

The UK funding landscape – What you need to consider as a research fellow

Who?	What?	Why?	Useful starting points
<p>The main funders of research in the UK, too many to mention here, but there is a useful list on the Research Office web pages.</p> <p>In particular, note the UK Research Councils and other Government Departments, Wellcome, European Commission, and private sector funders.</p>	<p>A range of organisations that provide funding opportunities to researchers in the UK. A relatively small number of funders contribute the majority of research funding.</p>	<p>As a fellow and future research leader your success depends on your ability to attract funding for excellent research – stay aware of the opportunities and diversity of funders and have a strategy for how you will find out about them.</p>	<p>The Research Office overview of Types of Research Funding provides information on commercial and non-commercial funders.</p> <p>Stay up to date with the latest opportunities by registering for alerts from Research Professional.</p>
<p>The Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE)</p>	<p>HEFCE funds and regulates universities and colleges in England. (Scotland has the SFC and Wales has HEFCW and Northern Ireland has DELNI).</p> <p>They assess excellence in Research Institutions through the Research Excellence Framework (REF).</p> <p>REF is used to directly determine funding distribution to universities, which has a major influence over</p>	<p>As a research fellow (and future leader of research) in the UK it is essential that you know how REF and HEFCE funding affects you as a researcher, and what you need to do to prepare for the next REF exercise.</p> <p>Also be aware that HEFCE are now consulting on a 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).</p>	<p>Getting ready for the REF - Advice from jobs.ac.uk</p>

	researchers in the UK.		
Research Councils UK (RCUK)	<p>The strategic partnership of the UK's Research Councils covering all discipline areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) • Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) • Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) • Medical Research Council (MRC) • Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) • Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) • Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) 	<p>Each year the Research Councils invest around £3 billion in research covering the full spectrum of academic disciplines.</p> <p>RCUK are extremely influential in driving the research agenda and informing policy in the UK. Knowledge of these policies will help you to write better proposals, be more strategic and find opportunities.</p>	<p>Make yourself familiar with the RCUK website in general, as well as the council for your specific research area.</p> <p>Learn how funding is awarded and assessed.</p> <p>Understand the implications of key policies and concordats for you as a research leader and practitioner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on research governance • Expectations for Equality and Diversity • Concordat for engaging the public with research • The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers • Pathways to Impact • Policy on Open Access
Universities UK	Universities UK is the voice of universities, helping to maintain the world-leading strength of the UK	Universities UK influence the policy agendas that could affect you as a researcher. In particular:	<p>Overview and commentary on key research policies</p> <p>Concordat to support research</p>

	<p>university sector and supporting its members to achieve their aims and objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the impact and value of universities • Internationalisation and immigration • Influencing the future of research policy 	<p>integrity</p> <p>Facts and figures about UK higher education</p> <p>Conferences and events relating to HE and research policy</p>
<p>UK University mission groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell group • 1994 group (now disbanded) • University Alliance • Million+ 	<p>Types of institution: not all Institutions have the same level of focus on research and teaching. There are several ‘mission groups’ of universities, which share common interests in relation to research and teaching</p>	<p>The reason that this is important to know as a fellow is that different universities will have priorities for teaching and research. This is important to remember when you think about your future career options. It is worth thinking about the type of research and teaching culture and environment you want to work in. Academic posts do not feel the same in every university. Aside from these are the Research Institutes where there is no teaching.</p>	<p>The University of Exeter has a useful summary of the four main mission groups in the UK.</p>