Your response should focus on the few headline outcomes and impacts that are most significant to your GCRF strategy and should describe the principal types of impacts and outcomes as well as the specific countries they are intended to impact upon. Distinguish between impacts and outcomes intended to benefit developing countries, and secondary impacts and outcomes which are of benefit to developed countries. You should include in **Question 3** details of how you will measure success in achieving these main impacts and outcomes, and more broadly for all activities and impacts.

Question 3: Monitoring and evaluation

34. Your response should cover your overall approach to monitoring, but particularly details of how you will ensure, track and report ODA compliance of all activity funded through GCRF, and how you will measure success in the main intended headline outcomes and impacts in **Question 2**. This might include information about how you allocate GCRF within your institution, how you will monitor progress and compliance, and your criteria for measuring success. Our appointed researchers will use the information provided in this question and elsewhere in the strategy to develop a monitoring template that will be used annually by Research England to assess the ODA compliance of GCRF allocations and progress against strategies.

Questions 4 and 5: Table A

35. To support the UK Government's requirement to report to the OECD on ODA activity, institutions in receipt of GCRF must provide a breakdown of their GCRF allocation to ensure that the allocation is spent on ODA eligible activity. Detail all expected activities and projects that will be undertaken using GCRF in AY 2018-19, based on the indicative allocation provided in Annex C.
36. The total amount of GCRF detailed in the table must equal your institution's total GCRF allocation for 2018-19. You will need to link projects to specific DAC list countries and intended outputs and impacts to be assessed as ODA compliant. Note that you will be monitored against these intended projects in the annual monitoring exercise, and will be required to justify deviations from

these intended activities, including by providing assurance of ODA compliance for any activities that were not listed in this table.

Questions 6, 7 and 8: Priorities

37. To further support the Government's requirement to report to the OECD, these questions ask for detail on intended activities and priorities for your use of GCRF in the first year covered by the strategy in the case of changes to funding levels, and for the second two years covered by this strategy, 2019-20 and 2020-21. These questions should provide information on the high-priority GCRF and ODA areas and activities that are likely to be protected if your GCRF allocation is reduced, or increased if your future GCRF allocation increases; and on the lower-priority areas that might be cut or reduced if your GCRF allocation is reduced. The activities and priorities outlined here should refer to the activities and projects detailed in Table A for **Question 4**. Information should also be provided on new activities that will begin in 2019-20 or 2020-21, but are not included in Table A for 2018-19. HEIs will be monitored against their answers to these questions to ensure ODA compliance and to measure progress against strategies.

Abbreviations

AY	academic year
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
GCRF	Global Challenges Research Fund
HEI	Higher education institution
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
QR	Quality-related research funding
RCUK	Research Councils UK

Indicative Funding from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

- For AY 2018-19

Indicative allocation from BEIS to SFC, based on Research Council income average in years 2013-2016:

£8,303,114

The individual institutional allocations will be shown in the 'Announcement of indicative university outcome agreement funding allocations for academic year 2018-19', due to be published in the second half of February 2018.

SFC will allocate this funding to universities based on their proportionate share of the Research Excellence Grant (REG) elements REG(A) [based on REF results] and REG(B) [other research income, excluding income from charities].

- For AY 2019-20

Indicative allocation from BEIS to SFC, based on average Research Council income average in years 2013-2016:

£9,550,477

All indicative allocations are subject to BEIS' agreement that new assurance processes for monitoring spend and ensuring ODA compliance are satisfactory.

NB: These allocations do not include Newton Funding, but institutions may receive a small top-up as and when there are any residual funds.