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# School of Informatics General Meeting

Wednesday 23rd October 2019

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# Agenda

| | |
|---|---|
| • Introduction | Jane Hillston |
| • Tier 4 Monitoring | Lisa Dawson/Kate Paterson |
| • Research Ethics | Kami Vaniea |
| • New Staff Welcome | Jane Hillston |
| • Taught Programmes - Admissions Update | Stuart Anderson |
| • PGR Recruitment Summary – October 2019 | Nigel Topham |
| • Finance Update | Joy Candlish |
| • Research Update | Janet Ball |
| • REF Update | Steve Renals |
| • 2019 Athena SWAN Staff Survey | Jane Hillston |
| • Q&A | |

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# Student Immigration Service Update

Lisa Dawson & Kate Paterson

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# Tier 4 General

## Student Engagement and Attendance Monitoring

- The University holds a Tier 4 General sponsor license and is required to evidence oversight of Tier 4 students' engagement and attendance with their programme

- Failure to monitor this effectively is considered a serious compliance breach by UKVI and could result in suspension or revocation of our license

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# University of Edinburgh SEAM policy

- The current policy was approved in 2017 and came into effect August 2018
- Schools are responsible for creating a SEAM plan
- States that any escalation action must be in line with college approved Escalation Process
  - Escalation process is designed initially to direct students to relevant support

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# Benefits of our SEAM policy

- Compliance with UKVI regulations – allowing us to continue to sponsor our Tier 4 students
- Pastoral care for international students
  - Better management of issues which are unique to Tier 4 students

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# Research Ethics

Kami Vaniea

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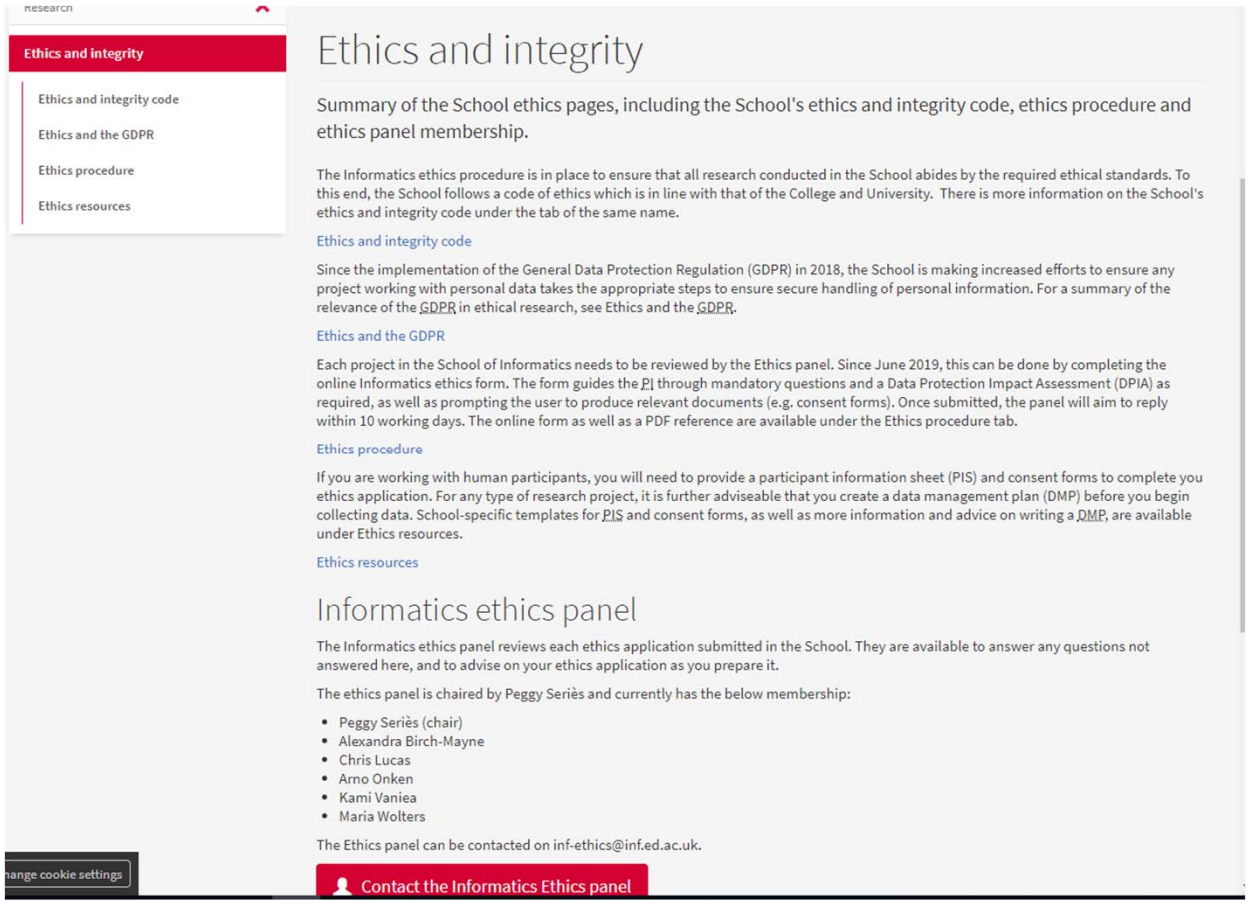


http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/ethics-and-integrity

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# New Staff Welcome

Jane Hillston

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# New Academic Starts - 2019

- Nadin Kokciyan, Lecturer in Artificial Intelligence, started 30th September 2019
- Antonio Barbalace, Senior Lecturer in Operating Systems, started 1st October 2019
- Oisin Mac Aodha, Lecturer in Machine Learning, started 2nd October 2019

Still to arrive

- Lecturer in Networked Systems, start date 15th January 2020
- Senior Lecturer in Quantum Computing, start date 1st February 2020
- Lecturer in Computational Neuroscience and Artificial Intelligence, start date 1st March 2020
- Lecturer in Speech Technology, start date 1st June 2020
- Lecturer in Computational Cognitive Science, start date 1st August 2020

Posts currently live

- Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Computer Science Education, closing date 31st October 2019

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# New Professional Services Starts - 2019

- Ekaterina Churkina, CDT Co-ordinator (new role), 1st June 2019
- Agape Stylianidou, IGS Recruitment Administrator (new role), 11th June 2019
- Lee Wilson, Director of Innovation Partnerships (Bayes Centre), 12th June 2019
- Martin Johnston, Administrative Secretary, 1st July 2019
- Siobhan Carroll, CDT Administrator – Data Science, 8th July 2019
- Anne Mackenzie, Teaching Support Administrator (Mat Cover), 15th July 2019
- Heather McWhirr, Finance Administrator, 5th August 2019
- Nikolaus Dandoulakis, Computing Support Office (Procurement), 5th August 2019
- Maryam Dar, Trainee Workshop Technician, 19th August 2019
- Clara Fraser, Teaching Organisation Administrator, 23rd August 2019
- Laura Ambrose, Teaching Organisation Secretary, 9th September 2019
- Jade Gilhooly, Deputy Teaching Organisation Manager, 26th September 2019
- Samuel Bishop, Research Data Officer, 30th September, 30th September 2019
- Iain Muheim, Secretary & Administrator, 22nd October 2019
- Judith Pilley, Institute Administrator, 23rd October 2019

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# New Professional Services Starts - 2019

Still to arrive

- Mitchell Hunter, Computing Support Officer, 28th October 2019
- Sophie Mills, Student Support Officer, date TBC

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# Taught Programmes Admissions Update

Stuart Anderson

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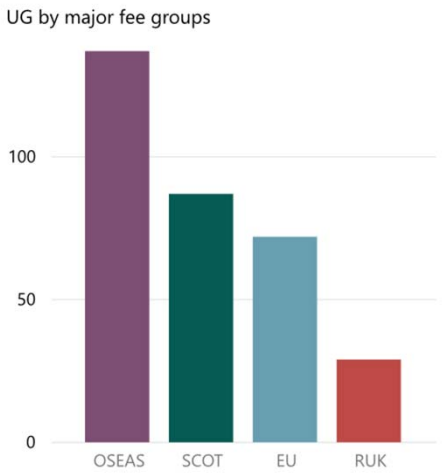
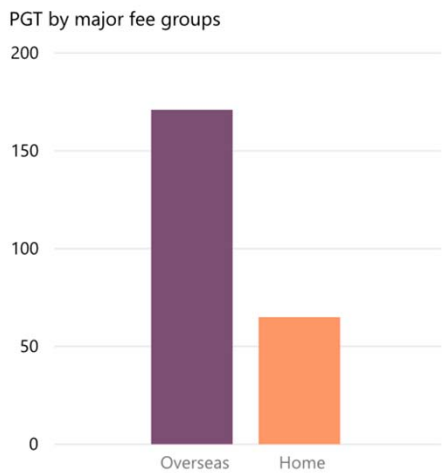
# New Students

## UG




| Fee group | Count of Headcount |
|---|---|
| OSEAS | 137 |
| SCOT | 87 |
| EU | 72 |
| RUK | 29 |
| **Total** | **325** |

## PGT




| Home/Overseas | Count of Headcount |
|---|---|
| Home | 65 |
| Overseas | 171 |
| **Total** | **236** |

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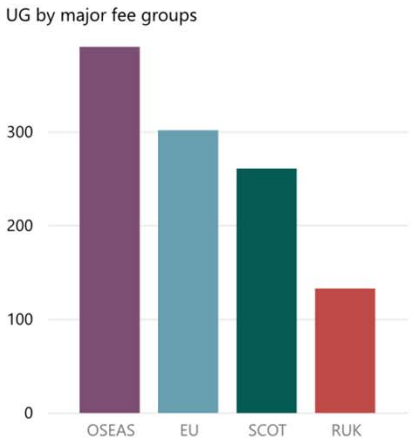
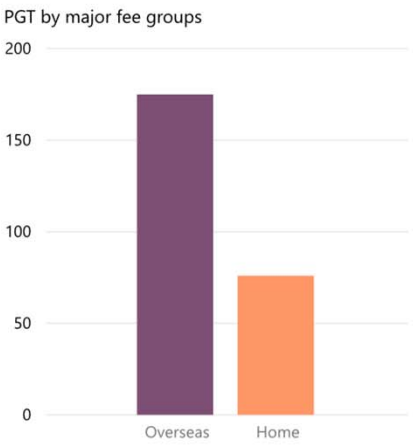
# Overall Headcount

UG




| Fee group | Count of Headcount |
|---|---|
| OSEAS | 391 |
| EU | 302 |
| SCOT | 261 |
| RUK | 133 |
| **Total** | **1087** |

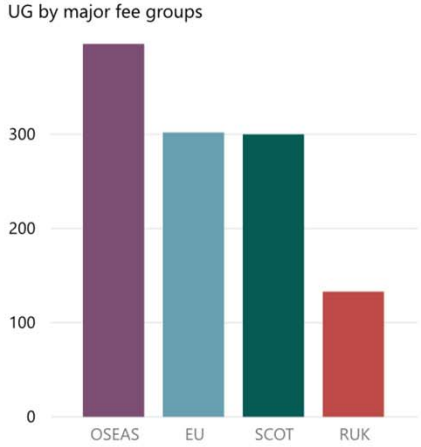
PGT




| Home/Overseas | Count of Headcount |
|---|---|
| Home | 76 |
| Overseas | 175 |
| **Total** | **251** |

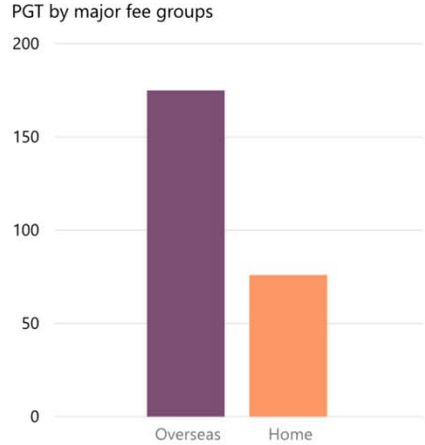
Without Visiting Students

UG




| Fee group | Count of Headcount |
|---|---|
| OSEAS | 396 |
| EU | 302 |
| SCOT | 300 |
| RUK | 133 |
| **Total** | **1131** |

PGT




| Home/Overseas | Count of Headcount |
|---|---|
| Home | 76 |
| Overseas | 175 |
| **Total** | **251** |

With Visiting Students

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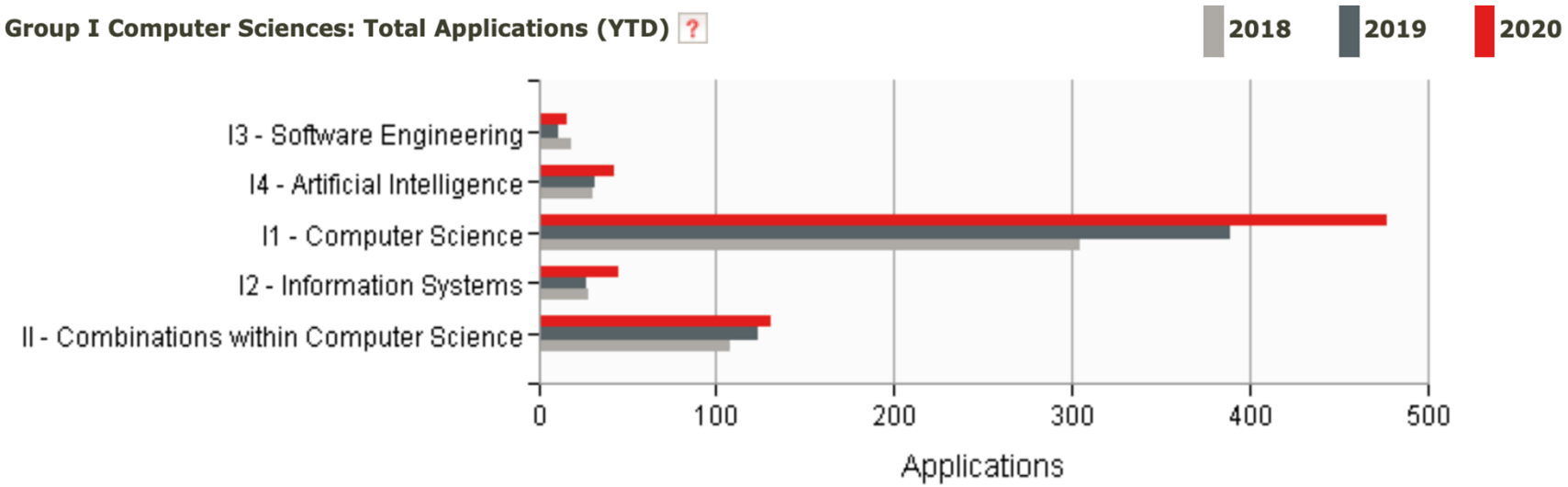
# The Start of 2020/21 Recruitment Cycle



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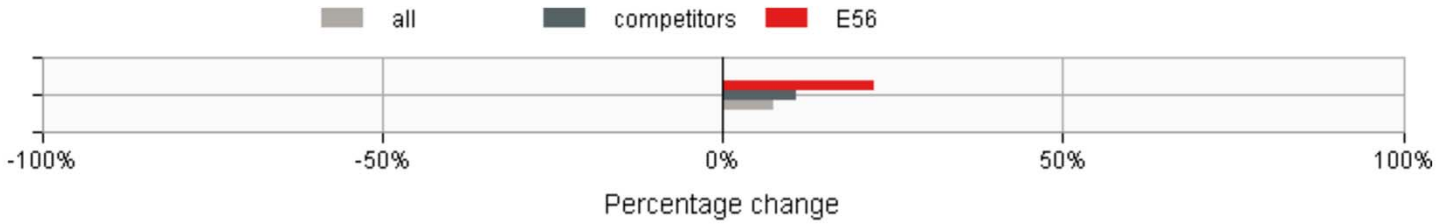
# The Start of 2020/21 Recruitment Cycle

**% Change to National and Competitor Applications (YTD)**




| Percentage Change (YTD) | 2019 | 2020 | % change |
|---|---|---|---|
| E56 | 583 | 713 | 22.30 ↑ |
| Competitors | 5552 | 6153 | 10.82 ↑ |
| UCAS | 12031 | 12952 | 7.66 ↑ |

| UCAS | |
|---|---|
| Number of HEIs offering this subject group | 251 |

| Share of Market (YTD) | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| E56 as share of UCAS | 4.85% | 5.5% |
| E56 as share of Competitors | 9.5% | 10.38% |

| Competitors |
|---|
| C05 University of Cambridge |
| I50 Imperial College London |
| K60 King's College London, University of London |
| M20 University of Manchester |
| U80 UCL (University College London) |
| W20 University of Warwick |

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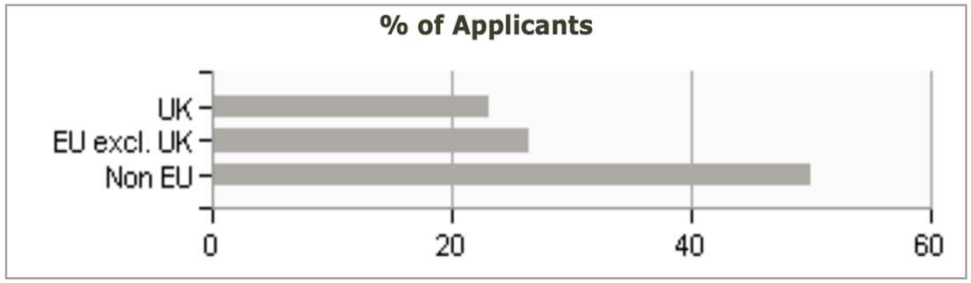
# The Start of 2020/21 Recruitment Cycle

**Applicants by Domicile (YTD)**

| | 2020 | % of Applicants |
|---|---|---|
| UK | 69 | 23.23 |
| EU excl. UK | 79 | 26.60 |
| Non EU | 149 | 50.17 |
| **Total** | 297 | 100 |



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# PGR Recruitment Summary – October 2019

Nigel Topham

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# Recruitment Summary

- ~520 research students currently studying in Informatics
  - From 62 countries: 26.4% UK, 40.0% EU, 33.6% OS
  - Spread among 6 Institutes (20-70 in each)

- 109 new PGR students this year, selected from 753 applicants
  - 97% full time, 3 % part time
  - 29% female, 70% male
  - 11% UK, 19% EU, 70% International

- 64 new PhD students, 4 new MScR students
  - starting Sept (43), Oct-Feb (22), Mar-Jul (3)

- Plus 41 new students in Centres for Doctoral Training
  - 16 in Natural Language Processing (NLP)
  - 7 in Robotics & Autonomous Systems (7 more at Herriot Watt)
  - 11 in Biomedical Artificial Intelligence

- We're still making offers for 2018-19 entry, so final numbers may rise

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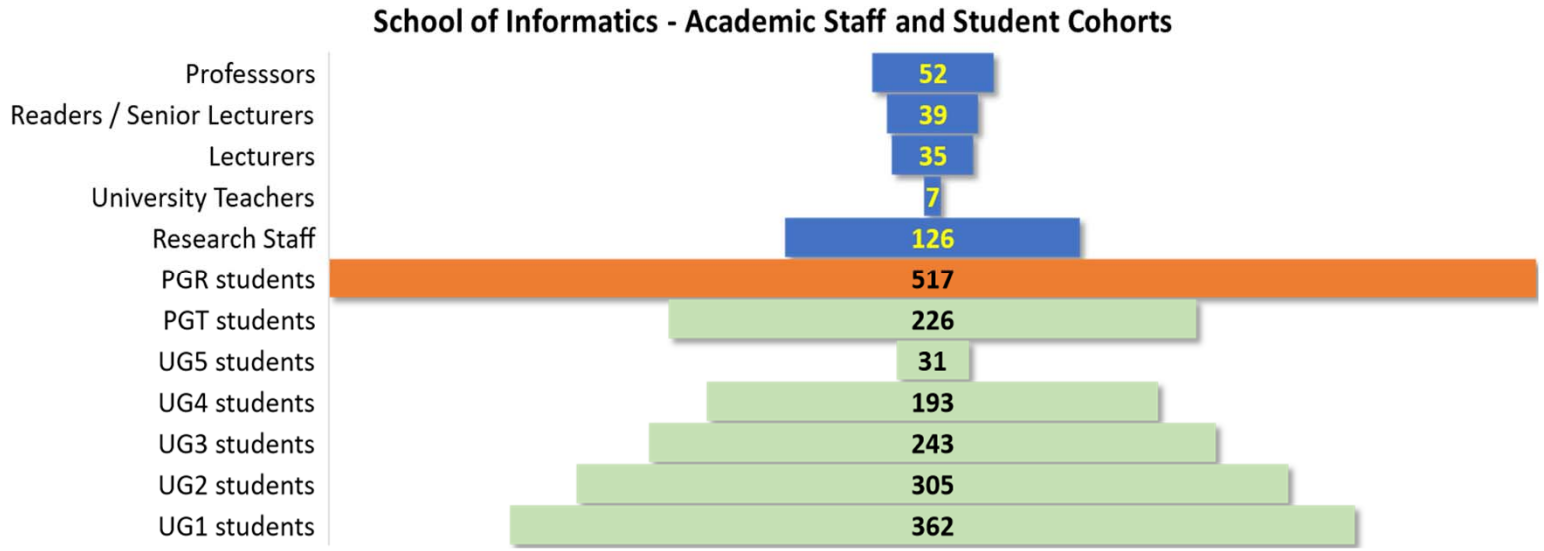
# PGR population in Informatics

- PGR students represent the largest single grouping in the School
- Numbers continue to grow annually
- Intake increases by ~20% per year



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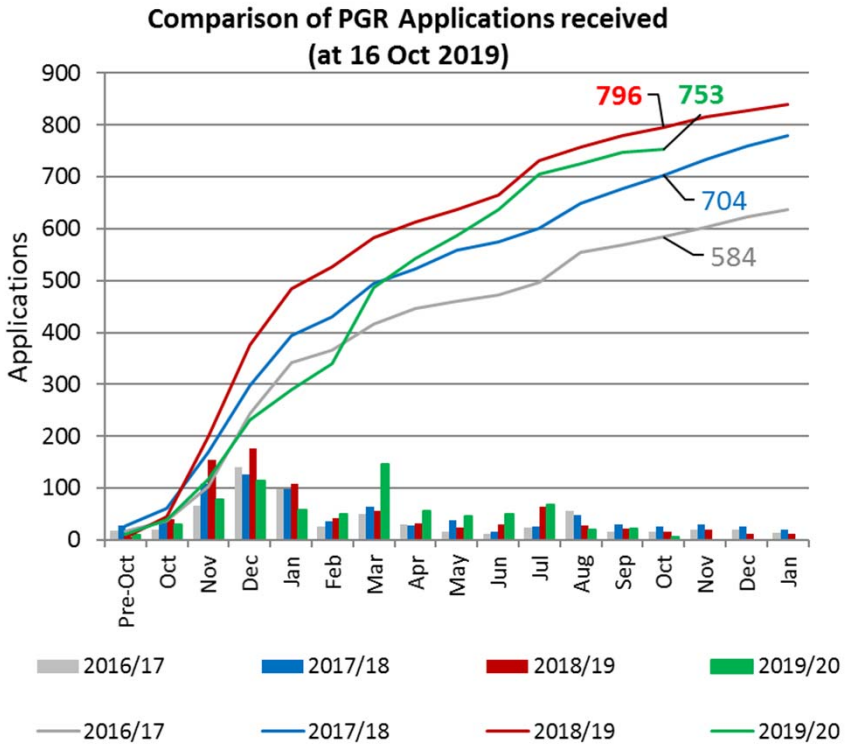
# PGR applications received for 2019 entry




- 5% decrease on YTD
- Late start to applications in Autumn of 2018
- CDT announcement was delayed, and led to delayed start to recruitment
- Surge of applications in late Feb 2019, after CDT announcements made
- Applications for 2019 entry still arriving slowly

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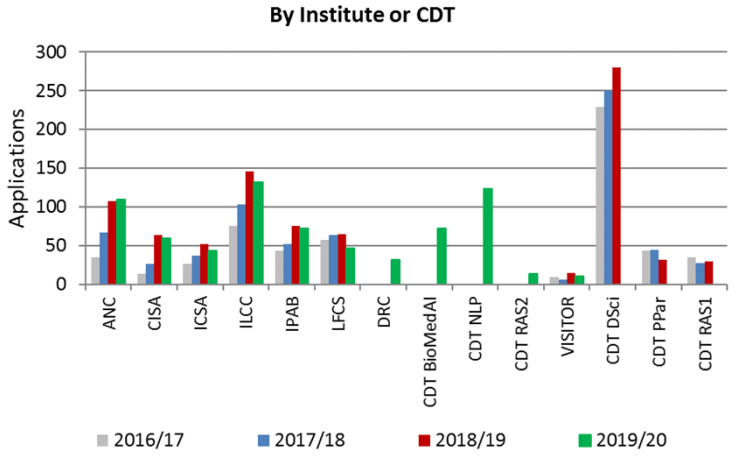
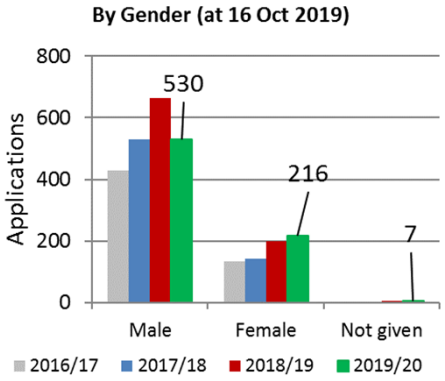
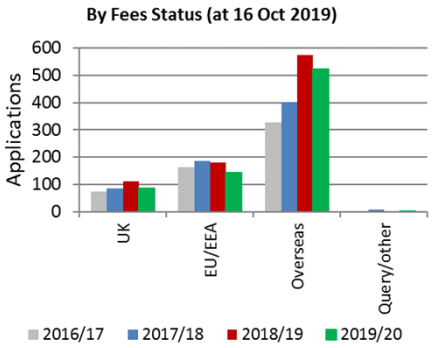
# PGR applications - analysis




- Highlights
  - Sustained quality of applicants
  - CDTs managed successful recruitment cycle
- Lowlights
  - LFCS PhD apps down 28%
  - EU apps down for 2nd year in succession
- Observations
  - Slight improvement in gender balance of applications compared to 2017

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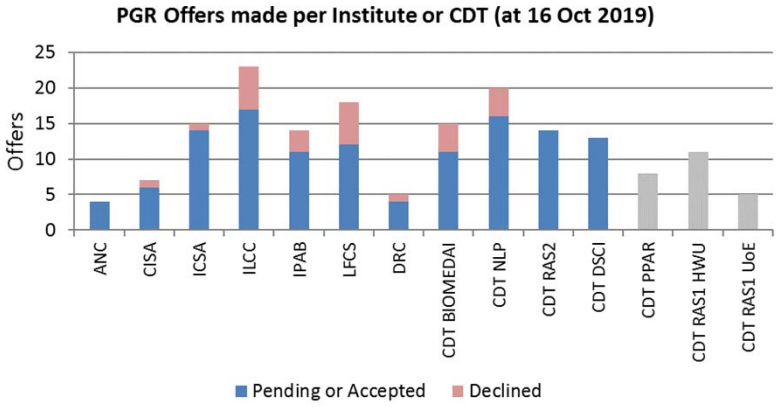
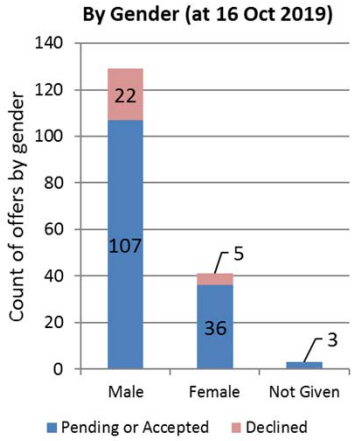
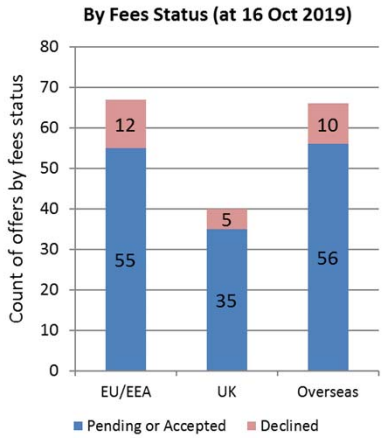
# PGR offers and conversions




- 173 offers made
- 146 offers accepted
  (includes CDT MScR→PhD)

- Some variation in conversion rate by Institute
  - 93% conversion for ICSA
  - 67% conversion for LFCS (54% last yr)

- Higher conversion rate among female candidates than male candidates

- Lower than average conversion rate for EU/EEA candidates

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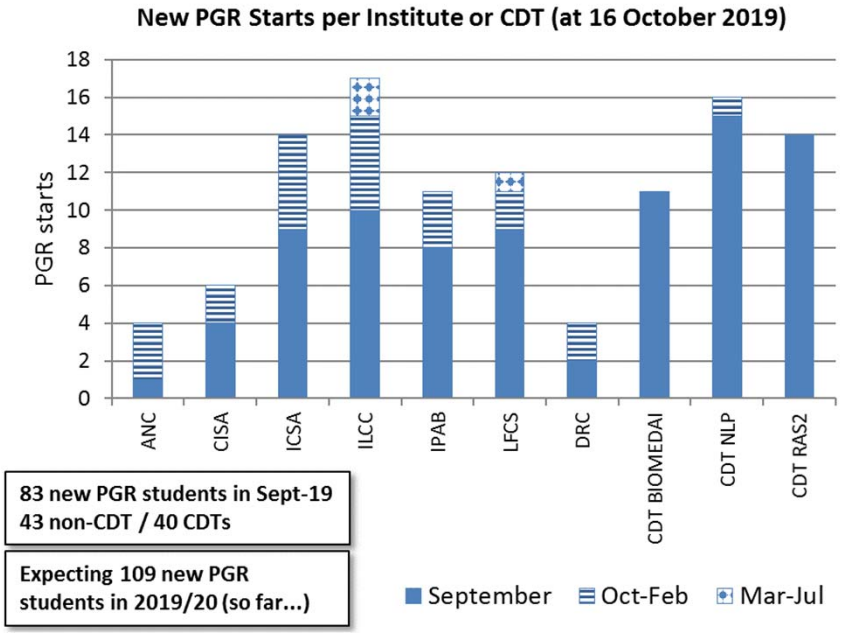
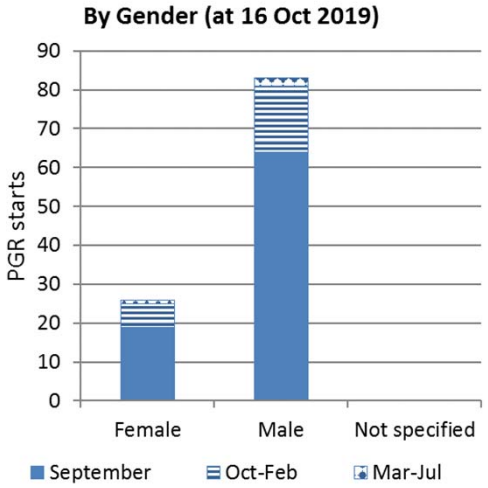
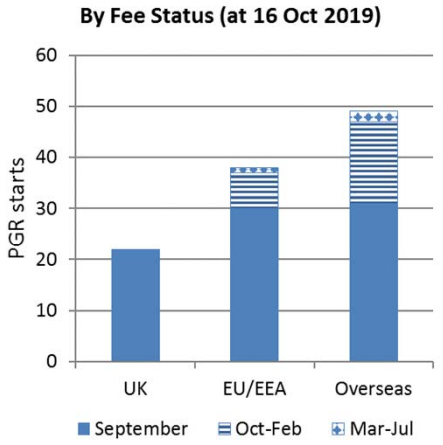
# PGR starts – Sept to Feb




**83 new PGR students in Sept-19**
**43 non-CDT / 40 CDTs**

**Expecting 109 new PGR students in 2019/20 (so far...)**




- All CDT students have now started
- Most Institutes have significant numbers of PGR starts in Oct – Feb
- Again, desk space was almost a limiting factor in 2019 recruitment
- Staggered starts alleviate desk pressure

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# PGR funding for 2018/19 recruitment

- IGS funds enabled 27 student places in total
  - 3 project-based IGS studentships awarded (all jointly funded externally)
  - 15 overseas fee top-ups
  - 7 partial studentship top-ups
  - 2 Endowed scholarships (Langmuir, Choksi)

- EPSRC DTP: 12 places
  - 9 studentships from 2017-18 budget
  - Some previous year's underspends
  - Combined with industry funding
  - Ring-fenced: 1 for Design Informatics, 2 for Data Science DRC (1 used)

- University Scholarships awarded
  - 3 Principals Career Development scholars (PCDS)
  - 2 Edinburgh Global scholars (EGRS)

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# PGR funding – 2019/20 outlook

- IGS budget for 2019/20 not yet determined
- Google & IBM scholarships
  - Calls ongoing
- EPSRC
  - DTA budget – slight increase this year (10 studentships)
  - Future year's under threat from falling EPSRC grant portfolio size!
- Review of School-funded fees is underway
  - Outcome expected during the current recruitment cycle

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# Finance Update

Joy Candlish

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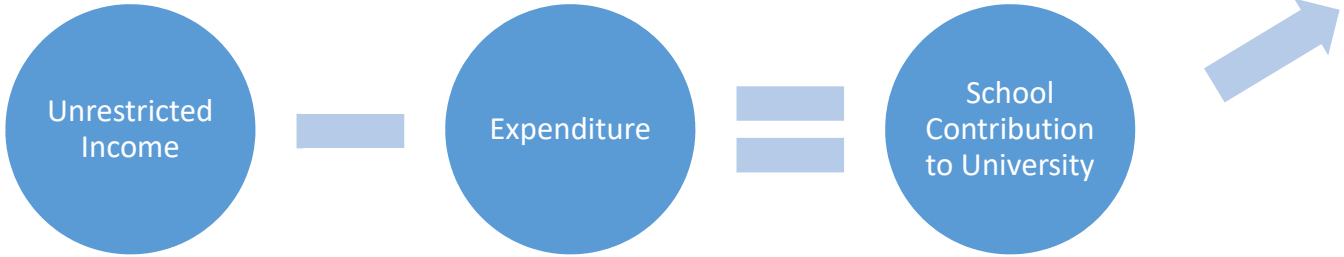
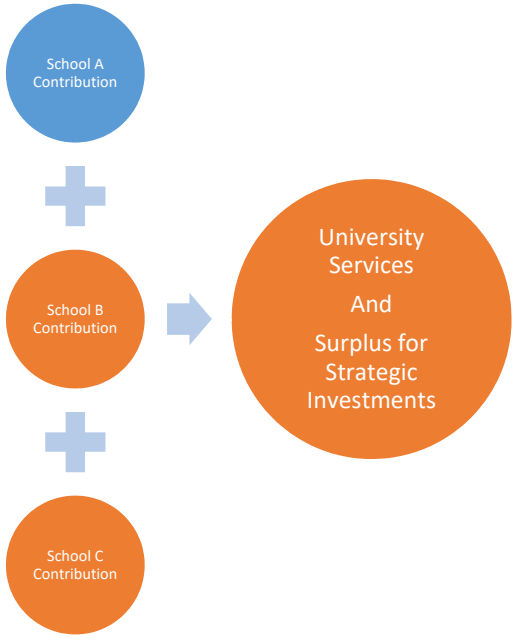
# UoE School Contribution Model

- New model introduced 2018/19 which recognises 100% of income at source generated (Schools), with Contribution (surplus) to University to cover University Services and contribution to University surplus for strategic investments
- School Contributions agreed at Planning Submission, with expectation that Schools meet the Contribution level even where income projections not met




Unrestricted Income:
- Tuition fees
- SFC Block Grant
- Research Grant overheads
- Local Income (eg. events, consultancies)
- Endowments



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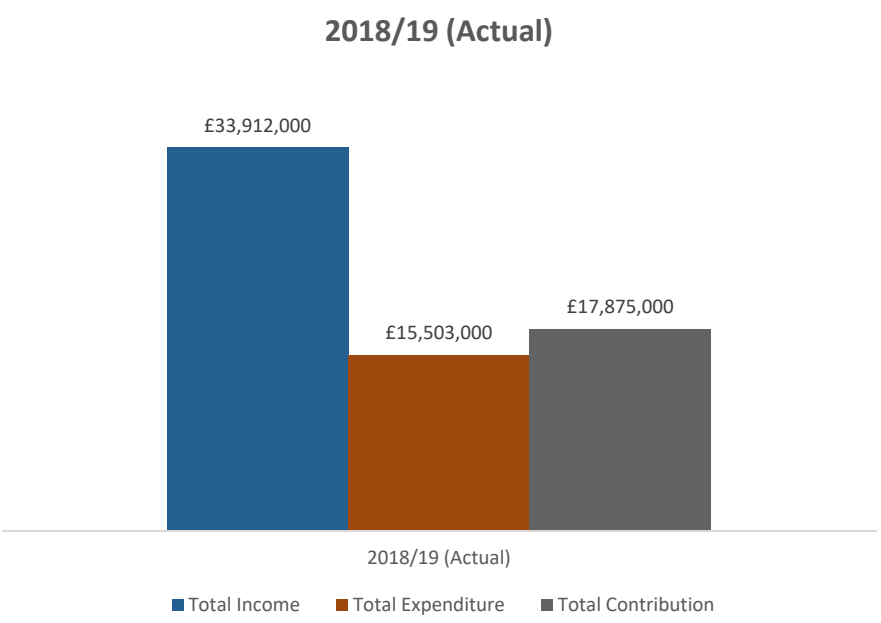
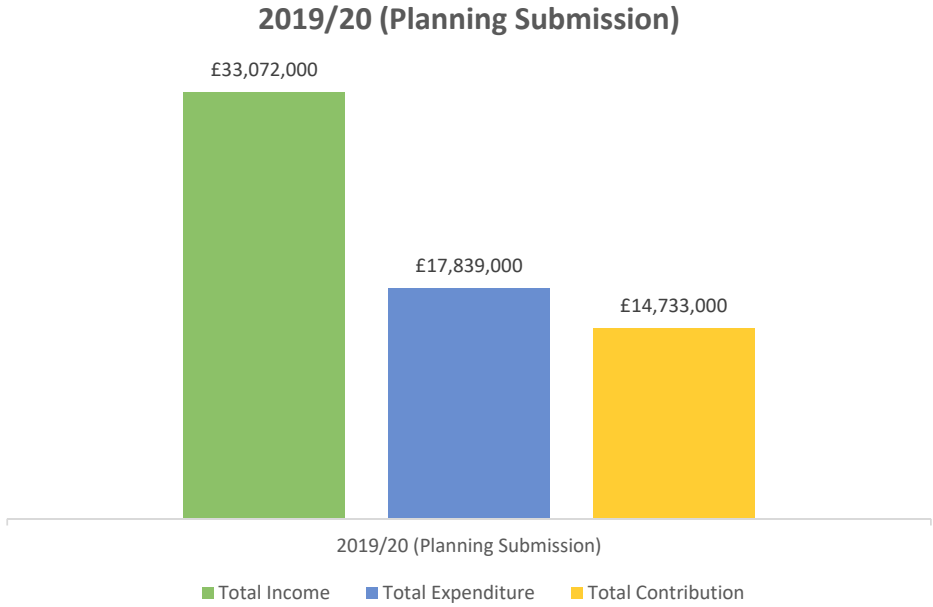
# School Contribution Summary

- 2018/19 Contribution: £17.8M of total income of £33.9M
- 2019/20 Contribution required: £14.7M of projected income of £33M*




* 2019/20 income will be impacted by student intake

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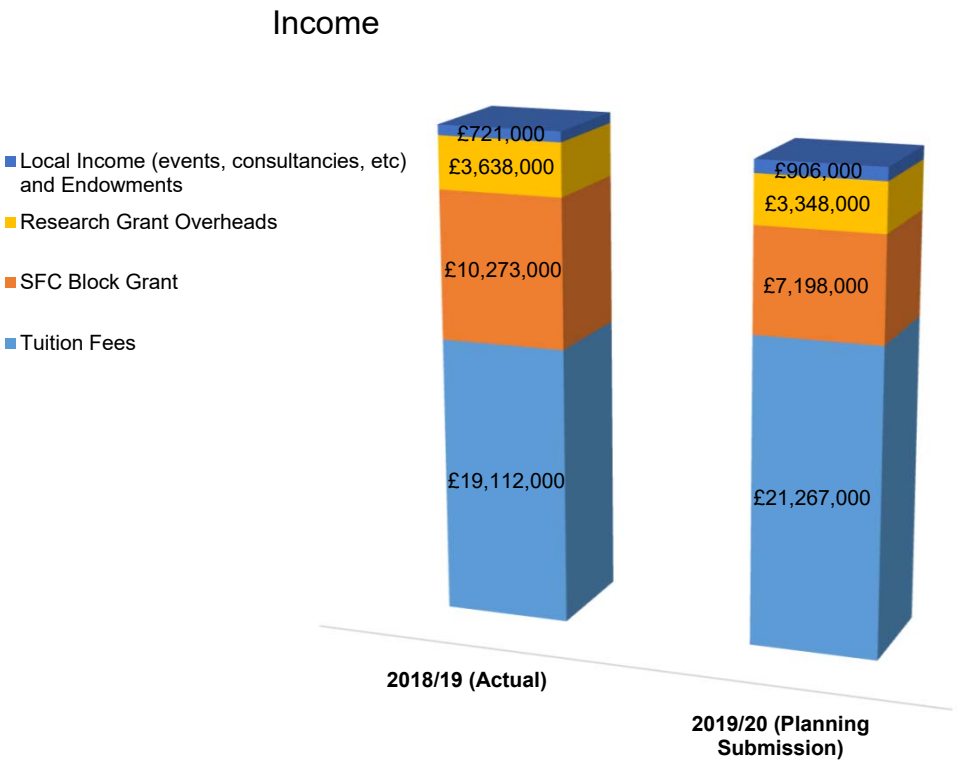
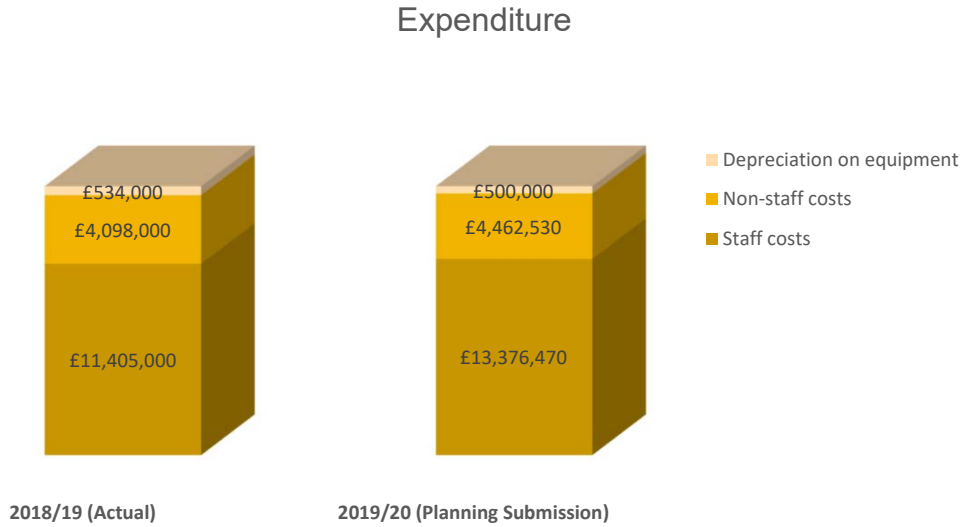
# School Unrestricted Income and Expenditure



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# Research Services

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT – PRE AND POST AWARD, INSTITUTE AND RESEARCH

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT – PURE, REF, OPEN ACCESS, ETHICS

RESEARCH FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

HEAD OF RESEARCH SERVICES – POLICY, PROCESS AND SYSTEMS

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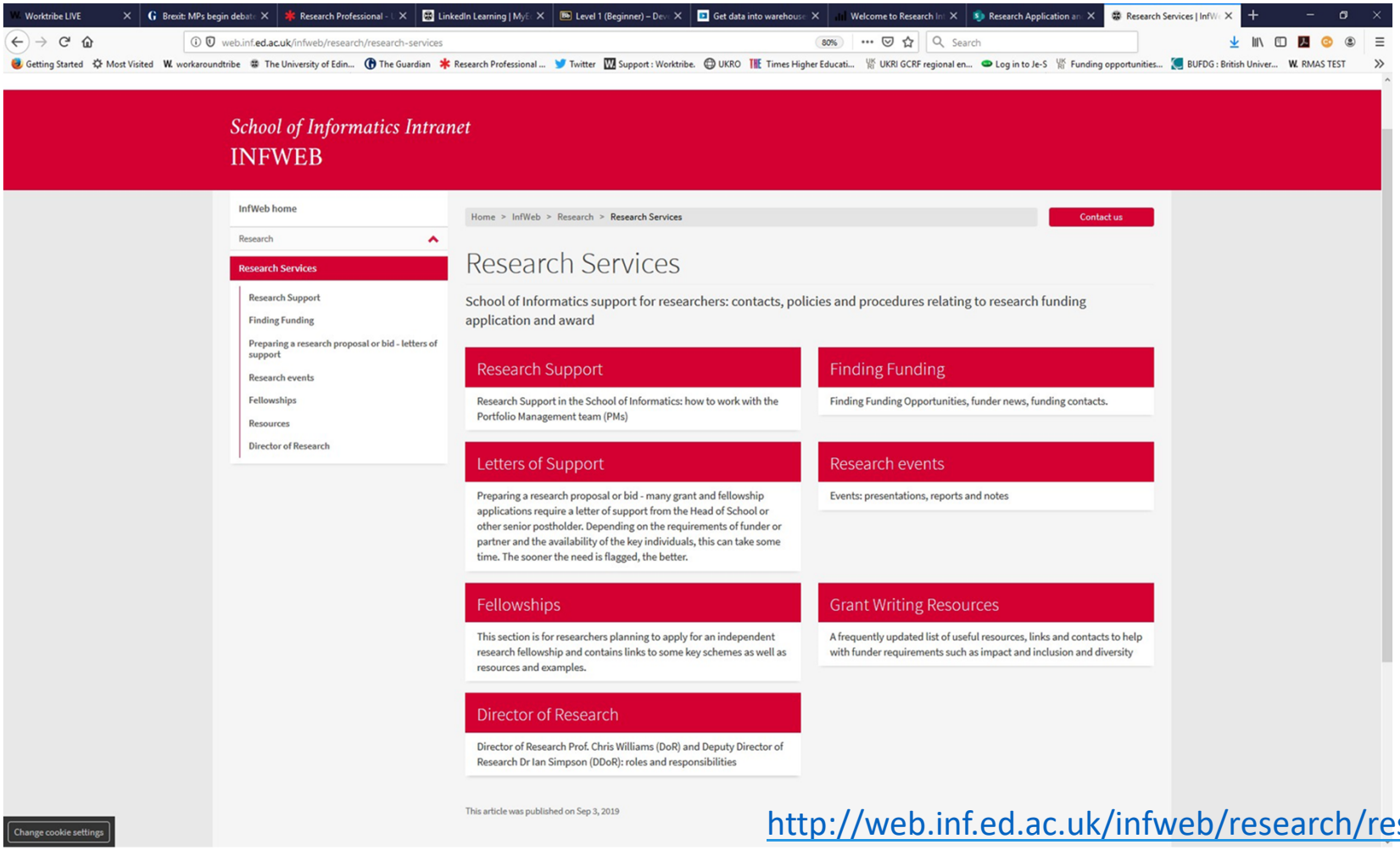


http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/research-services

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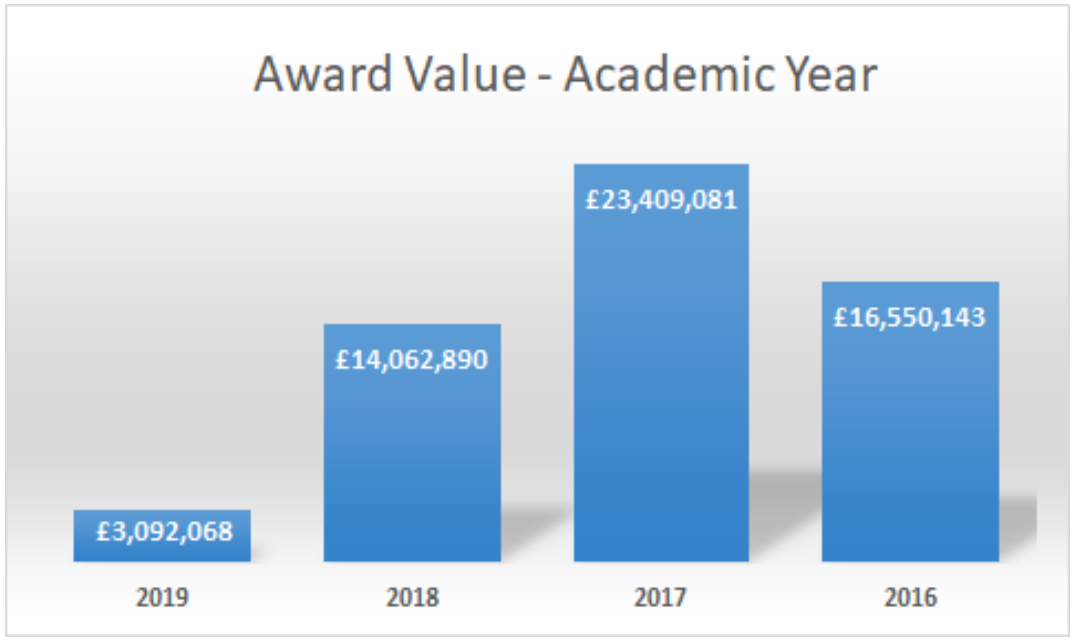
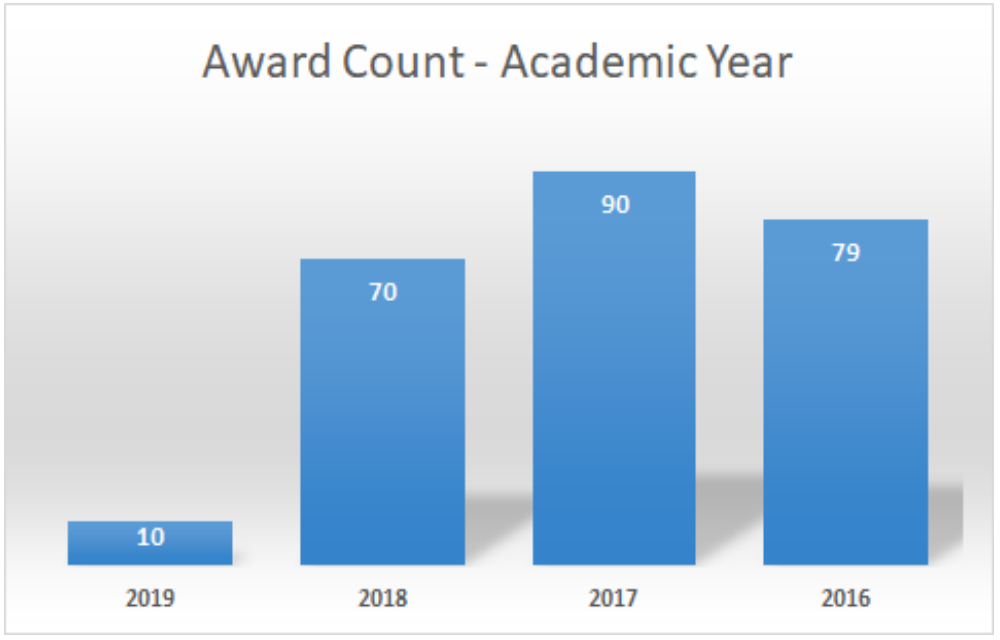
# School Research Awards 2016 -2018



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# Research Application and Award Activity to July 31st 2019 : School of Informatics

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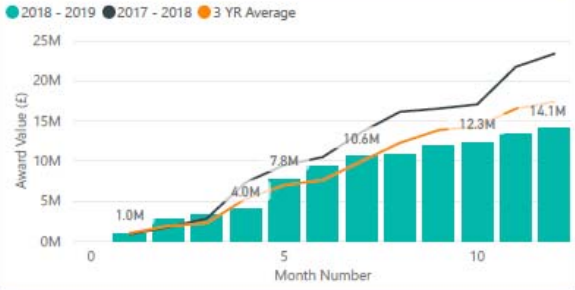
Research Support Office

**School of Informatics Points of Note:**

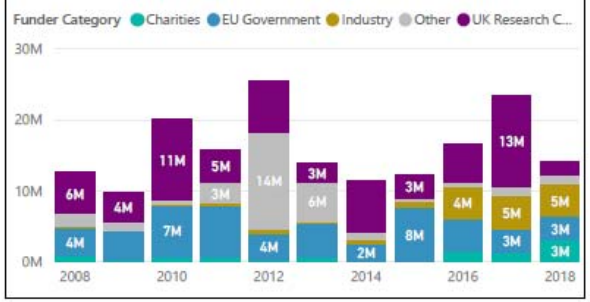
Applications for Informatics are slightly less than 2017/18, while awards have returned to a typical baseline level of ~£14m (as 2017/18 saw large award value from UKRI sources).

Success rates are particularly strong with industry partners and the Alan Turing Institute. Rates are much lower for UKRI funders.

**Award Total £ Year to Date**



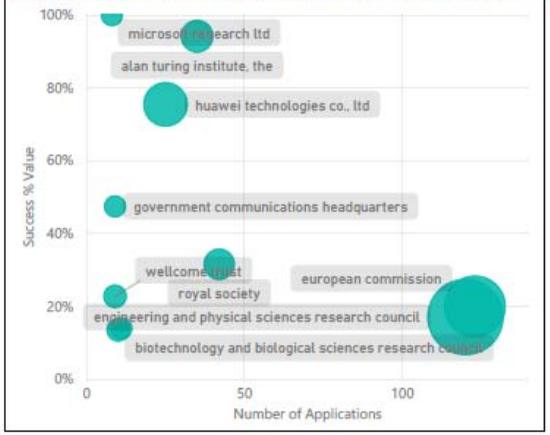

**Award Total by Funder Categories**




Top 10 Principal Investigators by Award Total (2016 to Date). Please note table is based on school shares of award. Therefore PI of award may be based in different school (but values reflect school share).

| PI Name | PI Dept | Award Total |
|---|---|---|
| Sethu Vijayakumar | SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS | 5,918,301 |
| Wenfei Fan | SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS | 4,253,582 |
| Aggelos Kiayias | SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS | 3,902,089 |
| Stephen Renals | SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS | 3,382,144 |
| Michael Mistry | SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS | 1,950,876 |
| Michael O'Boyle | SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS | 1,893,956 |
| Mark Steedman | SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS | 1,824,703 |
| D K Arvind | SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS | 1,777,708 |
| Alexandra Birch-Mayne | SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS | 1,662,700 |
| Christopher Williams | SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS | 1,570,501 |

Last 5 Years Top 10 Funders by Number of Applications Submitted. The figure shows the associated success rate and number of applications submitted. The size of the bubble indicates size of successful funding.




Highest Value Project Shares Currently Live or Due to Start

| Project Title | Sponsor Name | Award Total |
|---|---|---|
| distributed data management and processing laboratory | huawei technologies co., ltd | 3,399,999 |
| collaboration framework between input output hongkong and uoe | input output hk limited | 3,277,419 |
| uk robotics and artificial intelligence hub for offshore energy asset integrity management | engineering and physical sciences research council | 3,225,866 |
| grace-resource bounded graph query answering | european commission | 1,608,536 |
| delhi air pollution: health and effects (daphne) | natural environment research council | 1,578,525 |
| verification of quantum technology | engineering and physical sciences research council | 1,547,254 |
| value added data systems: principles and architecture | engineering and physical sciences research council | 1,546,470 |
| semantax-form-independent semantics for natural language understanding | european commission | 1,535,994 |
| wt project 1244631 magic: managing incomplete data - new foundations | engineering and physical sciences research council | 1,425,140 |
| skye-a programming language bridging theory and practice for scientific data curation | european commission | 1,375,987 |
| heterogeneous thinking | engineering and physical sciences research council | 1,343,541 |

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# Where to find us

Portfolio Managers – 2nd floor room 2.36, 3rd floor room 3.35 but will come to you, attend meetings with teams, groups and partners, to talk about any aspect of research support.

Research Data Management – 5th floor, room 5.33

Head of Research Services – 5th floor, room 5.33

Janet.ball@ed.ac.uk

Tel: 509970

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# REF Update

Steve Renals

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# REF – 2021 Update

- REF is the Research Excellence Framework – national assessment of research quality
- Measured in terms of
  - *Outputs* (60%) – ~340 papers from Informatics measured by originality, significance, and rigour; between 1–5 outputs from each independent researcher
  - *Impact* (25%) – 10 impact case studies (chosen from a pool of ~16 that we are developing) measured by reach and significance
  - *Environment* (15%) – vitality and sustainability of research environment
- REF is very important both financially and reputationally

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# REF Outputs

- Currently returning individual feedback on people's selected outputs – focus is on improving the 100 word statements
- Continue to add new outputs on PURE
- You can propose new outputs for REF (cannot delete currently proposed outputs, but can reorder)
- Valid outputs are those accepted between Jan 2014 – Dec 2020
- University makes REF submission end Nov 2020
- Informatics REF web pages: http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/ref
- Informatics REF team: Janet Ball (Research Services), Björn Franke (Impact), Victoria Lindstrom (Research Data), Steve Renals (REF Coordinator), Lucy Ribchester (Impact)

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# 2019 Athena SWAN Staff Survey

Jane Hillston

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# 2019 Athena SWAN staff survey

Athena SWAN Silver Award

- Our 2020 Athena SWAN submission will include *academic, teaching, research* and *professional services staff* and we are now collecting data from staff
  - to understand experiences and perceptions of *gender equality* in the school
  - to determine an action plan to improve *gender equality* in the school

- The new *shorter* survey is now open until mid-November, both paper and online
  https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/inf2019
- For each completed survey, the School will donate £1 to the Turing Trust and the School will be updated on completion rates over time.

- If there are issues you have experienced that require immediate action, please use other channels to report these. Links are provided on the survey.

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# Q&A

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