

Funding landscape and research news

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24th April 2018

Outline

- 1 External Research Landscape
- 2 Internal Research Landscape
- 3 Research Evaluation Framework news
- 4 Support for Research

UKRI

On 1st April 2018 the research councils, including EPSRC, ceased to exist as separate legal entities and were replaced by **UKRI, UK Research and Innovation**.

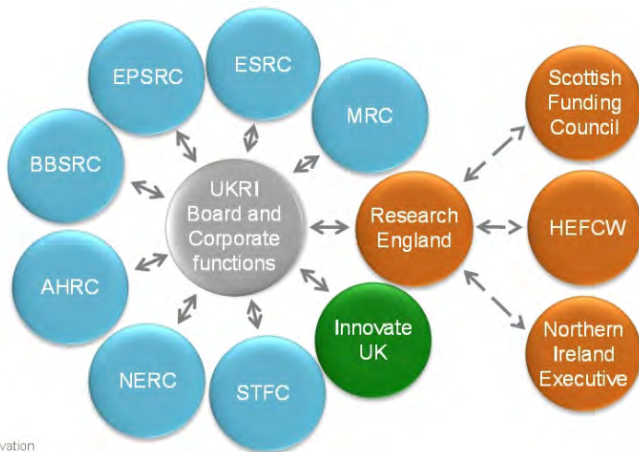
In a letter to mark the launch, Sir Mark Walport, said:

We are looking forward to working with all of our partners and stakeholders in the research and innovation communities to:

- *push the frontiers of human knowledge and understanding*
- *deliver economic impact and increased social prosperity and*
- *create social and cultural impact*

We can only achieve our high ambitions by working closely with partners in academia, business and government to surface the most exciting ideas and opportunities and support these in the most effective ways.

UKRI Structure



UKRI Vision



Multidisciplinary programmes

The UKRI will coordinate, through the Research Councils, the delivery of multidisciplinary research in the following priority areas:

- Digital economy
- Energy
- Global Food Security
- Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance
- Technology Touching Life
- Urban Living Partnership

UKRI Future Leaders Fellows

Support for early career researchers **and innovators** with outstanding potential in universities, businesses, and other research and user environments. **4+3 model**

The objectives of the scheme are:

- to develop, retain, attract and sustain research and innovation talent in the UK
- to foster new research and innovation career paths including those at the academic/business and interdisciplinary boundaries, and facilitate movement of people between sectors
- to provide sustained funding and resources for the best early career researchers and innovators
- to provide long-term, flexible funding to tackle difficult and novel challenges, and support adventurous, ambitious programmes.

UKRI Future Leaders Fellows

- The first call is currently open with a deadline for full applications on **3rd July**.
- However, the University must first make an **Expression of Interest** on behalf of all applicants by **7th June**.
- Commitment from the institution for a permanent job at the end of the fellowship.
- There will be **two calls per year** between 2018-19 and 2020-21.
- Most calls will fund approximately **100 fellowships**, but this first call will be limited to **50 fellowships**, across **all institutions** and **all disciplines**.
- These do not replace the existing EPSRC fellowship schemes, at least for now.

GCRF — Global Challenges Research Fund

- UK Government "Tackling Global Challenges in the National Interest"
- International development in low and middle income countries
- Budget of £1.5bn over 5 years
- Capacity and capability, address problems, respond to crisis
- Themes: Health, Clean energy, Sustainable agriculture, Conflict and humanitarian action, Foundations for economic development, Resilient systems, Mass migration and refugee crises
- UN Sustainability Development Goals
- Primary benefit in the ODA country

ISCF — Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund



In July 2017 the Government published the Industrial Strategy green paper which contains a number of proposed measures:

- Increased funding for PhD studentships in STEM subjects
- New fellowships for industry-relevant STEM research
- A new Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund

ISCF — Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund



This was followed up in November 2017 when the Government published the Industrial Strategy white paper, identifying **four grand challenges**:

- AI and the Data Economy
- Clean Growth
- Future of Mobility
- Ageing Society

European Funding

- Both H2020 Research and Innovation Actions and ERC grants (Starting, Consolidator and Advanced) continue to be open for UK Applicants.
- The UK Government has undertaken to honour the funding commitments from the research projects from the EU Commission at the point of the UK leaving, until the completion of the project.
- Evidence both from the School and more widely in the University is that we continue to have success in gaining grants for the Commission.

School Successes — Grants

- Mike O'Boyle (PI), *Heterogeneous Thinking (Established Career Fellowship)*, EPSRC, £1.3M.
- Ursula Martin (PI), *MathSoMac: the social machine of mathematics (ECF-extension)*, EPSRC, £1.1M.
- Steve Renals (PI), *Systems for Cross Language Information Processing and Summarisation*, US AirForce, £300K.
- Michael Mistry, *National Centre for Nuclear Robotics (NCNR)*, EPSRC, £900K
- Sethu Vijayakumar, (PI), *UK Robotics and AI Hub for Offshore Energy Asset Management (ORCA)*, EPSRC, £3.2M
- Mirella Lapata, (PI), *FLAIR: Foreign Language Automated Information Retrieval*, Raytheon BBN Technologies, £350K.

Huawei-Edinburgh University Joint Laboratory

- Huawei-Edinburgh Joint Research Laboratory was officially launched in June 2017.
- Initial funding of £1.8M over three years was agreed.
- A first call in January 2017 attracted 22 applications; 6 were selected for funding.
- A second call in the autumn attracted 12 applications; 3 were selected for funding.
- At the joint workshop in Shenzhen in December 2017, Huawei granted us a further £1M.
- A third call at the end of February attracted 6 applications; we anticipate that three will be funded.

Huawei funded projects: first tranche

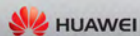
- Shay Cohen:
Deep Learning for Natural Language Applications
- Kousha Etessami:
Game-theoretic Approaches to Mobile Data Privacy
- Wenfei Fan:
The Other Side of Big Graphs: Dependency Theory, Practice and Applications
- Björn Franke:
McDoC – Many-Core In-Memory Database on a Chip
- Mark Steedman:
Building and Interrogating Knowledge Graphs from Text
- Charles Sutton:
LODE: Unsupervised Machine Learning for Organising and Exploring Data

Huawei funded projects: second tranche

- Aggelos Kiayias and Pramod Bhatotia:
SplitChain
- Mahesh Marina:
Towards Service Assurance in a Multi-Tenant 5G Mobile Network Architecture
- Amos Storkey:
Deep Learning in Dynamic, Constrained and Embedded Systems

The First Huawei-Edinburgh Joint Lab Annual Workshop At Shenzhen

2017/12/4



CDT bids

- Original EPSRC call had deadline of 13th March.
- We submitted four outline bids: PPar-SESS, DSAI, RAS and CSP.
- Additional RCUK/UKRI AI call announced in early February with deadline 29th March
- We submitted NLP and AI for Biomedicine; also DSAI was moved from the EPSRC pool into the UKRI AI pool.
- The EPSRC panels are meeting this week and the UKRI AI ones in two weeks time
- We expect to know the outcome of the outline proposal in May with the deadline for full proposals (both schemes) in July.

XDF Fellowships with IGMM

- Funding has been secured from MRC and UK Cancer Research to fund two cohorts of cross-disciplinary post-doctoral fellows.
- These four year appointments will be aimed at PhD graduates in Informatics, Mathematics and physical sciences.
- Career move towards biomedical research, applying their expertise in this context.
- Four candidates will be funded per year.
- First year will involve three rotation projects as the fellows develop their knowledge and skills in the biomedical context.
- Recruitment for the first cohort is currently ongoing.

New appointments

- Stefano Albrecht - Lecturer in Artificial Intelligence
- Dorota Glowacka - Lecturer in Machine Learning
- Hakan Bilen - Lecturer in Image and Vision Computing
- Heng Guo - Lecturer in Algorithms and Complexity
- Arno Onken - Lecturer in Data Science for Life Sciences
- Rico Sennrich - Lecturer in Machine Learning
- He Sun - Senior Lecturer in Algorithms and Complexity
- Vassilis Zikas - Senior Lecturer in Security and Privacy
- Markulf Kohlweiss - Senior Lecturer in Security and Privacy
- (Tiejun Ma - Reader in Business Applications of Informatics)
- Ian Simpson - Lecturer in Biological Informatics

Reporting Successes

- If you have a success please let us know! Help us celebrate all the great work that goes on in the School.
- Grants will be notified to the School in any case, but without you passing on information we don't necessarily hear about things like best paper awards.
- Please email the Informatics Communication Team (infcomms@inf.ed.ac.uk), copying in me (jane.hillston@ed.ac.uk, Johanna (hod@inf.ed.ac.uk) and your Director of Institute.
- The Informatics Communication Team ([Kasia Kokowska](#) and [Ségolène Gallus](#)) will work with you to ensure that your achievement is suitably publicised.

University REF-readiness exercise

- Mock REF exercise will take place April – June 2018.
- All academic staff with more than 20% contract and research staff at grade 8 or above are eligible.
- All eligible staff are asked to submit **6 papers** through PURE for consideration by the internal panel.
- School submission will have one paper per eligible member of staff + $(1.5 \times \text{eligible staff additional papers})$ plus 12 impact case studies.
- **Deadline for submission (inc. 100 words): 30th April.**

Support for research

When you are preparing a research proposal there are many sources of support available to you:

- **Portfolio Managers (PMs)**: involve your institute PM in your research proposal as soon as possible.
- **The Research Support Office (RSO)** can give advice on funders and programmes. They also offer examples of successful research funding applications.
- **Director of Research (DoR)**: The DoR has an office hour every Monday 12.00 – 13.00 in her office, IF3.49.
- **Director of Institute (DoI)**: Your DoI is also available to support your research and offer advice.
- **Your peers**: When preparing a proposal it is a good idea to get feedback colleagues, especially those in other institutes.

Sources of information and support

- **Research lunches:** 1pm on the last monday in every month (except April). Usually a speaker from elsewhere in the university informing us about collaboration opportunities or support services we may wish to take advantage of.
- **Workshops on specific topics in Informatics:** arranged on an ad hoc basis to address particular needs.
- **Learning lunches and other events organised by RSO:** The RSO offer occasional information sessions, often featuring particular funders. The best way to find out about these is through the **RSO Blog**.
- **Business Development Executives:** can help make links with appropriate companies and obtain letters of support.

Director of Research

- I will be stepping down as Director of Research at the end of July 2018.
- My successor will be Prof Chris Williams.
- We have also created a new role of Deputy Director of Research, and Ian Simpson has taken on this role with effect from 1/3/2018.

QUESTIONS?