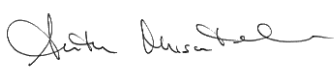


Annex A1: Template for institutional three-year GCRF strategies (AY 2018-19 onwards)

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	University of Glasgow
Contact person for correspondence who is also responsible for ensuring that the head of institution has approved this strategy for submission to SFC.	
Name	Professor Jon Cooper
Position	Vice Principal Innovation & Knowledge Exchange
Address	R726 Level 7, S&E College Office, Rankine Building, Glasgow G12 8LT
Email	Jon.Cooper@glasgow.ac.uk
Phone	0141 330 4931
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: Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli	
Email address: principal@glasgow.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

Strategy and Priority Objectives for all Development-Related Funding

Empowering Glasgow's International Connectivity

The University of Glasgow's (UoG's) development-related research portfolio addresses global challenges through world-class research and knowledge exchange that lead to societal and environmental impact. Our strength in development-related research comes from our ability to successfully bridge our considerable expertise in discrete research areas to build highly effective multi-disciplinary teams connected to a diverse network of international partners. Recognizing our strengths in this area, the Glasgow Centre for International Development (GCID) was formed in 2006 explicitly to promote interdisciplinary research addressing pressing poverty reduction challenges in low income countries. Our unique ability to connect our core areas of disciplinary strength forms the basis of our

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

success in competitive GCRF/ODA funding calls (we have received more than £11 million in RCUK-GCRF funding, and are involved in awards worth more than £18 million, exclusive of other ODA funding awards). Our pursuit of enhanced connectivity delivering impactful research forms the basis of our strategy for development-related funding, including GCRF.

We currently work closely with several other UK institutions with an interest in development and, as a leader in international development research, we will continue to actively seek opportunities to improve overall sector connectivity, particularly by exploring the opportunity for new partnerships in Scotland. Formula GCRF funding provides us with opportunities to further integrate our key areas of research excellence, strengthen our partnerships, and facilitate impactful research collaborations.

Our strategy is integral to the goals of the University's strategic plan, *Glasgow 2020: A Global Vision*, which sets out our commitments to world-leading research, multi-disciplinary activities, strengthening international partnerships and contributing to economic, environmental and social development on every continent. It is also aligned with our Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Strategy (2017-2022) in "*bringing together expertise from across our University to co-develop solutions in direct partnership with the communities.*"

Our emphasis on interdisciplinary connectivity is reflected in the £110 million Research Hub included in our campus redevelopment plan. This ambitious investment will provide UoG with space devoted to nurturing interdisciplinary thematic research "at scale". International Development is one of five cross-cutting themes planned for inclusion in the Hub, demonstrating our commitment to this critical area of work. The success of our development-related research portfolio is underpinned by the values with which we approach all our collaborative activities, namely: equitability, respect, and humility. We continue to build on this foundation and intend to codify our strong commitment to ethical and equitable partnerships by reviewing and strengthening our current ethical guidelines to create an official strategy specifically for engagement with LMICs.

We have three priority objectives that are necessary to deliver innovative and interdisciplinary world-changing research:

1. Development and Support for Resilient, Equitable and Innovative Research Partnerships with the Global South: UoG has developed collaborative interdisciplinary research platforms with partners across the Global South, some of which have been active for more than 20 years and some that are relatively new. Our ability to develop and maintain these long-term relationships across multiple disciplines has been critical for our success. Expanding the number and reach of these partnerships into new geographical areas and an even wider range of disciplines are primary objectives of our overall strategy. We aim to create new opportunities for UoG researchers and students to engage with Global Challenge research, and for overseas students and researchers to enhance their careers through time spent at UoG. We have used previous SFC-GCRF funding to successfully launch such networks, e.g. "Sustainable Futures in Africa".

2. Skills Development: New technologies and methodologies that can address Global Challenges are continually being developed, particularly those that draw on different disciplinary expertise. Capacity strengthening activities are incorporated into all our GCRF/ODA funding proposals, from training of grant-funded technical staff to UoG scholarships for LMIC students. We recognize the training needs of professional staff in the UK and LMICs, who are responsible for research support and grant management (including adherence to strict diligence checks and expenditure tracking) and will continue to use SFC funding to support their development. We will continue to explore novel approaches to research through the identification of skills and training needs that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.

3. Support for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) in the UK and the Global South: ECRs often form the backbone of development-related funding proposals, simultaneously delivering ambitious programme objectives and identifying new potential research questions, but are frequently ineligible to lead funding applications. We will use SFC funding to support ECR-led projects, ensuring our ECRs can continue to push the boundaries of interdisciplinary working, develop novel approaches to challenging problems and advance along their career paths. We recognize that development of early career research track records is a particular challenge for researchers in the Global South, who are often recruited into senior managerial positions soon after PhD completion. We will thus explore mechanisms to enable such researchers to continue to develop their research careers, such as visiting Fellowships.

Key Aspects of 3-Year Strategic Plan for formula GCRF

Our strategy for use of formula GCRF funding is focussed on connectivity across the breadth of our development research portfolio, building on our track record of successful interdisciplinary partnerships, and the skills that enable these partnerships to deliver impactful research.

1. We will use formula GCRF funds to support newly emerging teams with potential to lead future funding proposals to develop resilient cross-disciplinary and institutional relationships. Trust is a critical element for successful research collaboration, and providing resource that helps bridge institutional, disciplinary, and cultural barriers is critical in creating successful and equitable partnerships. We regard funding to enable staff and collaborators in the Global South without previous grant success to develop new ideas as essential to catalysing new and innovative solutions to address Global Challenges.

2. We will provide support in the UK and relevant LMIC countries for existing partnerships with demonstrated track records and compelling vision to help teams transition from pilot phases into self-sustaining initiatives, enabling them to maintain connectivity during growth phases. Doing so supports both our partnership and skills development objectives, and increases the numbers of staff, both in the UK and LMICs, with experience of managing GCRF/ODA funding.

3. Often communities contribute time, expertise, access and resources that are essential to project success but are neglected when sharing or acting on the results of the research. We

will therefore make funding available specifically for funded GCRF projects to return to communities to share the outcomes of their research and work together to identify solutions to any problems identified.

4. In order to support skills development and to further enable cross-institutional and cultural exchange, we plan to support sabbatical/staff exchanges for research and professional staff members at UoG and our LMIC partners. These exchanges will provide all staff with the opportunity to appreciate the challenges and opportunities of their collaborators, and provide them with new skills and perspectives that will increase their effectiveness in supporting or developing new development-related research proposals.

5. Capacity-strengthening elements are part of all our development-related projects, but is often the case that specific training needs are only apparent once research activities begin and cannot be accommodated within the original grant. We intend to make funding available to existing LMIC research projects to enable the addition of training that addresses skills requirements identified through on-going activities. This will enable increased responsiveness to local needs and ensure maximum benefit from our research activities. In this context, we believe training of students remains one of the most powerful and effective ways to develop capacity and build resilient and sustainable partnerships. We therefore propose to use our formula GCRF funds to support Masters students from LMICs in programmes linked to our development research activities.

6. Our most successful and enduring partnerships with teams in the Global South are built on years of trust, collaboration and responsiveness to the challenges facing LMICs. We recognize the need to think in the long-term about sustainable research relationships and therefore, if possible, we will explore mechanisms to allocate formula GCRF funding to longer-term initiatives spanning up to three years.

7. As with previous formula GCRF allocations, we will continue to allocate funding to small-scale challenge-led research proposals with the potential to develop into sustainable and resilient research platforms and partnerships. Consistent with our commitment to developing ECRs, we will ensure ring-fenced funding for projects (both research and partner-building) led by ECRs.

Fit of GCRF to Broader Strategy for all Development Related Research Activity

As stated, our broad strategy for development-related funding is outlined both in the University's strategic plan and our Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Strategy (2017-2022) and is based upon our goal of contributing to economic, environmental and social development on every continent through world-changing research. We recognize that identification of challenges and research-based solutions in LMIC countries is only possible through strong and open relationships with local partners.

Our internal strategy recognizes that our strength in development research is drawn from integrating disciplines across the entire university research community spanning all of our four Colleges. We facilitate inter- and multi-disciplinary research proposals and partnerships through informal events and formal internal funding opportunities. GCID hosts cross-

disciplinary networking events, provides direct assistance in linking potential multi-disciplinary collaborators and assists in identification of local delivery partners. We have recognized the need for researchers and students to develop their multi-disciplinary expertise, and we fund programmes which award student scholarships and post-doctoral fellowships for inter-disciplinary activity (e.g. Lord Kelvin Adam Smith Scholarship and Fellowship schemes).

Our University research strategy is underpinned by our on-going commitment to excellence, reflected in our broad GCRF strategy and our strategy for formula GCRF. We have a GCRF Coordination Group that competitively evaluates proposals for demand-managed calls, ensuring our strict standard of excellence is met for all applications. This group has awarded all previous formula GCRF funding through competitive internal processes reflecting core GCRF strategy, namely: sustainable, multi-disciplinary, challenge-led research that is ODA compliant. Our robust and competitive process (overall applicant success rate: 29%) has yielded successful projects from all areas of the University and reflects our broad strength in development research. We intend to continue to use this same competitive mechanism to allocate formula GCRF funding to reward research excellence, whilst ensuring close alignment to GCRF strategy and ODA compliance.

Relationship of GCRF funding to UK Strategy for the GCRF

UoG's leadership in innovative and world-changing research is reflected in the fact we lead more GCRF funding than any other Scottish institution (£11.8 million from RCUK alone as of Dec 2017). Our strategy for development-related funding reflects the goals of the UK's GCRF strategy in three key areas:

First, our research strategy for GCRF and all development funding is challenge-led. Our development-related research proposals, including GCRF applications, are a result of strong relationships with our partners and reflect their research and capacity needs. At least four of our 2016-2017 formula GCRF-funded projects have since progressed to successful large-scale awards, indicating not only the success of our partnerships, but our ability to identify challenges and research areas that fulfil GCRF strategic goals.

Second, our approach to development research is fundamentally interdisciplinary. We have prioritized interdisciplinary projects in previous allocations of formula GCRF funding and interdisciplinarity is one of the key assessment criteria. Funded projects include a study exploring coral reef management through combined reef surveys and community focus groups, a project on use of art to engage communities in environmental sustainability, and a project exploring social accountability for fresh water provision.

Third, we incorporate capacity strengthening into our GCRF activity. We consistently include international studentships in our in-kind commitments to GCRF Collective Fund applications. With formula GCRF funding we anticipate supporting additional scholarships for LMIC students. The benefit of capacity strengthening through training in this way is evidenced by our current collaborations with former students in many locations including Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Ghana, Egypt and Botswana.

How GCRF strategies relate to wider Institutional Strategy for REG.

Our strategy for use of REG is aligned to the GCRF strategies through three main areas of activity.

First, the development of research excellence through attracting, retaining and fostering excellent researchers through targeted investment, at all times recognising the importance of quality in the outcomes of research.

Second, our £1 billion investment in the redevelopment of the campus, including provision of specific spaces for the development of challenge-led, multi-disciplinary research. The Research Hub described above is yet another example of how building relationships across disciplines is at the heart of our success and the inclusion of International Development as a theme highlights our prioritization of development-related research.

Third, through the development of sustainable international partnerships. We are committed strategically to build our portfolio of global partnerships through the development of sustainable and mutually beneficial alliances with highly regarded organisations sharing common aims and interests. These partnerships bring benefits to staff and students alike, and extend and enhance our global reach and reputation.

Key Barriers and Enablers

We have identified potential barriers through a review of our GCRF preparedness:

We have developed a new, university-wide policy on diligence, with particular focus on advance payments. We normally pay partners quarterly in arrears, however for many of our LMIC partners, their own policies or the lack of liquid assets available to support research activities in advance of payment prohibit this. Our new policy requires additional oversight by our research support staff to ensure expenditure is adequately reconciled and recorded.

When working outside the UK, there can often be delays to research activity. For example, local ethical permissions normally cannot be applied for until after UoG permissions have been acquired, delaying project start dates. Import and export of samples and equipment can increase the amount of time to produce research outputs. In LMIC countries, these problems are often compounded by additional challenges: infectious disease, security concerns, working permissions, availability of suitable research facilities, consistency of power supplies and sanitation concerns are all common challenges. We have robust risk assessments and insurance policies in place in case of emergency, and GCID offers the opportunity for members to share best practice and advice. We thereby minimize the impacts of these issues on our projects, however such challenges can still pose significant problems for projects with short expenditure windows.

For many GCRF calls, studentships are not an eligible expenditure, which is a barrier to our commitment to this form of capacity strengthening. We will continue exploring innovative ways to introduce new models for both the structure and funding of graduate programs into

existing activities and will continue to promote the appropriateness of pledging studentships to future bids.

We have many enablers to our strategy that reflect UoG leadership in cross-disciplinary development research and our commitment to on-going excellence.

GCID facilitates cross-disciplinary activities, promotes our development-related research portfolio, and identifies opportunities for this sector. With a dedicated staff member to coordinate activity, the Centre is growing our links with the non-governmental organizations (through the Scottish International Development Alliance – SIDA), implementing networking sessions, and pro-actively engaging with researchers across the university to identify and address the needs of our development-related research community. In this context GCID also provides a well-established mechanism to enable us to further build upon existing collaborations with other Scottish Universities and Institutions.

The strategic use of flexible funding schemes, such as Knowledge Exchange grants, Impact Accelerator Accounts and international professional development funds enable us to take advantage of opportunities or needs arising through on-going projects with development-related research goals. One of our EPSRC Impact Accelerator awards in 2016 led directly to a successful £1.5 million EPSRC-NIHR GCRF application in 2018.

UoG has made several appointments that reflect our commitment to interdisciplinarity and development-related research. These include Nick Hanley, Mia Crampin, Janet Scott, and Toni Ho (College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences), and Alicia Davis and Fabrice Renaud (College of Social Sciences). Additionally, we have honorary appointments that highlight the strength of our partnerships with LMIC partner countries, including Francis Ndungu (Kenya) and Fredros Okumu (Tanzania). These appointments, along with our existing strong collaborative partnerships, ensure we can identify new challenges and respond effectively.

New physical infrastructure in LMIC countries developed as a result of UoG activity serves as a key enabler for future work. The Zoonoses Laboratory at the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute in Tanzania and the Blantyre-Blantyre Clinical Research Facility in Malawi are examples of products of Glasgow partnerships that provide core platforms for future work.

Key Activities

We plan to focus on several key areas that support our strategy and core objectives:

Inter-disciplinary collaborative research. We will prioritize inter-disciplinary research across our portfolio (the Research Hub will be a key enabler of this ambition in the future) and we will continue to include interdisciplinarity as a core criteria for evaluating proposals both internally and for demand-managed GCRF calls.

Pump-priming. Providing support for new partnerships, to develop and pilot innovative research projects will continue to form a core element of our formula GCRF expenditure.

Capacity-strengthening/Network support. We plan to provide support staff for partnerships, both in the UK and in LMICs, to not only increase the likelihood of such partnerships becoming self-sustaining, but also to increase the pool of people with administrative experience managing ODA funding.

Research Capacity-Strengthening. We will identify opportunities to introduce skills training and development into existing GCRF initiatives.

Diversifying our partnerships. We will consider supporting specific initiatives to introduce and integrate relevant stakeholders and non-academic partners into our international development research.

Main (DAC) list developing countries

Our geographical priorities reflect the locations where our research and capacity strengthening activities generate 'win-win' situations, where we are most able to leverage outcomes and impacts that will benefit both us and our partner LMICs. East Africa forms a broad geographical area of interest for our activities, with particular focus on Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana, Rwanda and Uganda. We are currently working to increase our connectivity and encourage 'south-south' collaborations between our partners across Africa.

We are currently pursuing several areas of research that cannot be geographically bound. Our work on infectious disease, migration, urbanization and economics necessitate a pan-African and indeed global approach. In this context, we will continue to pursue fundamental and impactful research collaborations across the entirety of the Global South when opportunities and avenues to do so are available.

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

Maximum 500 words

The focus of our strategy is to deliver world-changing research through increasing capacity and resilience in the researcher and professional staff networks working in development-related research, both at the University of Glasgow and our partner organizations in LMIC countries. The main intended outcomes are as follows:

An increase in the number of staff and students at UoG and in LMICs who are supported by, and lead development-related research activity. Through introduction of new researchers into existing networks, we expect to have increased numbers of staff and students with experience of working with LMIC partners. This will position our staff and students to successfully engage with development related research questions and challenges, strengthen future collaborative activities, and ensure sustainable research platforms. We intend to increase the reach and impact of the opportunities available through studentships, training activities, and continued pursuit of funding that will support employment and skills development for early career researchers and students. We are

interested in exploring the impact of this type of engagement, particularly since we are already aware that several collaborators in LMICs are former students and hope to monitor our links with students to see whether they increase our collaborative reach in the next decade.

An increase in the diversity of our partners and the nature of our engagement with non-academic partners in LMIC countries. We currently work with academic, policy, civil society and commercial partners across our development research portfolio. However, our collaborations and platforms often include only limited numbers of non-academic partners. We intend to increase the diversity of our partnerships through engagement with groups such as SIDA and exploring new methodologies for working with existing non-academic partners, such as those being explored by our Sustainable Futures in Africa Network. We anticipate that this will increase the reach and impact of our research and engagement, but will also introduce new and innovative expertise into our research activities.

An increase in our outputs and impacts linked to our portfolio of development-related research. We use internal repositories to track outputs and impacts of our research, and we anticipate an increase in both of these metrics specifically related to our development-related research activities. Indirectly, we also expect success to be reflected by an increase in the number of collaborations we have with LMIC partners.

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

UoG has robust practices in place for monitoring our ODA expenditure and cataloguing the outputs and impacts of our research. We integrate monitoring and evaluation of our progress throughout the entire organizational structure of the university, to ensure we can capture both large and small outcomes and impacts.

At a university-wide level, externally-led reviews of our performance in each Unit of Assessment of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework are used to identify both our strengths and weaknesses. Reviews of University policies, such as that relating to our invoicing structure, ensure we are responsive to the needs of our partners and can successfully deliver our research strategy.

In each of our Colleges, dedicated research support teams support grant development and share best practice across thematic areas. Knowledge exchange and engagement staff advise researchers on best practice and coordinate events for staff and students to connect across and outside the university.

At the institute and school level, our smallest organization units, annual performance and development reviews include staff outputs and impacts as part of the review. Local impact champions encourage the incorporation of impact assessment in research activities and provide staff with up-to-date information about university services and guidance for impact.

All of these structures work together to ensure we are identifying our outcomes and impacts, recognizing when there are problems, and developing new solutions. Within this framework, we have several discrete systems and processes that underpin our activities:

The research support teams work with researchers to develop all proposals, including those that are submitted to internal competitions. Identification of partners that have not yet had a detailed due diligence assessment takes place at the application phase and a “light touch” due diligence check is completed by the research support teams. Partners not previously subject to complete due diligence checks on successful applications have the full check completed after the award has been made and prior to signing of relevant subcontracts. This approach reduces the burden both on our staff and on partner institutions in the event of unsuccessful applications.

Normally invoicing of costs and reconciling of invoices happens quarterly in arrears, however have developed a new process to evaluate requests for invoicing in advance on a case-by-case basis where in-country partners are not able to advance the costs to complete the project activities.

Staff at GCID curate a list of our successful projects and the partners we work with on funded activities, which allows for review of our geographical distribution and total incoming funding.

UoG maintains an impact repository, where staff record and submit supporting evidence for all impacts relating to their research, including those specific to development-related activity. Furthermore, we maintain an enlighten repository for all publication outputs from all research across the University and this is maintained by a dedicated staff at the University Library.

For all internally awarded formula GCRF funds, all projects are required to include an ODA compliance statement in their applications. When projects end they are also required to submit a final report detailing adherence to the initial application, with a specific section dedicated to ODA compliance. These reports are then reviewed by our Research Strategy and Innovation Office to ensure compliance and review lessons learned from each phase of funding that can be applied to subsequent phases.

GCID organizes networking events throughout the year. Part of the remit for this centre is to identify best practices and share experience across the network of researchers working in development-related research at UoG. In this way, we ensure information on current activities, initiatives, successes and lessons learned is shared throughout the academic community.

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.

We emphasize interdisciplinary, locally-driven, competitively awarded activity in our anticipated use of formula GCRF. As such, specific countries, impacts, and outputs are difficult to identify in advance, as they will be dependent on the specific projects we identify as most likely to achieve the goals outlined in our strategy. Our capacity-strengthening initiatives will be directly responsive to needs identified locally through our LMIC partners and each individual initiative will be required to demonstrate ODA compliance as part of our internal selection processes. If the funding model for the forthcoming 3 years permits, we will identify longer-term initiatives that will receive funding from 2018-2021.

Because of our decision to allocate these funds to new initiatives and strengthening existing partnerships through competitive awards, it is not possible to specify sources and amounts for cost-sharing across funding sources. That being said, we intend to bolster existing GCRF activity through capacity strengthening and engagement activities, and will be able to provide details on how our formula GCRF funding is allocated to existing projects as we progress through the award window.

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

Our long-term strategy for SFC funding is based on supporting our research and professional community to develop meaningful collaborations with LMIC partners. To this end, we will continue our planned programme of discrete research projects, capacity strengthening initiatives, support for partnership growth and pump priming. In addition, by 2019, plans for our new Research Hub will be well advanced, and will generate unique opportunities for strengthening our ODA activity. Consequently, we are strongly positioned to respond to shifts in funding allocation. All decisions related to allocation of formula GCRF funding will be taken by our GCRF Coordination Group.

In the case of reductions to expected GCRF allocation, our planned activity of work is inherently flexible, ensuring that we can reduce the number of discrete projects funded through any of our specific objectives. In such an event, we would prioritize

activities with a high degree of sustainability, interdisciplinarity and those either delivering or with the potential to deliver a high degree of impact.

In the event of increased funding becoming available, we can easily expand the number of discrete funded projects. In the event of a significant increase in funding we would be particularly keen to develop activities and initiatives that could capitalize on the impact the Research Hub will have on our ability to promote work with LMIC significance. Several possibilities for such activity exist, such as support for leveraging the Research Hub to increase connectivity with non-academic sector stakeholders in Scotland and abroad.

We will monitor our GCRF portfolio on an on-going basis in case there are areas of connectivity between projects that could be aided through additional funding, and give particular emphasis to initiatives that strengthen our platforms in partner LMICs.

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

For 2020-2021, our priorities are to continue to support the programme of work described above, with greater emphasis on the development of our International Development theme in the Research Hub. With the opening of the Hub planned for mid-2021, we would focus on partners and activities that could leverage the most benefit from the multi-disciplinary environment of the Hub and the advanced technology and facilities available therein. In addition, with several current GCRF projects ending by this time, we intend to prioritize activities and initiatives that enable increased impacts and outputs from those activities.

Again, the flexible programme of work we have planned would enable expansion or contraction of discretely funded activities as needed depending on funding availability.