



JOHN FELL OUP RESEARCH FUND

Report for 2017-2018

Abstract

£5 million per annum is transferred from Oxford University Press to create the John Fell OUP Research Fund. This report provides a summary of applications and awards made during 2017-18, and includes analyses from all years since the fund was established in 2006.

Executive Summary

Since the financial year 2005/06, Oxford University Press has transferred £5m per annum to create the John Fell OUP Research Fund. The Fund is intended to foster a creative and proactive approach to research opportunities in all areas, by making pump-priming and start-up grants, and providing staff and funds to stimulate applications to external funding bodies. The Fund supports key strategic research aims within the Collegiate University and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration. The Fund is administered by the John Fell Committee, which also makes awards out of the Capital Fund for strategic equipment purposes.

In 2017/18, the Committee received 372 applications and allocated the following sums out of the John Fell Fund and the Capital Fund:

Category of award	Purpose	Number of awards	Amount Awarded (John Fell Fund) (£k)	Amount Awarded (Capital Fund) (£k)
A	Proof-of-concept projects	90	2,580	0
B	Early career researchers	40	932	0
C	Other academic activities likely to lead to new research initiatives	28	186	0
D	Research facilitators	4	316	0
E	'Matching' contributions to help leverage funding from external bodies	23	881	0
F	Strategic investment in equipment	4	0	1,395
TOTAL		189	4,895	1,395

Figure 1 shows the number of main and small awards supported and amount awarded by category in 2017/2018, and Figure 2 shows the same data for all years of the fund, to the end of 2017/18.

Figure 1

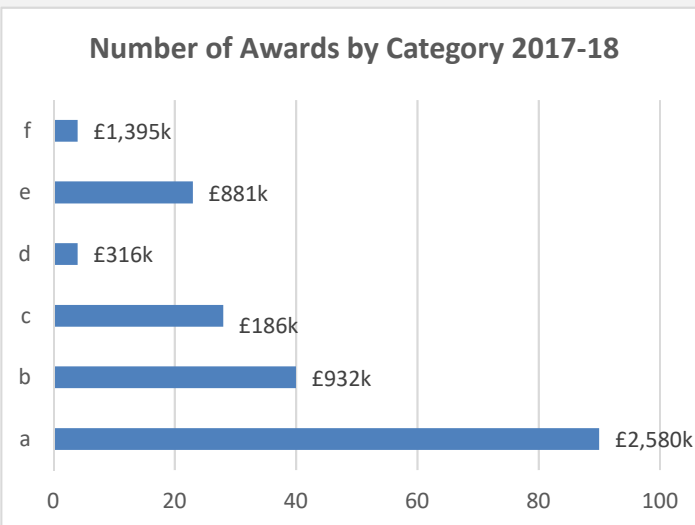
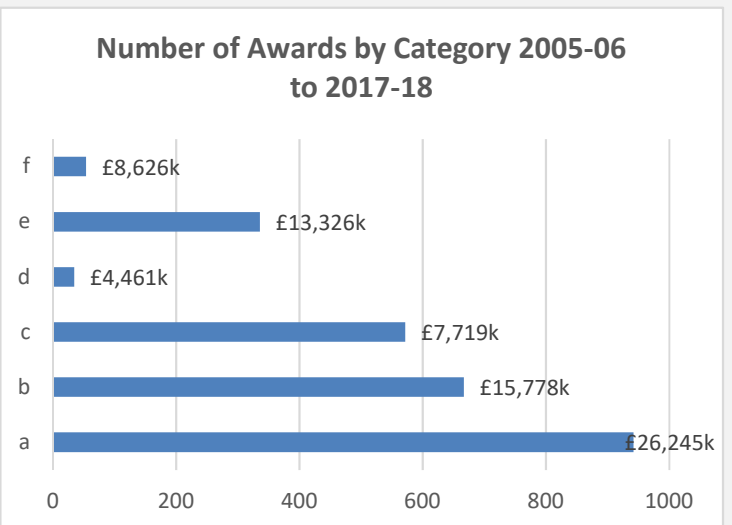


Figure 2



The majority of awards made under category f (strategic investment in equipment) are met out of funding from the University's Capital Fund, on the recommendation of the Committee, under arrangements agreed by the Planning and Resource Allocation Committee. This provides funds to the Committee to support applications for major pieces of research equipment.

Of the £5m per annum available for the John Fell Fund, £250k is set aside for each of the four academic divisions for division-specific purposes that cannot readily be met within the categories of award outlined above. The divisions use these in different ways, purposes include: provision of start-up funding to establish the research of new senior academic appointees; match funding for external and part-funded early career fellowships; and support for strategic initiatives. Balances that are not spent in one year may be carried forward to another, up to an agreed limit on balances of £500k. In 2017/18, 25 awards were made, and a total of £915k was allocated.

The total amount awarded by the John Fell Fund for main, small and divisional awards in 2017/18 was £4,895m, excluding awards from the Capital Fund. In addition, £1.395m was awarded from the Capital Fund, making a total of £6,290m awarded by the John Fell Committee in 2017/18.

The John Fell Committee collects final reports on projects that have finished. Reports have been received to date on 1,689 projects, which received a total of £38.46m from the Fell Fund. Overall, projects have leveraged reported further income from other sources totalling £222m for projects that ended up to March 2015. Those figures suggest that, on average, Fell Fund awards leverage other funding at a ratio of up to 1:10¹.

From 2015 onwards, analysis has been undertaken on the distribution of applications and awards by gender. To date, 65% of applications to the Fund are from male PIs and 35% are from female PIs. Cumulative success rates (2005/6 to 2017/18) are very similar. The success rates for 2017-18 are 51% (male) and 48% (female). Generally, applications from male PIs are for larger amounts of funding, and by value, across all years including 2017/18, they received 72% of funds available from the Fund whilst female PIs received 28%.

¹ Data is currently unavailable for leveraged income from projects which have submitted reports since December 2016, and projects with end dates more recent than March 2015, due to issues with the reporting database which are under review.

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Report for 2017-2018

Purpose of the Fund

1. Oxford University Press transfers £5m per annum to create the John Fell OUP Research Fund. The Fund is intended to foster a creative and proactive approach to research opportunities in all areas, and particularly in interdisciplinary fields. It makes pump-priming and start-up grants, and provides staff and funds to stimulate applications to external funding bodies. The Fund is intended to complement and not replace schemes offered by external research funding bodies. The Fund was launched in February 2006, and is named after John Fell, Dean of Christ Church, Vice-Chancellor (1666-9), Bishop of Oxford, and 'father' of the modern Press.
2. Details of the fund's operation are given on the John Fell website at <https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/funding/internal/jff>

Applications to the Fund

3. The Fund is open to both academic and service units (although the bulk of applications are from the academic divisions) and applicants should normally be a current employee of the collegiate university. All subject areas are encouraged to apply, and interdisciplinary and/or cross-divisional projects are especially welcome. Applications from colleges or service units must be routed through the academic departments in order to be reviewed by the most relevant division(s) prior to consideration by the Committee.

Assessment criteria

4. All awards made to the John Fell Fund are assessed against the following criteria:
 - Excellence and intrinsic merit of research
 - Potential for long term sustainability and academic impact of the project
 - Relevance to departmental and divisional research strategy
 - Necessity for John Fell funding versus other sources of funding
 - Value for money, noting in particular the potential for shared use of equipment and other facilities.

Award Streams

5. There are three award streams within the John Fell Fund:
 - i. **Main Award Scheme** - Applications under this scheme must be over £7,500. There is no upper limit on the value of awards, but the strength of the academic and strategic case needs to be commensurate with the sum requested. Approximately £3.4m per annum is allocated in main awards.
 - ii. **Small Award Scheme** - Requests to this scheme must not exceed £7,500. A budget is set aside for each of the four academic divisions, with a combined total of £0.6m p.a.
 - iii. **Divisional awards** – A budget of £250k is set aside for each of the four academic divisions to meet strategic priorities, giving a total of £1m p.a.

Main and small awards

6. Since the inception of the Fund, applications have been invited for any of the purposes (a) to (e) listed below. In 2010, a sixth category (f) was added to cover applications for strategic investment in equipment.
 - (a) **Pump-priming** for innovative projects and proof-of-concept work, especially of an interdisciplinary nature, that is currently at too early a stage to put to an external sponsor, where an award from the Fell Fund can bring the project to a stage at which a strong application for external funds can be made towards the end of the period of the award.

- (b) **Start-up funds for applicants who are in the early stages of their research careers** and are within their first five years in post at Oxford, to accelerate establishment of their research and scholarship.
 - (c) **Other academic activities** - e.g. seminar series, international interactions - likely to lead to new research initiatives.
 - (d) **Research facilitators**, i.e. administrators who are experts regarding sources of research funding, and develop and/or assist with the preparation of bids to external sponsors, e.g. by mentoring academics, and/or facilitating collaboration.
 - (e) **Support related to bids for external funding**, especially matching funds, normally in the form of a contribution towards a proposal that is about to be submitted to an external sponsor in order to meet sponsor terms and conditions or to enhance the chances of success: in such cases any award is contingent on the success of the external bid.
 - (f) **Strategic investment in equipment**, for projects of a major strategic nature where a contribution of over £100k is sought towards the cost of equipment (and, where necessary, associated refurbishment). For such projects, a contribution of up to 50% of the direct costs of the project (excluding any anticipated external contribution) may be available from the Capital Fund; the department or division is expected to contribute to the direct costs, and may also seek an element from the John Fell Fund.
7. Under categories (a) – (e), which are funded out of the John Fell Fund, applications under the above headings may be made for either ‘main awards’ (over £7.5k) or ‘small awards’ (less than £7.5k).
8. For category (f), PRAC has agreed to make available additional sums of up to £1m p.a. out of the University Capital Fund for strategic investment in research assets, and asked the John Fell Committee to administer this allocation.¹

Divisional allocations

9. In 2005-6 and 2006-7, all of the £5m John Fell Fund available annually was allocated under the criteria given at 4 above, excluding category (f) which was newly established in 2010/2011. Since 2007-8, and for each subsequent year, £4m has continued to be used in this way, while £1m has been set aside to provide a sum of £250k for each of the four academic divisions, to meet strategic requirements that could not be met through the existing categories under 4 above. The use of these allocations is identified by the division and is subject to endorsement by the John Fell Committee. The divisions use the funds as follows:
- (a) Humanities - to match external and part-funded early career fellowship applications;
 - (b) Medical Sciences – to purchase large items of equipment, often as part of the recruitment packages of senior academics and to support a range of other strategic projects;
 - (c) MPLS - for the recruitment packages of senior academics and to match major external grant applications; and
 - (d) Social Sciences – to support major interdisciplinary research projects, matching awards for external bids (including the match for external and part-funded early career fellowships), enhancing the divisional small award budget, and strategic initiatives.

Allocation of funds

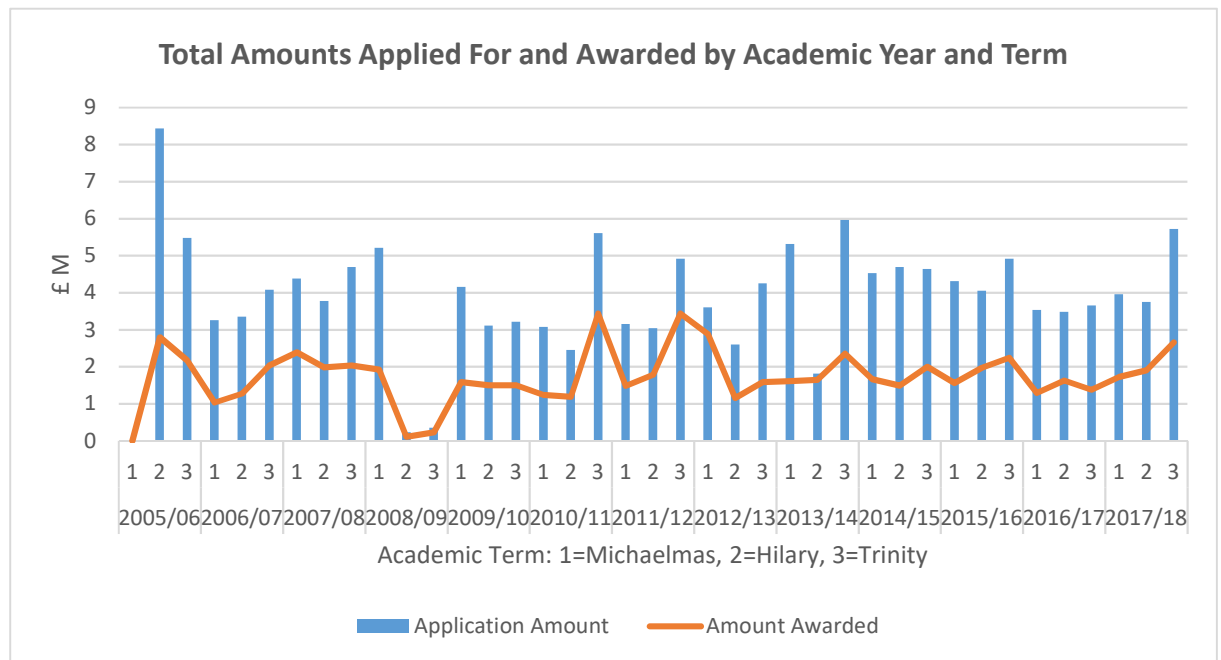
10. The John Fell OUP Research Fund Committee oversees the Fund, reporting jointly to the Planning and Research Allocation Committee and to the Research and Innovation Committee. The John Fell Committee is currently chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Patrick Grant. Committee members in 2017-18 were Professor Ian Walmsley Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) - Chair, Dr D. Prout, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Planning and

¹ The next tranche of funds from the University Capital Fund is due to be made available for the academic year 2019/20.

Resources), Professor C. Deane (MPLS Division), Professor D. Grimley (Humanities Division), Professor S. Whatmore (Social Sciences Division), Professor M. Pollard (Social Sciences Division), Professor P. Jarvis (MPLS Division), Professor A. Simmons (Medical Sciences Division), Professor A. Williams (Humanities Division), and Professor M. Wood (Medical Sciences Division).

11. Broadly speaking, the Committee has worked on the basis of total commitments made in a given year, the £5m transferred by OUP in March 2006 being treated as available for allocation in 2005-6, and so on, so that in 2017-18 the Committee allocated the funds expected in March 2018. The majority of funds however are not spent immediately, some awards are made conditional upon external funding (which can take a while to be confirmed) and many awards are for projects lasting for more than one year. Expenditure inevitably lags behind commitments for these reasons.
12. Applications to the Fund are submitted to the relevant Academic Division which, through a Divisional Research Committee (or similar), reviews the academic quality of the applications received. Recommendations on the research projects which the Division wishes to support are put forward to the John Fell Committee for approval in priority order. Applications recommended for support usually far exceed the amount of funding available. Figure 3 shows the application and award amounts for main and small awards since the Fund began in 2005-6.

Figure 3



Note: An audit of the fund was carried out in Hilary and Trinity Term 2009 and no main awards were made during these terms.

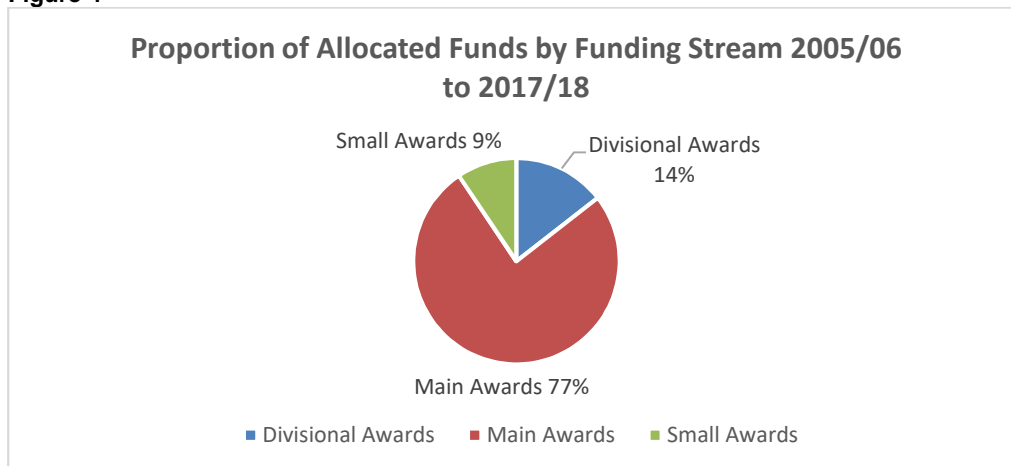
Awards Made to Date

13. The total sum made available to the John Fell Fund for categories (a) to (e) up to the end of 2017-18 was £66,216k, consisting of £65m over thirteen years from OUP and £1,216k allocated to the John Fell Fund from the sale of shares from spin-out companies (10% of such sales income being used to enhance the John Fell Fund). (Of that £1,216k, the John Fell Committee agreed to put £400k towards category (f) awards on a one-off basis, leaving £816k to be allocated through the other award categories.)

14. In 2017/18 the Committee considered potential use of a further £535,555k that had been received from the sale of spin-out companies. Detailed proposals for allocating this funding (and a subsequent additional tranche) were further developed in 2018/19¹.
15. The grand total of funds committed up to the end of 2017-18, excluding category (f), was £64,864k of the £65,816k. The unallocated budget (primarily in the Divisional Allocations and Small Awards budgets) was brought forward into 2018/19.

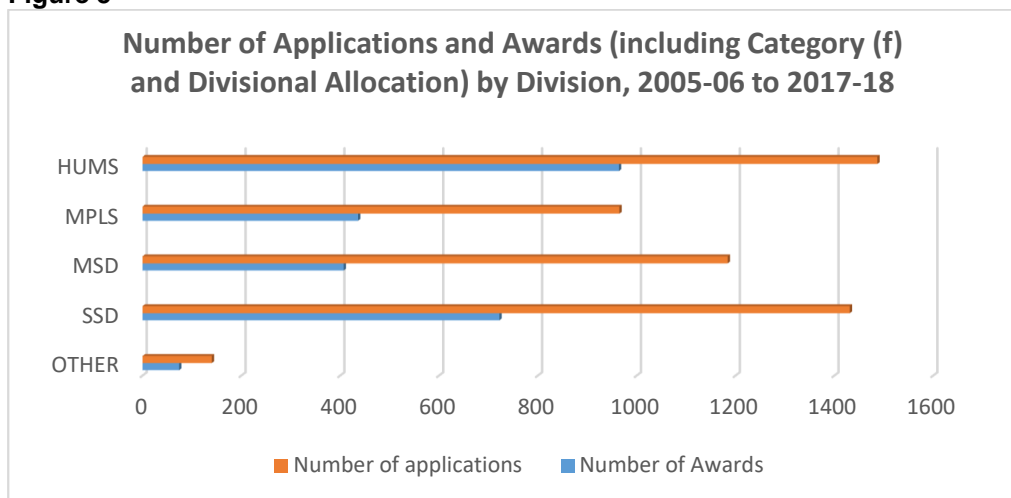
Figure 4 shows the proportion of these commitments split by funding stream.

Figure 4



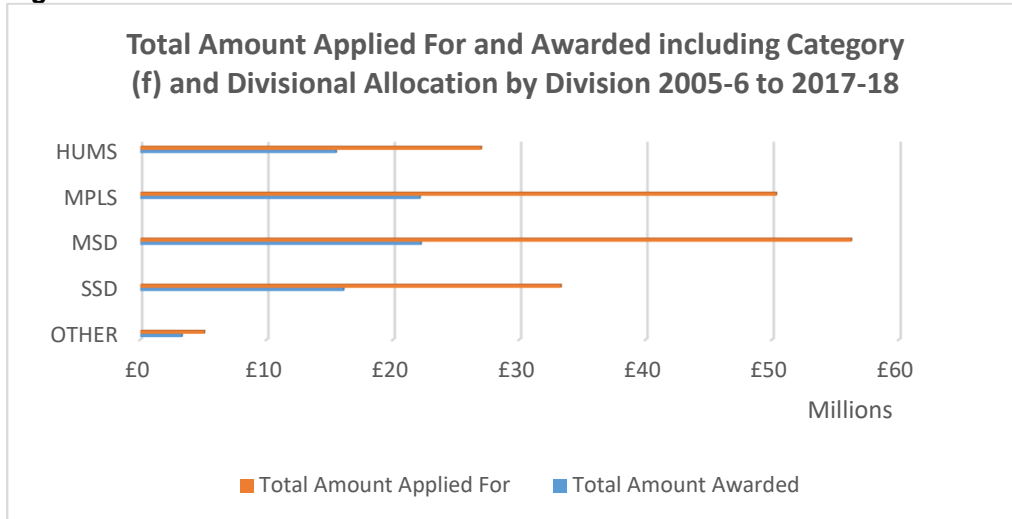
Figures 5 and 6 show applications and awards for John Fell Fund main and small awards by volume and value, by division, for all years of the Fund to 2017-18. (Note: "OTHER" includes Academic Collections and Services (now re-named GLAM), Central Administration, Continuing Education and University Administration and Services.)

Figure 5



¹ The income received to date (at HT2019) comprised: £141,861.19 (Oxitec, 2015-16); £391,693.85 (Oxford Gene Technology, 2017); £38,644.53 (Oxbotica, 2018); £80,232 (Nightstar, 2018); £119,206.88 (Oxford Biodynamics, 2018); £771,638.45 in total. The funding was established as a "PVC (Research) Strategic Allocation" and "International Partnerships Allocation of £236.5k) within JFF, to be awarded at the discretion of the PVC (Research) in discussion with the academic divisions, (see: JFC(18)26 and JFC(19)02).

Figure 6



Awards made in 2017-18

16. The main and small grants, excluding the Divisional Awards, awarded by the John Fell Fund during the academic year 2017-18 amount to a total of £5,377k (including category (f)).

Figures 7 and 8 below show the balance of these main and small awards between divisions for this year by both volume and value, including the category (f) and Divisional Awards.

Figure 7

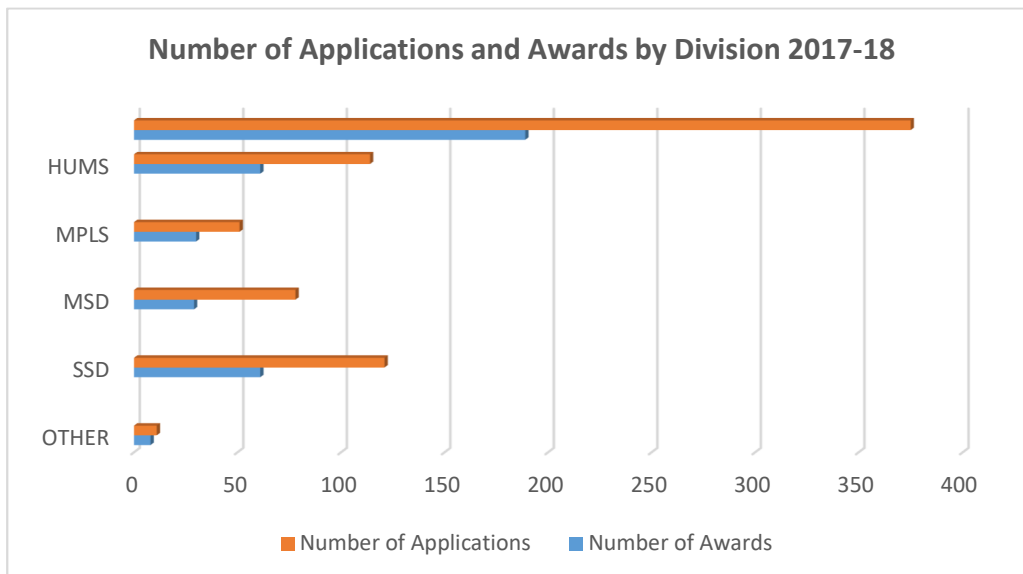
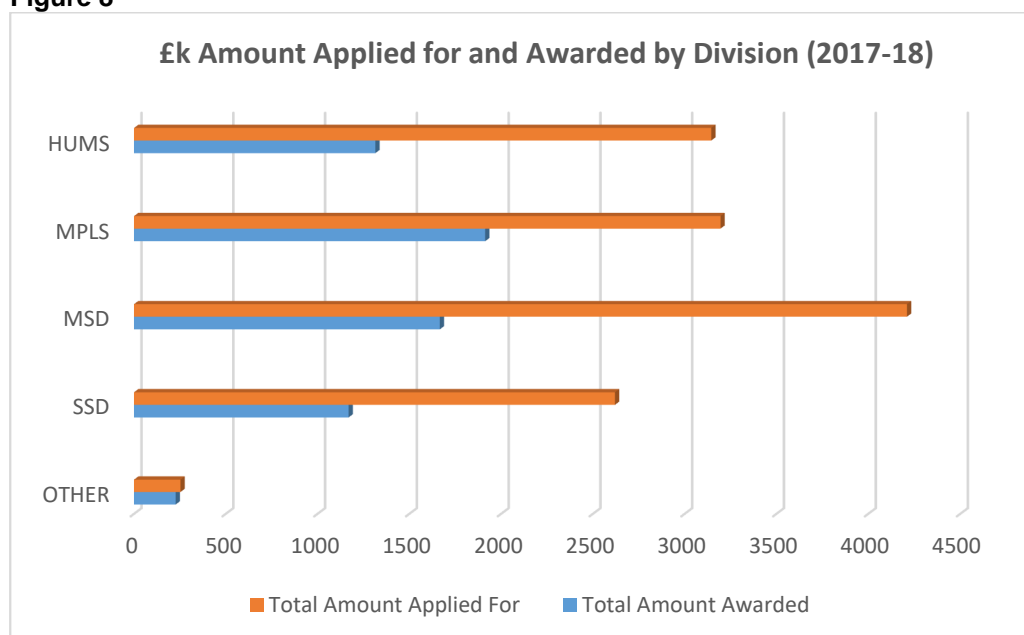


Figure 8



17. The percentage success rates for 2017-2018 (including cat(f)) show that the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Division received the largest share of funding across the whole Fund, with 30% of awards by value. Application rates remained high in all academic divisions, illustrating consistently high demand for support from the Fund, and the highly competitive nature of awards made.

Division	£k total applied for	£k total awarded	% success within Division	% success across Fund
HUMS	3,145	1,315	42%	21%
MPLS	3,195	1,913	60%	30%
MSD	4,210	1,666	39%	26%
SSD	2,620	1,169	45%	19%
OTHER	252	227	90%	4%
TOTAL	13,424	6,292		100%

18. Examples of 2017-18 awards are listed in Annexe A, while a full list of awards made can be found on the John Fell website at: <https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/funding/internal/jff/awards>
19. Figures 9 and 10 below show the number of awards made and the amount awarded, for all main and small awards in all categories from the John Fell Fund (excluding Capital Fund money) in 2017-18, by Division. These charts illustrate the differing funding requirements across different disciplines.

Figure 9

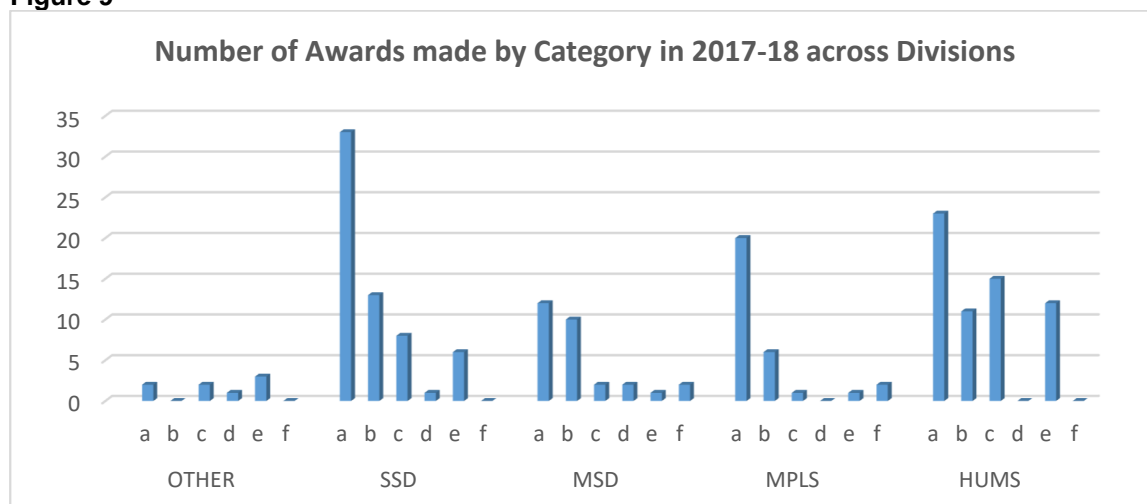
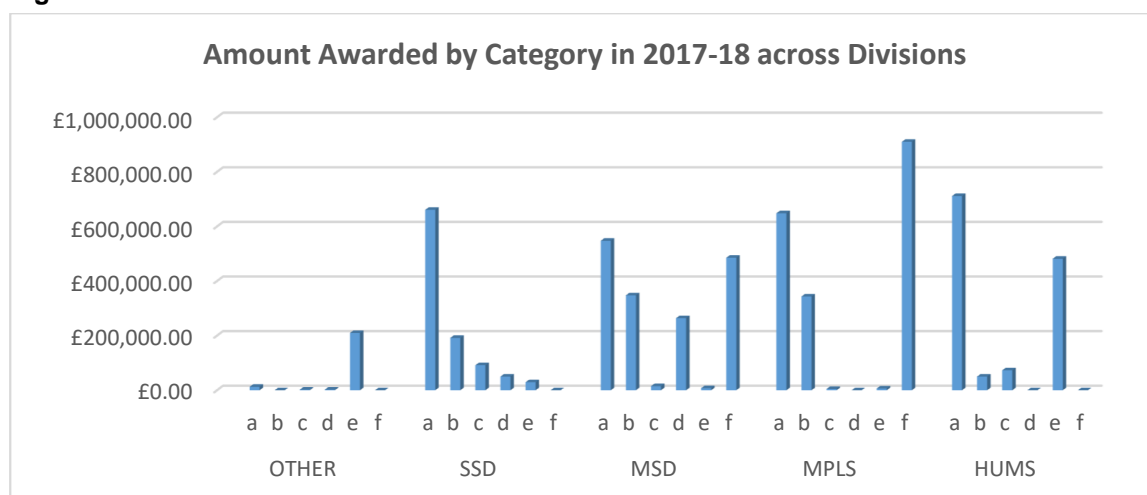


Figure 10



20. In addition to the above, the John Fell Committee allocated a total of £1,395k under category (f) out of the Capital Fund which was awarded to 4 projects in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences and Medical Sciences Division (see para. 27).

Pump-priming (a), early career grants (b) and other academic activities (c)

21. Within categories (a) to (c), 56 main awards have been made for a total of £3,019k in 2017/18. By value, this represents 42% of the amount requested by applicants over the course of the year. Awards have been made to researchers across a wide range of disciplines in all divisions. Small awards in categories (a) to (c) total £528k (86 awards).
22. The Committee attaches importance to supporting researchers in the early stages of their research careers, when they are setting up their laboratories and/or establishing their field of study and may find it more difficult to attract external funds. While these awards from the Fell Fund may not lead to immediate increases in external income, they are a vital means of supporting highly able researchers, with the aim of encouraging them to remain at Oxford and to identify promising new lines of research for the future.
23. Out of the total of £5,377k referred to in para. 16 above, £528k was allocated in small grants (up to £7.5k each) for a range of pump-priming projects, support for early career researchers, and other academic activities. These are especially important for individuals in the Humanities and Social Sciences, where a relatively small sum can often have a disproportionate benefit, and

these two divisions receive a higher annual budget for small awards than the MPLS and Medical Sciences Divisions. The latter two divisions, by contrast, tend to receive a higher proportion of the funds available for main awards, reflecting the larger sums often needed for laboratory based research. The Committee has largely devolved responsibility for decisions on small grant applications to each division, within a set budget, subject to approval by the Chair.

Research Facilitators (d)

24. Within category (d), research facilitator posts have been created with the aim of providing a network of support to maximise the University's response to research opportunities. A research facilitator is an administrative postholder who supports the development of research through the establishment of collaborations and/or the preparation of bids for external funding. The Committee funds research facilitators with a wide strategic/thematic role, and will not normally support a post in a single department. Research facilitators are supported from the Fund for a limited term only: if facilitator posts are to continue in the long term, the relevant departments and/or divisions are expected to identify other sources of funding to support the posts.
25. Four awards were made in the course of 2017-18 for research facilitator posts within the Medical Sciences Division, Social Sciences Division and University Administration and Services for a total value of £316k.

Grants associated with external funding (e)

26. In category (e), 23 main and small awards were allocated for a total of £881k, with a success rate by value of 39%. The awards made include a number of 'matching' contributions to substantial bids being made to external funding bodies, usually where a matching institutional contribution is required as a criteria for accessing the funding.

Strategic Investment in Equipment (f)

27. Six applications were received within the category (f) awards for strategic equipment with a total value of £1,995k. Four awards were made with a total value of £1,395k.

Divisional allocations

28. 25 specific grants for a total of £915k were approved by the Chair on the recommendation of divisions, to be met out of the divisional allocations, for purposes as outlined under para. 9 above.

Outcome of awards

29. Reports are requested from successful applicants after the completion of their project. In many cases, excellent results have been obtained and/or follow up funding received. In total to date, reports have been received on 1,689 projects, which received a total of £43.15m from the Fund. Overall, projects had leveraged reported further income from other sources totalling £222m for projects that ended up to March 2015. Those figures suggest that, on average, Fell Fund awards leverage other funding at a ratio of up to 1:10¹.
30. Figures 11a and 11b below (based on data to December 2016), show the external funding leveraged by each Division as a percentage of the total funding received (11a) and as absolute figures (11b). Figure 11a shows the total funding including both funds awarded from the John Fell Fund and from external sources.

¹ Data is currently unavailable for leveraged income from projects which have submitted reports since December 2016, and projects with end dates more recent than March 2015, due to issues with the reporting database which are under review.

Figure 11a

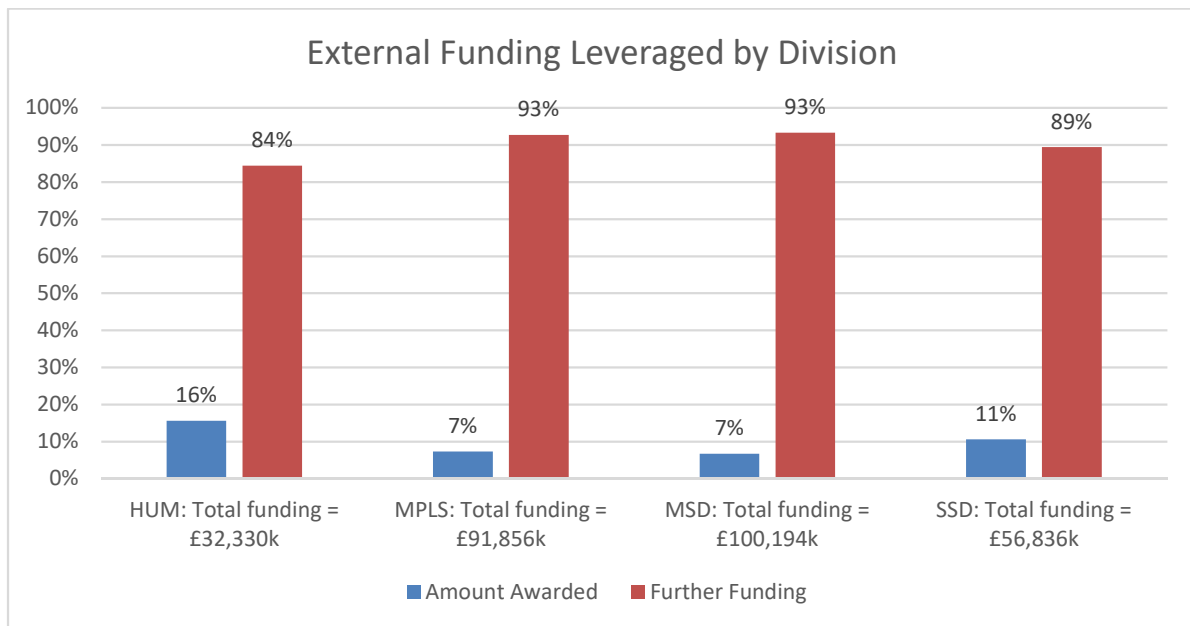
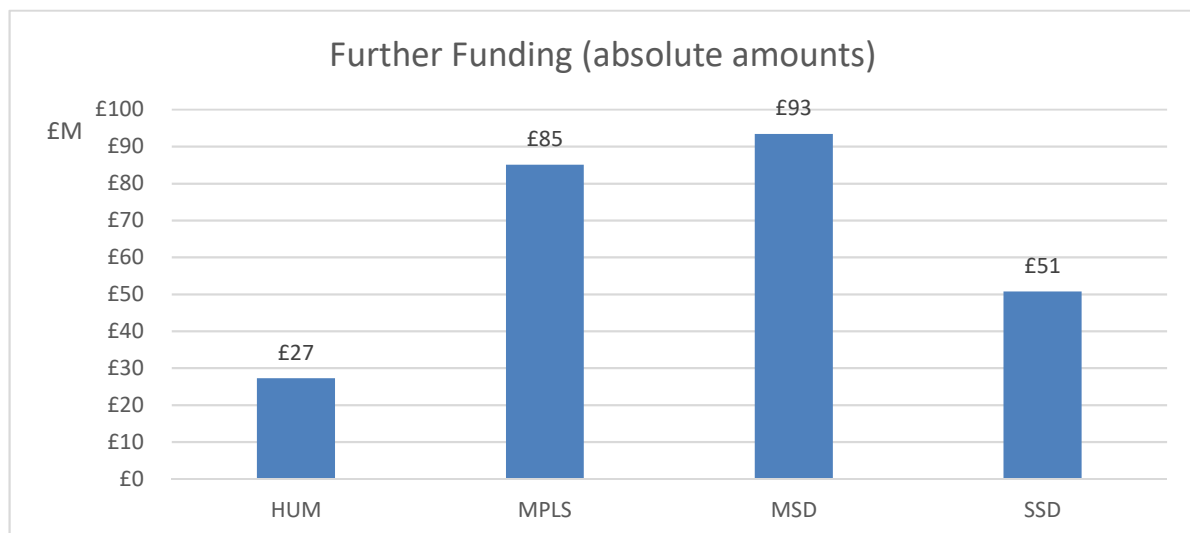


Figure 11b



31. Examples of final reports received during 2017-18 are included in Annex B.

Gender Analysis

32. Analysis on the distribution of applications and awards over all years to date by gender has been undertaken and shows that 65% of applications to the Fund are from male PIs and 35% are from female PIs. 64% of awards are made to male PIs and 36% are made to female PIs. 49% of applications by male PIs are successful, and 50% of applications by female PIs are successful. The current success rates for 2017-18 are 51% for male PIs and 48% for female PIs. By value, across all years including 2017/18, male PIs received 72% of funds available and female PIs received 28%.
33. The gender difference in application and award numbers and values is in part driven by the higher success rates of the small awards, which receive a greater volume (proportionally) of applications from female PIs. The figures also reflect gender ratios in the respective divisions, with a pool of fewer female applicants in the higher research costs divisions of MPLS and MSD.

Monitoring of the Fund

34. The Committee keeps all elements of the Fund under review, and the Fund is monitored to ensure awards are effectively utilised.
35. A regular process of award closure is undertaken, with a monthly return of unspent balances to the appropriate award category, improving utilisation of the fund.
36. In some instances the full amount of funding requested is not required. Reasons for this can range from an award being underwriting of project costs (where alternative sources of internal or external funding are subsequently found); awards being made contingent on external bids that were unsuccessful (cat(f) funding is particularly impacted by this); or where a (usually) small balance remains after the purposes of the award have been fulfilled. In these instances the Fell Fund recovers the surplus funds, which are returned to the appropriate funding stream to be re-used in future rounds to make additional awards.
37. Of the 239 projects that were closed in 17/18, 140 projects returned a total of £971,657 to the Fund for reallocation. 10 awards totalling £574,752 did not have any spend recorded against them (one was a category(f) award for £502,699 which was unsuccessful). Leaving aside the 10 awards which were not utilised, 140 projects spent less than their full allocation and returned a total of £396,906. Of those awards that were taken up, the average figure returned to the Fund at the end of the project was £1,733.

ANNEX A – Examples of Main and Small Awards made in 2017-2018

Principal Applicant	Department	Division	Category	Title	Amount Awarded
Cox, Oliver	Humanities Divisional Office	Humanities	a - Pump-priming	Building Research Capacity and Expertise through Collaboration with the Cultural and Heritage Economy	28,958
Roesler, Ulrike	Oriental Studies Faculty	Humanities	a - Pump-priming	An Oral History of Tibetan Studies	7,400
Burden, Michael J	Music Faculty	Humanities	a - Pump-priming	The expansion and enhancement of 'The London Stage 1800-1832'	88,941
Castrejon Pita, Alfonso A.	Engineering Science	Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences	a - Pump-priming	Towards nano-inkjet 3D printing	95,000
Yassin, Ghassan	Physics	Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences	a - Pump-priming	Superconducting parametric amplifiers for quantum sensors	32,000
Owens, Raymond	Structural Biology	Medical Sciences	a - Pump-priming	Oxford Nanobody Consortium	84,703
Zaccolo, Manuela	Physiology Anatomy and Genetics	Medical Sciences	a - Pump-priming	Funding towards a specialist multi-user microsurgery and functional imaging facility in the Biomedical Sciences Building (BSB), South Parks Rd area	70,000
Vargas-Silva, Carlos	Anthropology	Social Sciences	a - Pump-priming	The Socio-Economic Impact of Refugees on Local Communities	27,965
Smith, Victoria	Archaeology	Social Sciences	a - Pump-priming	Constraining the tempo and magnitude of explosive volcanism over the life cycle of the active Neapolitan volcanoes, Italy	49,751
Seddon, Nathalie	Zoology	Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences	a - Pump-priming	How effective are Nature-based Solutions to climate change adaptation and mitigation? Assessing and mapping the evidence base	7,500

ANNEX A – Examples of Main and Small Awards made in 2017-2018

Principal Applicant	Department	Division	Category	Title	Amount Awarded
Ottley, Edward	Oncology	Medical Sciences	a - Pump-priming	The use of chromogenic in-situ hybridisation to investigate the expression of molecular subtype-specific miRNAs and targets in pT1G3 progression to muscle-invasive bladder cancer	7,439
Blackbourn, Jessie	Law	Social Sciences	a - Pump-priming	Radicalisation Cases in the Family Courts: Children at Risk and the Law	5,566
Gangjee, Dev	Law	Social Sciences	a - Pump-priming	Image Consciousness: Property Rights in Celebrity Image	3,123
Sahner, Christian	Oriental Studies Faculty	Humanities	b - Start-up for applicant in early stages of research career	Zoroastrianism to Islam in Early Medieval Iran (7-11th centuries)	2,306
Faria, Nuno	Zoology	Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences	b - Start-up for applicant in early stages of research career	Assessing the impact of ecology and genetics on Zika virus associated microcephaly	63,050
Felce, Suet Ling	NDORMS	Medical Sciences	b - Start-up for applicant in early stages of research career	Elucidating the role of MLLT1 histone reader in breast cancer biology	5,500
Ahel, Dragana	Pathology Dunn School	Medical Sciences	b - Start-up for applicant in early stages of research career	SNF2 ATPases in genome stability and human disease	98,525
Humphreys, David	Social Policy and Intervention	Social Sciences	b - Start-up for applicant in early stages of research career	Examining laws that expand civilian rights to use of lethal force in self-defence: synthesising impact, inequities and pathways to health and safety outcomes	40,000
Johnson, Geraldine	History Faculty	Humanities	c - Academic activities	Digitisation and Cataloguing of Adolphe Braun's Sistine Chapel Carbon Prints	2,266

ANNEX A – Examples of Main and Small Awards made in 2017-2018

Principal Applicant	Department	Division	Category	Title	Amount Awarded
Fischer, Roman	NDM	Medical Sciences	c - Academic activities	Upgrade of state-of-the-art mass spectrometer for deep Proteomics	7,500
Whatmore, Sarah	Social Sciences Divisional Office	Social Sciences	c - Academic activities	Divisional support for the Centre for Experimental Social Science (CESS), 2016/17 and 2017/18	44,000
Stevens, Margaret	Economics	Social Sciences	c - Academic activities	Understanding the "ethnicity gap" in Oxford undergraduate student attainment	7,493
Wood, Matthew J A	Medical Sciences Divisional Office	Medical Sciences	d - Research Facilitator	Public and policy engagement in the Medical Sciences Division	100,064
Ballaster, Rosalind Margaret	English Faculty	Humanities	e -Support related to a current external bid (e.g. matching bid)	Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship Matched Funds - Devani Singh	70,620
Paseta, Senia	History Faculty	Humanities	e -Support related to a current external bid (e.g. matching bid)	A Transnational History of the Women's Suffrage Movement in Britain and its Settler Colonies, 1860-1918	1,888
Dong, Tao	NDM	Medical Sciences	f -Strategic investment in equipment	Studying the Viral OncoProtein(VOP) and Tumor specific Protein(TSP) specific T cell responses in EBV associated NPC and HPV associated cervical and head/neck cancer	175,000
Higgs, Douglas R	RDM	Medical Sciences	f -Strategic investment in equipment	Establishing an Imaging Mass Cytometry platform for the analysis of single cells within their uninterrupted histological environment	310,192

ANNEX B- Examples of final Reports received for Main Awards in 2017/2018

(Edited excerpts from final reports, full-reports available on request.)

Principal Applicant	Department	Cat.	Title	Award Amount	Final Summary Outcomes
Sammy De Grave	ASUC (Museums)	JFF Main	Skeletons in the closet: uncovering a hidden 19th century anatomy collection	£6,697	<p>The Oxford University Museum of Natural History received a Fell Fund grant to survey the human remains collection and the corresponding archives curated at the museum. We employed Dr Kathryn Krakowka to carry out this work. Working part-time over the duration of the project, Dr Krakowka catalogued and digitally imaged the entire skeletal collection, incorporating over 890 specimens.</p> <p>The resulting database now includes detailed information about each specimen that is relevant to potential researchers. Once the new KE EMu museum database is fully up and running in 2018, the information and images associated with each specimen will be fully searchable and open for analysis. Where before there was only a crude, incomplete inventory of the collection there is now an in-depth and up-to-date database that researchers will be able to use to search for specimens that are of interest to them as well aid in finding relevant material for bioanthropology, archaeology and anthropology teaching using the collection.</p> <p>Overall, this project succeeded in its goal of assessing the specimens in this collection, bringing them in line with modern museum standards, and opening the collection up for research purposes. Without the funding from the Fell Fund Grant these specimens would have continued to remain unexplored to their full potential, essentially hidden away and less usable in teaching and research for the future.</p>
Mark Howarth	Biochemistry	JFF Main	A flow sorter for isolation of specific microorganisms	£26,640	<p>Fluorescent activated cell sorting (FACS) is a technique that allows a heterogeneous population of cells to be sorted into separate tubes based on scatter or fluorescent intensities at different wavelengths. The John Fell grant was used to purchase a FACS machine (Bio-Rad S3e) dedicated specifically to sort bacterial and yeast cells. In the intervening six months since its commissioning it has been used to gather data for two published papers and a patent.</p> <p>The machine cost £90,000 and was bought in conjunction with external funding from multiple researchers (Prof Mark Howarth, Prof David Sherratt, Dr Stephan Uphoff and Prof Colin Kleanthous).</p>
Maike Bublitz	Biochemistry	JFF Main	Biomembrane-Energising and -Remodelling Transport Proteins	£56,000	<p>This John Fell Early Career Start-up award has funded the purchase of a refrigerated 'AKTA Pure' High Performance Liquid Chromatography System (HPLC), including a dual-wavelength fluorescence detector and a selection of chromatography columns of various application ranges. The core HPLC machine was delivered in August 2016, and it has been fully functional for cooled chromatography with dual fluorescence detection since October 2016. The system .. is in intensive use by members of my own and other research groups within the department (e.g. Armitage), due its versatility in detecting biological macromolecules and labels by absorption (3 wavelengths) and fluorescence (2 wavelengths).</p> <p>This equipment has been crucial to set up the research in my laboratory, as all projects rely heavily on protein purification by various types of chromatography...</p>

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Clare Leaver	Blavatnik School of Government	JFF Main	The impact of performance pay on test results, teacher behaviour and career choice in Rwandan Primary Schools	£60,000	<p>This project seeks to evaluate not only the incentive effect (on effort) but also the selection effects (on skill and intrinsic motivation) of pay-for-performance (P4P) contracts.</p> <p>The JFF grant was essential in securing a substantial award from the World Bank, and together with a pre-existing grant from the International Growth Centre, these funding sources enabled the project to proceed to implementation.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Given the successful implementation in the 2016 academic year, we decided to apply for additional funding from the Economic Development and Institutions Programme (https://edi.opml.co.uk) to extend the study for a further year. Our application was successful, and we were awarded a further GBP 440,000 – funding directly leveraged by the JFF grant.</p>
Andrew Baldwin	Chemistry	JFF Main	The dynamics of supra-molecular machines at atomic resolution	£99,000	<p>The goal of the grant was to purchase and install a second hand NMR spectrometer dedicated to studying high molecular weight molecules, with a focus on extending the experiments to be performed in the context of living cells.</p> <p>Preliminary data ... has already formed the basis of a range of grant applications .. [to] .. Leverhulme ..MRC .. [and] .. Wellcome. These projects would not have been possible without the investment from the JFF and the chemistry department refurbishing a laboratory to house it.... focusing this instrument on challenging problems involving human cells and neurodegenerative diseases has already resulted in technology that is getting both academic and industrial interest.</p>
Niall Winters	Education	JFF Main	"Hidden" Children and the Politics of Poverty: Addressing Child Abuse in the Context of Disability in Kenya	£60,000	<p>The main outcomes of the award in Kenya were: a training workshop on disability with health care workers in Kenya, a baseline survey of caregivers of children with disabilities in two communities, and interviews with paediatricians and caregivers of children with disabilities. A number of successful collaborations resulted from the award, including a Wellcome Trust small grant with collaborators at King's College London (£5k), a successful ISSF bid with collaborators at the Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford (£61k), as well as two collaborations for larger bids (one at UCL and one at Kings), which are in progress.</p>
Rory Bowden	NDM	JFF Main	A shared research facility to prime ultra-high-throughput single-cell genomics	£100,000	<p>The background of our application ('A shared research facility to prime ultra-high-throughput single-cell genomics') was the successful and transformative MRC-CRI single-cell infrastructure grant (led by Doug Higgs and based at WIMM and WHG) to initially establish single-cell genomics capability in Oxford. The need for newer and more efficient platforms so soon after the initial programme simply reflects the rate at which technology is developing in this area. Fortunately, our efforts, and our choice of the 10X system for this JFF bid, have entirely paid off. The 10x Chromium system has attained scientific sustainability with strong demand, in that the incoming projects are able to fund the full costs of operating and supporting the facility.</p>

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Anjali Kusumbe	NDORMS	JFF Main	Identification of regulatory signals from the vascular niche in bone remodelling	£58,337	<p>I joined the University of Oxford with the Kennedy Trust for Rheumatology Research, Senior Research Fellowship in July 2016 and then I applied for the John Fell Fund to support my career development and to generate preliminary data to apply for external funding. I recruited a research technician with the John Fell Fund support.</p> <p>With the John Fell Fund support I was able to generate preliminary data for the Medical Research Council - Career Development Award, European Research Council - Starting Grant and Leuka - John Goldman Fellowship. Further, the data generated using the John Fell Fund has generated interesting findings which [have] been submitted for publication.</p> <p>Thus, the .. John Fell Fund supported three Investigator Awards applications and therefore has [contributed] significantly towards the establishment of my independent career.</p>
Stephen Kennedy	Nuffield Department of Women's and Reproductive Health	JFF Main	The Oxford-Bayer Healthcare Strategic Alliance in Women's Health	£50,000	<p>In 2014, the University of Oxford and Bayer HealthCare initiated a strategic research alliance focused on developing innovative therapies for two of the most prominent women's health conditions, namely endometriosis and uterine fibroids. Millions of women worldwide are affected by these conditions, which cause pain, abnormal uterine bleeding and infertility. ... With this support, the alliance was able to enhance capacity for biological sample collection through increased recruitment and processing. This played a crucial part in the overall success of the alliance.</p> <p>Direct Outcome Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment: The research nurses recruited over 900 women who underwent surgery for suspected endometriosis and uterine fibroids resulting in the largest, thoroughly phenomed sample collection and database of its kind in the UK, which has facilitated the highest quality research as part of the alliance and beyond. • Identification of potential drug targets: Patient recruitment led to data and sample collections that fuelled the identification of novel diagnostic and therapeutic targets, including characterisation of specific peritoneal macrophages, transglutaminase 2 (TGM2), aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 (ALDH2), neuropeptidase S receptor-1 (NPSR-1) and the G protein-coupled receptor 84 (GPR84). • Patenting: So far, we have patented one molecule that was identified during the collaboration (GPR84) as a potential therapeutic target for endometriosis. • Publications: There are currently six alliance-associated manuscripts either under review or in preparation for submission to mostly high impact factor journals. • Collaborations: We have been able to form strong collaborations with colleagues within the University on alliance-related projects e.g. Professors Benedikt Kessler, Adrian Harris and Cecilia Lindgren. These collaborations have been extremely fruitful and resulted in the development of further projects. <p>The alliance was initially agreed for 2 years. As a result of our cumulative successes, the Oxford Bayer Alliance was extended for another 3 years (until June 2019, £1,072,000).</p>

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Katherine Blundell	Physics	JFF Main	Pump-priming new instrumental capability for the Global Jet Watch observatories: enabling new black hole discoveries	£61,500	<p>The Global Jet Watch observatories comprise five optical telescopes (0.5-metre aperture) strategically separated in longitude so that there is always one of them in darkness (darkness is a pre-requisite for optical astronomy). Each observatory is equipped with a spectrograph that splits up the light from the target being observed from the red/far-red part of the electromagnetic spectrum, revealing emission lines arising from different elemental species (e.g. hydrogen, helium, oxygen). The dynamics inferred from the different emission lines, and their rapid evolution in either wavelength or intensity or both, is an important means by which it is possible to study how matter behaves around black holes in our Galaxy. The number of evolving black holes that are known in our Galaxy is remarkably slender, and so the purpose of this John Fell Fund proposal was to increase that number and identify a statistically meaningful population. New instrumentation was the key requirement for this endeavour which would, almost literally, piggy-back on the main telescopes.</p> <p>Thanks to this Fell Fund grant, there are now, on each of the five telescopes (in South Africa, Chile, east Australia, Western Australia and India) a pair of Peltier-cooled CCD cameras wearing 135mm lenses behind which is one of two specific types of narrowband filter. Each pair has one camera with one particular filter, and the other camera with the other filter. These commensal cameras give a 5-degree by 4-degree field of view which is centred on the actual spectroscopy target being observed by the main telescope, having very fine angular resolution because they benefit from the accurate pointing, tracking and guiding of the gearbox on which each main telescope is mounted. Each such field of view typically contains several hundred stars, and it is the light-curves from each of these that are one of the goals of the new instrumentation.</p> <p>A GCRF grant is being prepared at present (and STFC grants will be prepared appropriate to the phasing of their deadlines in the future) to leverage the full potential of benefits from this particular grant.</p>
Matthew J A Wood	Physiology Anatomy and Genetics	JFF Main	Advanced peptide-oligonucleotide therapy for Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1	£75,389.62	<p>This .. project [was] awarded to support the preclinical development of an antisense therapy for Myotonic Dystrophy 1 (DM1), the most common adult form of muscular dystrophy. The evaluation of peptide-PMO antisense compounds over the course of this project has provided valuable information on the efficacy and safety of this therapeutic approach. Additionally, there is the possibility of intellectual property arising from this work, and some of the data derived from this John Fell Fund project is very likely to form part of a new Oxford spin-out company, PepGen. Furthermore, we obtained enough preliminary data towards two successful grant applications and a manuscript.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Now, with.. [further] funding from the DPFS-MRC and the MDUK, we are aiming to test further variations on the current three leading compounds, to select an adequate candidate with the widest therapeutic index to allow translation into a clinical study.</p>

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Paul Riley	Physiology Anatomy and Genetics	JFF Main	Funding to equip the new South Parks Road fish facility	£68,535	The John Fell Award, together with the WT ISSF matching fund, allowed us to equip the fish facility in the Biomedical Services Building at the South Parks Road site for research. This award have made it possible to fund a core fish facility with essential material needed for fish line maintenance, generation of genetically modified fish lines and adult fish surgery. All fish tank systems are now up and running and housing hundreds of healthy transgenic lines. A central University facility is now fully functional and available for multiple groups and end-users.
Mark D Fricker	Plant Sciences	JFF Main	Core physiological confocal imaging for Plant Sciences	£78,000	<p>The award enabled the Department to purchase a new Zeiss LSM880 Airyscan confocal microscope to replace the previous aging, and now unsupported, Zeiss LSM510 confocal microscope. This instrument forms part of the core infrastructure supporting 18 groups within and outside the department. The timing was also extremely opportune as it allowed us to capitalise on a time-limited trade-in discount of £28k for the old instrument, along with a very competitive 40% discount on the list price... The original instrument purchase included £38k underwritten by the department, and £150k from the EPA Cephalosporin Trust, to a total of £263k.</p> <p>We were then able to use these funds to leverage a successful BBSRC17Alert bid for £294k to re-coup the costs underwritten by the department, provide additional functionality for the instrument, purchase a companion low-magnification Zeiss AxioZoom V16 system for pre-screening, and add robotic automation to both systems.</p> <p>The new instruments were also critical in attracting a new Royal Society URF, Sarah Robinson, who will start in 2019, and will make extensive use of the systems.</p>
Charlotte Stagg	Psychiatry	JFF Main	Developing world- class neurophysiological resources at Oxford	£82,998	<p>This award has allowed us to develop a comprehensive brain stimulation lab at the Oxford Centre for Human Brain Activity (OHBA), part of the newly founded Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging (WIN). We have purchased the necessary transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) equipment and have hired a research assistant .. for a year to set-up and run the lab. We have purchased a state-of-the-art paired pulse TMS machine and necessary computing equipment to both present visual stimuli and record electromyographic signals.</p> <p>The lab has been widely used by a number of groups, especially after the unanticipated closure of the Tinbergen Building. Professor Matthew Rushworth's group and Professor Kate Watkins group have been active users, as have my research group. Importantly, the lab, in addition to allowing many individual studies to proceed, has also brought together researchers from a range of departments (NDCN, Psychiatry and Experimental Psychology) to form new collaborations. While the results of these collaborations are currently in the early stages, the lab has provided an essential hub for a number of pieces of work that would otherwise not have occurred.</p> <p>We have used the equipment not only to perform a substantial number of experiments, but also to participate in Public Engagement events, such as the WINdow on the Brain</p>

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					<p>(https://www.psy.ox.ac.uk/news/a-window-on-the-brain-celebrating-the-launch-of-the-wellcome-centre-for-integrative-neuroimaging-win-on-2-november-1) the inaugural public event for the WIN.</p> <p>The laboratory has [also] supported students through data collection on projects that would otherwise not be possible.</p>
Stefan Neubauer	RDM	JFF Main	Clinical Hyperpolarized MRI for Oxford	£200,000	<p>The award was sought as a contribution towards a £2.25 million project to support the development and expansion of a clinical hyperpolarized magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) facility for the Medical Sciences Division (MSD). Specifically, the contribution was towards the acquisition of a state of the art 3T MRI system to provide capacity for the many multidisciplinary studies that are envisioned using the new hyperpolarized MRI technology.</p> <p>The John Fell award allowed leverage with the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and assisted in securing a £1 million infrastructure grant from the BHF. These awards, along with a contribution from the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine allowed for the purchase of the MRI system and refurbishments to the basement of the Oxford Centre for Clinical Magnetic Resonance Research (OxCMR) to create a brand-new MRI scanning suite.</p> <p>..</p> <p>The installation of the new 3T scanning suite in the basement has had the desired effect of easing pressure on the existing system and allowing the hyperpolarizer project to develop. We have now acquired the first ever human hyperpolarized spectrum, this places the University of Oxford at the forefront of the development of a new imaging technology.</p> <p>It is early days in the development of such a novel technique but we are firm in the belief that this award will lead to major new insights into the metabolic changes that occur in a wide array of diseases. A current study is exploring the cardiovascular effects of type II diabetes. The technique will also enable future technical development of software, hardware and data analysis.</p>
Daria Martin	Ruskin School of Art	Hums Small Award	Maternal Legacies	£7,000	<p>'Maternal Legacies' is informed by discussions with scholars of Holocaust studies, immigration, and psychoanalysis. The overall project is a new experimental and interdisciplinary artist's film that will, in turn, lead to an imminent solo exhibition at the Curve Gallery, Barbican (titled 'Tonight the World', 30 January -7 April 2019), to a larger AHRC Leadership Fellowship bid (£250K FEC, to be submitted 1 April 2019,) and eventually, to a feature-length film -to be exhibited in further international public art galleries- that examines trauma, resilience and reparation. I will, in future, apply for BFI's 'First Feature' Fund (£1M) for this feature film. Incremental film funding will also be sought via The Wellcome Trust Public Engagement Fund (£100K) and an Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant (£100K).</p>

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Sarah Whatmore	Social Sciences	SSD Divisional Award	Divisional support for the Centre for Experimental Social Science (CESS), 2016/17 and 2017/18	£44,000	<p>The Nuffield Centre for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS) plays an important global role in promoting experimental social science. John Fell Funding (JFF) has ... allowed CESS to continue providing Oxford researchers with support for and access to experimental research facilities, in particular allowing SSD members to conduct their experiments at highly subsidized costs.</p> <p>CESS provides researchers with full support in the design and execution of a range of social experiments, including lab and online experiments; lab-in-the-field experiments and large-scale RCTs as well as teaching courses on experimental methods and organizing workshops and conferences.</p> <p>JFF funded activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab experiments – 22 conducted (2017/2018), 23 (2016/17) with over 3,500 subjects p.a., covering different disciplines. Over half were conducted in Oxford. • Online experiments - 14 conducted (2017/2018), 8 (2016/17) with approximately 4,500 and 7,200 subjects respectively. • Seminars and Colloquia - CESS hosted 15 seminars (2017/2018) and 16 (2016/2017) with speakers from diverse social science disciplines from across the globe. Colloquia provide an opportunity for researchers at all career stages to receive feedback from experienced experimentalists. 19 ECRs presented their experimental projects (2017/2018). • Annual Flagship International Conference (IMEBESS) is now in its 6th year. 2018 conference was hosted at the EUI in Florence with c. 170 papers over 3 days. • CESS maintains dedicated labs for Oxford researchers in China, India, Chile and Oxford; a dedicated global lab subject pool of approximately 10,000 subjects; and an online subject pool of about 5,000 subjects world-wide.
Sondra L Hausner	Theology and Religion Faculty	JFF Main	Shamanic Healing in South Asia	£21,354	<p>We completed a successful year of preliminary research on the dynamics of shamanic healing in South Asia, through an extensive literature review and the development of an initial theoretical template. The post-doctoral researcher was awarded a JRF at Wolfson College as a result of her employment on the project, contributing to her early career professional development. It is hoped that the initial findings of the project will be built upon in due course with an application to the Global Challenges Research Fund of the AHRC.</p>