Research England Engagement Forum

thestudio…, Birmingham
Wednesday 20 February 2019

#REEngage19
Programme

10:30 – 10:45
Welcome

10:45 – 11:15
Plenary: The policy context for universities in 2019
Presented by the Executive Chair of Research England, David Sweeney

11:15 – 11:30
Q&A with Research England’s David Sweeney

11:30 – 11:45
Break

11:45 – 12:00
Plenary: Universities delivering for the economy
Presented by the Chief Executive of the National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB), Joe Marshall

12:00 – 12:45
Panel discussion
Chaired by Research England’s Associate Director of Insight and Engagement, Ben Johnson
Panel members: Research England’s Director of Knowledge Exchange, Alice Frost; Innovate UK’s Head of Regional Engagement, Dean Cook and NCUB’s Joe Marshall

12:45 – 1:45
Lunch

1:45 – 3:15
Facilitated discussions
i) The Place agenda – DISCOVER room
   ii) The Global agenda – INNOVATE room

3:15 – 3:30
Break

3:30 – 4:00
UKRI EU exit update including Q&A
Led by Fiona Armstrong, Deputy Director of Community Engagement at UKRI and Gavin Salisbury, Head of European Funding Policy at UKRI

4:00
Close

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Plenary

Speaker: David Sweeney
Executive Chair of Research England

The policy context for universities in 2019

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UK Research and Innovation

- More than £6.5 billion per year
- 3900 research and business grants each year
- 151 universities funded
- 38 research and innovation performing organisations
UKRI vision

To be an outstanding research and innovation agency

Knowledge & Understanding
Push the frontiers of human knowledge & insight

Economy
Deliver economic impact and create better jobs

Society
Create social & cultural impact by supporting our society to become stronger and healthier
Context: rising funding

**Illustrative UKRI budget 2016/17 to 2021/22**

- Additional funding from Autumn Statement 2016 and Budget 2017
- UKRI Capital & Resource Funding

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The Government has committed to reaching 2.4% of GDP investment in R&D by 2027, and to reaching 3% in the longer term. As a first step it will invest an additional £2.3bn over what was previously planned in 2021/22.
Our mission

Research England creates and sustains the conditions for a healthy and dynamic research and knowledge exchange system in English higher education institutions.
Our government funding for financial year 2018-19

- Quality-related Research (QR) £1,540m
- QR uplift £20m
- Global Challenges Research Fund £55m
- UK Research Partnership Investment Fund £133m
- Higher Education Innovation Funding £210m (of which £47m from OfS teaching grant)
- HEI Research Capital £116m
- HE Research Capital (HERC) England £87m
- CCF £25m
- Other funding £29m

= Research England total £2,217m
Role of Research England

- Institution-focused funding
- System intelligence and analytics
- Engagement
- Partnership working e.g. OfS and devolved administrations
RE Current priorities

• Spending Review
• Research assessment
  - Forum for Responsible Research Metrics
  - REF 2021 evaluation
  - Future planning
• Knowledge Exchange Framework
• Place & local growth
  - UKRI Strength in Places Fund (delivering in partnership with Innovate UK)
• Commercialisation/business relationships
• New funding opportunities: E3 Fund, I3, RED Fund, SIPF Wave 2, RPIF Round 7 (?)
• Balanced funding advice
• Infrastructure
• Open research
• EDI
• Research Integrity and Misconduct
• Public Engagement
• International
Challenges for the HE sector

Individual and collective:
• Fees review
• Significant commitments to R&D funding
• Lingering uncertainty
• Policy change Regulatory change
• Competition
The role of institutions

• Critical role
• Respond to and address local, national, and global challenges
• Best placed to lever significant benefit to economies and societies
• Need to demonstrate value and impact
• Exhibit collaboration when necessary
Current priorities

- **Strategic prioritisation**: Where do we focus our efforts?
- **Value**: Where will we add it; how do we do it; how do we show it and why?
- **Funders’ policies**: How do we access and implement? E.g. EDI, safeguarding, research integrity, open science, REF, KEF…
- **Partnership working**: How should we collaborate; partner; participate; what does good look like?
- **People and financial challenges**: What about our staff; what about the cost?
Engagement Forum aims to:

- Better understand:
  - Challenges at institutional level and across the sector
  - How universities already serve the needs of their local areas, industry, and global society
  - How agendas are shaped by our universities locally, nationally and globally
  - Capability and capacity
- Create opportunities for information and knowledge exchange
Q&A
Universities delivering for the economy

Dr Joe Marshall
Chief Executive Officer
Universities delivering for the economy

Looking beyond the Romans
• Understanding different perspectives in universities delivering for the economy.

A short sermon on (p) reaching the 2.4%
• Identifying the opportunities and risks for universities in meeting the 2.4% target.
What have universities ever done for us...
Preaching to the converted
but the importance of universities as:
Universities: a constant in a sea of change

• Political, economic and societal changes are disrupting, challenging and defying the status quo.

• But our institutions (universities, businesses, public organisations) have weathered, adapted and ultimately flourished in different situations.

• But universities do need to evolve and adapt to ensure they remain relevant and impactful.
A business perspective: valuing the contribution of universities

A man with many of your futures in his hands (CEO at L&G)

“University-initiated innovation and startups are the lifeblood of any country’s future economy”

“Backing academic research is a way for companies not only to write the future, but to make it a better one for all.”
An economic perspective: capturing the contribution of universities
A place perspective: capturing the benefits of collaborations

Collaborations are happening across England and bringing and driving benefits to different businesses

- Exeter & Met Office: using big data to grow SMEs
- Ørsted & Durham: global centre of excellence
- Sheffield & McLaren: aiding a local supply chain
- HSBC & Birmingham: new home, new alliances
(P)Reaching 2.4%
(P)reaching beyond the converted

Drivers clear, delivery is challenging
75% of all R&D in the UK done by just 400 companies.

• In the context of 2.4% target, all mechanisms need to be used as a way encourage, reach and attract in more and new users.
• Need to understand business (and other organisations) drivers for wanting/needingly having to collaborate with universities.
Preaching to those needing converting

UK’s performance at research commercialisation
• As good as other international comparisons and need to celebrate not berated our successes.

Retaining the UK’s attractiveness to talent & capital
• The UK has been open to global talent pools and that has attracted more people and capital to follow

Harnessing universities collective strengths
• Provide the scale and access to patient capital.
Preaching to the troops

Despite the criticisms, the contradictions and challenges facing universities, the Industrial Strategy puts universities in a critical position.

Move to deeper, multifaceted, strategic partnerships
Top down: supply chain driven innovation
Bottom-up: spin-outs, scale-ups, often acquired
Grand challenges: cross-disciplinary frontiers
Life in 2027

• Much is made of the target 2.4% in and of itself. But an interesting set of questions emerge about what a 2.4% economy looks, operates, feels like.
• More companies investing, doing, driving, adopting, developing research and innovation.
• More demand for higher, interdisciplinary as well as technical and applied skills.

Array of opportunities for universities
Panel discussion

Chair: Ben Johnson, Associate Director of Insight and Engagement at Research England

Panel members: Alice Frost, Director of Knowledge Exchange at Research England; Dean Cook, Head of Regional Engagement at Innovate UK; Joe Marshall, Chief Executive of NCUB

- How do universities achieve a meaningful interface between research and knowledge exchange?
- Research commercialisation: what are the barriers and incentives?
- Working with SMEs – how can we evidence and value this?

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Facilitated Discussions

The Place agenda

Chair: Rachel Tyrrell, Associate Director of Knowledge Exchange at Research England

Contributions from Dean Cook of Innovate UK and Kevin Richardson, Local Growth Consultant at Research England

The Global agenda

Chair: Steven Hill, Director of Research at Research England

Contributions from Vivienne Stern, Director of Universities UK International (UUKi); Jeremy Phillips, Reader in Physical Volcanology at the University of Bristol; David Prior, Director of Research at Falmouth University; and Paula Eves, Research Development & Operations Manager at the University of Lincoln

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EU Exit Update
Fiona Armstrong and Gavin Salisbury
• The ambition of UKRI is to maintain and strengthen the UK’s leading position as the best place in the world to research, innovate and grow business.

• UKRI support environments for new ideas, discoveries and innovations to flourish, enabling the products, solutions, policies and industries that will shape our future.

• UKRI plays a large part in the UK’s international reputation for excellence. We are central to delivering research and innovation for economic growth and social impact in the UK and beyond.

• UKRI generates and nurtures collaboration and facilitates knowledge exchange within the academic, industrial and public-sector communities by investing in and connecting skilled people, environments and infrastructure.

• UKRI funds world-leading research which attracts investment from UK and global partners. We support a broad remit vital to all sectors of the economy.
The UK Government has committed to **underwrite** funding for Horizon 2020 grants for UK applicants; this underwrite has also been **extended** to cover eligible grants for UK participants successfully bid for from exit day until the end of 2020, even if notified of success after exit; this would also apply in the event of a no deal scenario.

UKRI was **announced** in August 2018 by the UK government as the partner of choice to deliver the underwrite if it needs to come into effect.

More information about Horizon 2020 can be found in the government’s **Q and A** which provides the latest position...
What is the underwrite intended to cover?

Underwrite guarantee
1. All successful UK bids to Horizon 2020 (H2020) submitted before EU Exit, and thereafter for the life of the project. May also include pre-financing for specific H2020 projects in cases where the absence of the EU pre-financing (or need to return funding to the EU) could create hardship or cashflow problems for recipients

Extension to the underwrite
2. All successful competitive bids to H2020 calls open to third country participation submitted after EU Exit until the end of the H2020 programme – applies for the lifetime of qualifying projects
Registering on the portal

**When?**
Now, but it will remain open – please encourage businesses and other beneficiaries to register

**What?**
UK-based beneficiaries register on the UKRI H2020 portal [https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/eu-grant/overview](https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/eu-grant/overview) It takes about 10 minutes to register one project

**Why?**
UKRI needs initial information about you and your project, and by registering it means that we can contact you directly when we need to

**What next?**
UKRI will keep you updated about what you need to do next, in terms of submitting documentation and information via the email you supplied to us via the portal
Concerns and questions already raised with us

- Continuity of funding
- Maintaining international networks
- Mobility of researchers
- Future participation in Horizon Europe programmes
- Planning for deal and no deal scenarios
- Other issues?
• What preparations are you making?
• What are your main concerns?
• What sorts of questions are you being asked from across your institution?
• Concerns from international partners?
• Who should we be talking with?
• Other questions and issues?
Save the date

Our next Engagement Forum will be on 26 September 2019
London

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Thank you for attending