

RCUK's knowledge transfer and economic impact strategy

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UK Research base

**“UK research remains the most productive and efficient
in the G8, continuing to rank as second only in the world
to the USA on leading scientific indicators”**

International Benchmarking Study of UK Research Performance 2009



A healthy and vibrant research base

- Vibrant, flexible and sustainable research base enables creativity, innovation and ambition to flourish
- Integrated research base = international comparative advantage
- Confident and adventurous research environment
- Access to world-leading facilities
- Develop talented people



Public Expectations

Increased investment in research



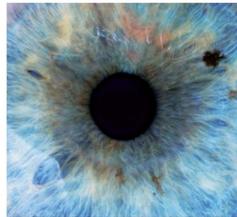
Increased expectations of benefits from research



Increased obligation to *demonstrate* a greater impact from research



RCUK Framework



Research Councils UK
Excellence
with impact



 RESEARCH COUNCILS UK


RESEARCH COUNCILS UK



Productive economy

- Digital economy
- Resilient economy
- Global uncertainties

Healthy society

- Lifelong health and wellbeing
- Connected communities

Sustainable world

- Living with environmental change
- Energy
- Food security


RESEARCH COUNCILS UK

RCUK Impact Strategy

**Our vision is for *excellence with impact*;
the UK to be as renowned for the impact
of its research as it is for its excellence**

- 1. Leading and engaging key stakeholders**
- 2. Maximising research impact**
- 3. Delivering highly skilled people**



The Impact Strategy emphasises:

- Focus
- Coordination
- Speed



RCUK works with over 2500 businesses in sectors ranging from engineering to insurance, broadcasting to biotechnology.



RCUK works across government and the public sector, directly providing the evidence base for policy



Achieving impact

- To advance knowledge, understanding and technology, and provide trained researchers we need to build partnerships that enhance take-up and impact, thereby contributing to the:
 - economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom,
 - effectiveness of public services and policy, and
 - enhancement of the quality of life and creative output of the nation.



What do we know about impact?

- UK research makes a huge contribution to society and the economy: both UK and global impacts
- For the Research Councils we find:
 - Diversity of impacts across portfolio
 - Multiplicity of processes to achieve impact
 - Both expected impacts and serendipity
 - Impacts manifest at many scales: project, person, organisation etc
 - Time lags and multiplier effects
 - Researchers and research are enriched by impact
 - **However**, considerable scope both to enhance the delivery of impact and to articulate both its potential impact and achievements more strongly



Maximising Impact

- Many and varied routes to impact on:
 - Public
 - Policy
 - Business
- Factors (sometimes) influencing the likelihood and speed of impact:
 - Right project at right time
 - Proactive approach: within, beyond and after projects
 - Involvement of third parties, particularly as collaborating users



Recent Developments

- RCUK Expectations for Societal and Economic Impact
- KT Portal
 - www.rcuk.ac.uk/innovation/ktportal
- Impact summaries within peer review



RCUK Statement of Expectations

- We provide flexibility and autonomy to researchers and universities
- In return, these should maximise impact by:
 - Disseminating findings widely
 - Engaging with public and users and build networks
 - Exploiting results where appropriate
 - Ensuring that researchers and students develop skills to match career paths



Knowledge Transfer Portal

Welcome to the RCUK Knowledge Transfer Portal: your gateway to Research Councils' activities and schemes in knowledge transfer.

What is knowledge transfer? Knowledge transfer describes how knowledge and ideas move from the knowledge source to the potential users of that knowledge. The Research Councils encourage knowledge transfer by supporting schemes and activities to transfer good ideas, research results and skills between, for example, universities and other research organisations, business, the third sector and/or the wider community.

The RCUK Knowledge Transfer Portal offers a single point of access for those in, e.g., academia, business, public, private and/or third sectors, who want to find out about Research Council knowledge transfer schemes and activities, and how to get involved. You will find links to Research Council funding opportunities, current events, networks, and training courses, just to name a few.

Spend a few moments exploring the site – you never know what opportunities you might find!



Collaborative Research

Collaborative Research is academic research undertaken in partnership with other universities or research organisations, with business, with government and/or with the third sector (e.g. charities). Collaborative research can take a number of forms, from a basic grant between two partners, through to a complex multi-partner research programme.

[Collaborative Research Grants](#) | [Joint Strategic Programmes](#) | [RCUK Priority Themes](#)



Collaborative Training

Collaborative Training enables researchers to develop the relevant skills to undertake excellent research, work effectively in business (and/or the government or other important sectors), and exploit the outcomes of their research. Training opportunities include vocational courses, collaborative studentship projects between academia and industry, and training in entrepreneurship.

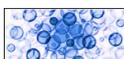
[Collaborative Doctoral Studentships](#) | [Training for Business & Policy](#)



People & Information Exchange

People & Information Exchange recognises that individuals are at the heart of knowledge transfer. All Research Councils encourage increased levels of university-business interaction; all support the exchange of researchers between academia and industry, and stimulate partnerships between business and researchers. This includes support for brokering and networking activities, fellowship schemes that enable researchers to work in a commercial environment, and support for Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs).

[Networks](#) | [People Exchange](#) | [Brokerage](#) | [Evidence for Public Policy](#) | [Data Products & Services](#)



Commercialisation & Development

Commercialisation & Development includes a number of activities to encourage researchers for to take their ideas further down the route to exploitation, and to reward them for excellence in innovation. The Research Councils' Follow-on Fund (plus a range of other Council-specific schemes) supports 'proof-of-concept' type work, the RCUK Business Plan Competition provides training and mentoring in the development of business skills, and Enterprise Training develops researchers' entrepreneurial skills. Research Councils also support a number of awards.

[Support for Enterprise](#) | [Awards & Incentives](#) | [Follow-on Funding](#) | [Enterprise Training](#)

Peer Review Operational Changes

- Applicants to explain:
 - Academic Summary: how will this research contribute to knowledge?
 - Impact Summary: Who will benefit from this research? How?
 - Impact Planning: What you will do to ensure benefit?



Will the impact plan affect the funding decision?

- Yes it could
- The primary criterion is still excellent research
- Beyond that, a number of considerations
 - Of which the impact plan is one
- Likely to affect decisions, for example...
 - At the borderline
 - Where the call specifically asks for user engagement
 - Where clear pathways to impact have not been appropriately addressed

