



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SERVICE (RIS)

Guidance on ODA Compliance

What is ODA?

ODA stands for Official Development Assistance. ODA-funded research must be produced in collaboration with partners in a low and middle-income country (LMIC) and directly address a development goal/s identified by that country. The partner country concerned must be on the DAC List of ODA Recipients (the Development Assistant Committee of the OECD). The DAC monitors which countries are eligible and eligibility is based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita as published by the World Bank.

Is my project ODA?

Applicants should ask themselves the following questions:

- Is the primary purpose of the project to address the economic and/or social development of the partner country?
- Is there a specific development need that my project or activity is addressing, and has this need been identified in collaboration with in-country partners? How can I provide evidence of this need, both in the country concerned and in a wider global context? In addition to the academic literature, this may include reference to government priorities in the partner country and the United Nation's [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).
- Is there a viable monitoring and evaluation plan in place, including a co-produced theory of change (see appendices B and C)?
- Does the team have appropriate practical experience of working in the partner country, or in a comparable (DAC listed) country?

To clarify any of the above, or for more information and advice on ODA compliance, please contact the Global Research Development Team: internationalresearcher@leeds.ac.uk

Resources

Fast Track Impact: [GCRF Resources](#)

[UKRI ODA guidelines](#)

OECD official guidance on [ODA compliance](#)

[UK Collaborative on Development Research \(UKCDR\)](#)

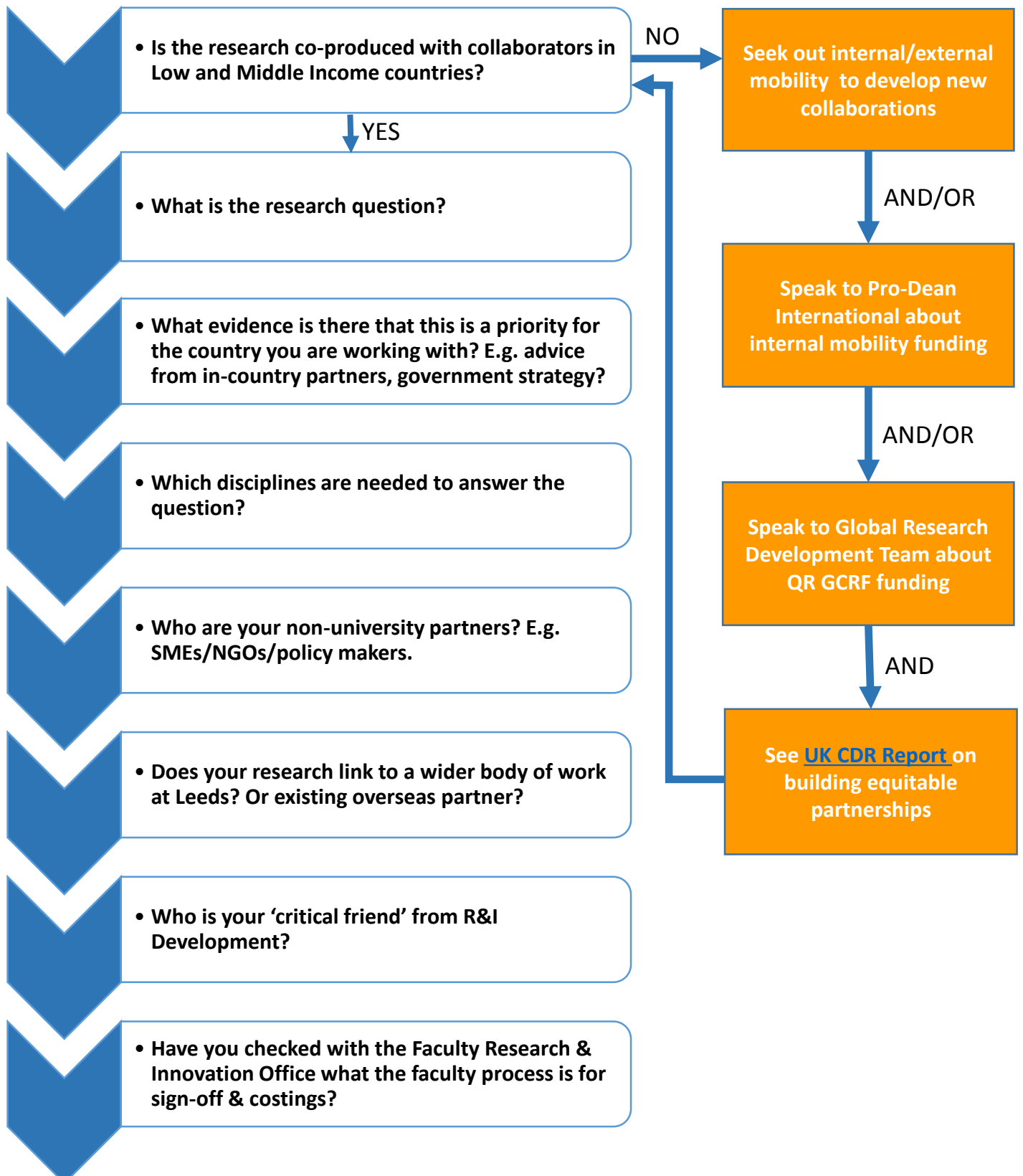
Global Research Development Team

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Appendices	
A	ODA flow chart
B	Monitoring and Evaluation on ODA projects
C	Theory of change from successful GCRF AFRICAP proposal

Appendix A

In order to be ODA compliant your research should be co-produced with in-country partners. The ODA aspects should be considered at the planning stage. The following questions are designed to aid this process. You should consider:



APPENDIX B

GCRF Monitoring and Evaluation: ensuring effective co-production and ODA compliance across the lifetime of your award

Monitoring and Evaluation is a key component of the post-award process, and Leeds has significant experience in reporting to UKRI through its large GCRF projects: AFRICAP (Climate Smart Agricultural Development), SWIFT (Science for Weather Information and Forecasting Techniques), Development in Africa with Radio Astronomy (DARA) and Changing the Story.

Pre-award

- The case for support and supporting ODA compliance statement should explain how your research has been co-produced with in-country partners – the emphasis should be on research ‘with’ rather than ‘on’ low and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- Effective co-production should be evidenced by plans to draw up a Theory of Change and a log frame. If possible, the Theory of Change should be drawn up collaboratively at the project design stage. This may be in draft form and accompanied by a commitment to finalise in a participatory manner during the project set-up phase. The log frame can then also be finalised within the first months of the project.

Post-award

- Ensure evaluation is happening throughout the project and get the whole team involved in collating evidence for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) (capture results in the log frame). A good approach for ensuring this is through the creation of an M&E framework – a document including all the tools, templates and approaches that the project will use for all M&E activities. This might be overseen by, for example, an M&E working group that can act as a contact point for team members on all M&E-related issues.
- UKRI will expect you to report against all aspects of your award on an annual basis including areas such as project governance, financial processes and ethics. For a GCRF award you may be asked additional questions related to ODA compliance and co-production, for example: Is the project getting the right balance of advice and input from relevant stakeholders? Should the project be getting more or less advice from any particular stakeholders? This is another way of ensuring that you are continuing your dialogue with the people for whom your research will have the biggest impact. In some cases, the programme advisory board will also be asked to submit an annual report on programme progress.
- As with all Research Council-funded projects, you will be asked to submit data annually through the [Researchfish](#) portal on ‘common outcomes’ achieved. This refers to achievements such as publications, databases and engagement events (among others – there are 16 categories in total). You may also be asked to submit narrative answers in Researchfish on key findings and narrative impact, as well as areas specific to GCRF programmes such as:
 - Capacity strengthening in relevant DAC listed countries i.e. how your project has enhanced the abilities of individuals, organisations and institutions to effectively carry out and disseminate high quality research;
 - Equitable partnerships i.e. demonstrate how partnerships have developed during the lifetime of the project and beyond, particularly highlighting key achievements

and challenges, and any ways of partnership working adopted with the specific intention of ensuring the continuation of equity between partners;

- Addressing relevant challenges i.e. the GCRF [development challenges](#) identified as relevant to your project;
- Development of global networks i.e. how the global networks within your project have supported its ongoing refinement, shaping it and enhancing its ability to reach its goals.

Useful resources

Guardian website: [How to write a log frame: a beginner's guide](#)

What is a theory of change and log frame? <http://www.tools4dev.org/resources/theory-of-change-vs-logical-framework-whats-the-difference-in-practice/>

Global Research Development Team

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Appendix C

