Consultations

The future strategy for UK biotechnology and biological sciences (deadline: 29 September 2017)

Oxford colleagues are invited to contribute ideas to assist the drafting of a University submission to BBSRC’s consultation on the future strategy for UK biotechnology and biological sciences. Please provide comments by 5pm on Friday 29 September.

> More details
You will need to log in with your SSO to view this page.

Good practice in research commercialisation: request for evidence
The University submitted a response to HEFCE’s request for evidence on existing good practice and key issues in research contracting.

> More details
You will need to log in with your SSO to view this page.

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**Co-ordinated University bids**

**ESRC Transformative Research call (deadline: 9am, 29 September 2017)**

The ESRC has announced a fourth funding round for their [Transformative Research call](https://www.esrc.ac.uk). This call supports projects running for up to 24 months at a maximum of £250,000 FEC. Candidates wishing to participate in the internal selection process must submit a two-page CV and a case for support by **Friday 29 September at 9am** to the Social Sciences Division Research Facilitator.

> More details

**Leverhulme Research Centres 2018 (deadline: noon, 20 October 2017)**

The Leverhulme Trust has invited bids for funding to establish a [Leverhulme Research Centre](https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk). Research Services is coordinating the internal peer review process by which the application from Oxford will be selected. Expressions of interest should be submitted to Kathrin McCann by **noon on Friday 20 October**.

> More details

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**Internal funding**
MRC Confidence in Concept 5 Round 2 (deadline: 28 September 2017)

MRC Confidence in Concept 5 aims to accelerate the transition from discovery research to translational development projects by supporting preliminary work or feasibility studies. The remaining £400k of funding will be allocated in a two-stage application process involving an expression of interest round (via IRAMS) with a deadline of Thursday 28 September followed by a full application round by invitation only.

> More details

Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) (deadline: noon, 17 October 2017)

Applications are invited for the Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF). Funding is available to support individual research projects and interdepartmental strategic bids from across the University in Wellcome-related research areas. Application is online via IRAMS and the deadline for both small (up to £10k) and main (more than £10k) award bids is noon on Tuesday 17 October.

> More details

Events

Open access training, 20 September 2017

The next iSkills Open Access Oxford session will take place on Wednesday 20 September, 11am–noon at the Manor Road Building.

> More details
Policy, processes and resources

COAF block grant update

Oxford’s Charity Open Access Fund Block Grant for 2016–17 has now been fully spent. During September, researchers funded by Arthritis Research UK, Bloodwise, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK or Parkinson’s UK should contact the partner charity directly to request funds for article processing charges (APCs) or other guidance.

> More details

New Oxford Global Research website

The new Oxford Global Research website is now available to support researchers in their research for developing countries. This includes information on funding, a toolkit for research in developing countries, resources to support collaboration, and an overview of the University’s research activity in this area. It is a cross-divisional initiative hosted by Research Services.

> Visit the site

Research Accounts news bulletin

Two new issues of the Research Accounts bulletin have been published.

> More details

New on Funding Insight: winning an AHRC healthcare grant, ESRC-Alan Turing Institute joint fellowships, and the British Society of Geomorphology

Recent Funding Insight articles on Research Professional include:
• Design researchers Colin MacDuff and Alastair Macdonald of the Glasgow School of Art on winning AHRC funding for research into antimicrobial resistance
• Donna Brown, director of academic engagement at the Alan Turing Institute, on ESRC-Turing fellowships for social scientists
• Daniel Parsons of the British Society of Geomorphology on the society’s range of small research grants

REF 2021

HEFCE: REF initial decisions

The four UK higher education funding bodies have published initial decisions on the Research Excellence Framework following the recent consultation, eg impact, weightings and the environment. A further set of decisions will be taken on the remaining aspects of the framework, staff submission and output portability, in the autumn.

> More details

HEFCE: applications invited for REF2021 sub-panel chairs

The UK’s higher education funding bodies are seeking research experts from diverse backgrounds to serve as sub-panel chairs in the second Research Excellence Framework. The application process closes at noon on 11 October 2017.

> More details

HEFCE: sign up to receive updates on REF2021

The REF team at HEFCE has a new email service for news and updates on the 2021 Research Excellence Framework.

> Sign up
Funder news

EC/Horizon 2020 news, Brexit round-up, consultations, events and deadlines: see Oxford Gateway to Europe

For any EC, FP7 and Horizon 2020-related news, consultations, events and deadlines, including factsheets specifically aimed at Oxford researchers and research support staff, please see the Oxford Gateway to Europe website. The website is also regularly updated with the latest about Brexit.

> More details

HEFCE: mainstream quality-related research funding

A worked example of the quality-weighted volume used in the 2017-18 mainstream QR funding method is available to download from HEFCE’s website.

> More details

NERC: new Science Board members appointed

NERC has appointed two new members to its Science Board.

> More details

NIH: policy supporting the Next Generation Researchers initiative

NIH has announced a new policy designed to invest in the next generation of researchers. This requires NIH institutes and centres to prioritise awards that will fund early stage investigators and early established investigators.

> More details

NIHR signs up to WHO initiative on trial registration
NIHR is the latest research funder to sign up to an international joint statement developed by the World Health Organization, pledging to ensure the clinical trials it funds will be registered and their results released.

> More details

**RCUK: Research Councils join force on mental health**

The UK’s seven research councils have announced they will be working together to encourage and strengthen mental health research. A new research agenda has been published to pave the way for cross-council collaboration on mental health in the years ahead.

> More details

**RCUK: second round of Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund engagement begins**

The Knowledge Transfer Network is conducting a second round of consultation to identify further areas in which the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund can best support the UK’s industries and science base.

> More details

**More news from funders on Research Professional**

You can find more news from top research funders on Research Professional.

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The next issue of RS News will be circulated on Thursday 28 September. Please email any contributions to research.services@admin.ox.ac.uk by Monday 25 September.