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must plug evidence gaps – p4

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Gates offers his do's and don'ts – p6

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Newton Fund set to double by 2021

Governance board to decide on extra countries in February

THE NEWTON FUND FOR research projects between the UK and developing countries is to roughly double in size by the end of this parliament.

A briefing note sent by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and seen by *Research Fortnight* says that the Newton Fund will increase from £75 million a year to £150m a year by 2021. The increase is expected to be gradual at first, followed by a more significant jump in 2020-21. This would take the total cost of the fund to around £735m, rather than the initially planned £375m.

"Following its successful launch 18 months ago, the UK government is significantly increasing the funding for the Newton Fund to enable the UK to build deeper and wider scientific partnerships with countries in support of their economic development and social welfare," the circular says.

A spokesman from BIS confirmed that the fund would be increased but would not confirm by how much until after an official announcement. Such an announcement was expected during science minister Jo Johnson's visit to India in December, but instead Johnson merely said that the fund would run until 2021, rather than 2019.

It is possible that the announcement has been delayed due to ongoing conversations around the design of the Global Challenges Research Fund, which was announced in the spending review on 25 November 2015. The two funds are likely to be closely linked, but BIS has said that they will be treated as two separate funding streams.

Another reason for the hold-up could be that the list of partner countries, which will pay the same amount into the fund as the UK, is not yet finalised. The Newton Fund's governance board is due to meet in February, when it is expected to decide on whether the fund will invite more countries or increase engagement with its existing 15 participants. The rules of the fund say that partner countries must be on the OECD's Official Development Assistance list, have a fairly developed research and higher education system and be able to provide match-funding. Political stability is also seen as an important factor.

by **Cristina Gallardo**

cgnews@ResearchResearch.com

One country whose participation looks certain is Kenya. The circular says that the country has agreed to join on a trilateral basis with South Africa, with its first bids being considered in 2017-18. A source close to the fund says that Kenya would start by doing a small amount of work in collaboration with the British Council.

At its February meeting the board will also set the contributions of partner countries. The aim is to provide firm figures for 2016-17 and provisional ones for the following two years. A source close to government, who asked not to be named, says that these decisions are likely to be influenced by the maturity of the relationships of UK organisations—such as Research Councils UK, Innovate UK, the national academies and the British Council—with their counterparts in partner countries.

Pat Ng, international grants manager at the British Academy, welcomes the larger fund. "The Newton Fund is like a big machine; it takes a while to start it up, but once you've got that momentum, you can get so much further," he says. "The British Academy would welcome the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with the countries we are already working with, because once those relationships have started and embedded you can really go on to do some very good projects. But we are also keen to explore the option of working with some new countries."

Gerry Bloom—a research fellow at the Institute of Development Studies and principal investigator at a China-based centre on antimicrobial resistance supported by the Newton Fund—says that the Chinese government is putting a lot of money on the table. "The test of the effectiveness of the fund will be on whether the funding agencies become very good at working with each other, and can jointly identify priorities and fund research that is relevant to both countries," he says. "It will work well as long as the UK invests enough effort in building those links."

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Big Oil blues

The campaign to persuade the Wellcome Trust to divest from fossil fuels is hitting the wrong target

Over the next 12 months *The Guardian* newspaper's Keep it in the Ground campaign will step up its efforts to name and shame universities, the Wellcome Trust and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation into giving up their investments in fossil fuel companies. The campaign is attracting cross-disciplinary support, with signatories including the economist Thomas Picketty and the editors of *The Lancet* and the *BMJ*. Prince Charles is also thought to be supportive.

So far, Wellcome director Jeremy Farrar has engaged with his critics. He has looked for common ground with the campaign, for example on the scientific consensus about what needs to be done to slow down dangerous global warming. But on the critical question of divestment, Farrar is declining to change the trust's position.

Under the circumstances, that is the sensible thing to do. With oil trading at \$32 a barrel, energy companies are making nothing like the profits of old. If oil prices stay low, that may well accelerate a shift to alternative—and potentially more lucrative—forms of energy. What no one wants is a stampede of exiting investors to spook the markets and affect energy supplies with consequences that cannot be predicted.

At the same time, in common with those universities that are also not divesting, Farrar and his colleagues recognise the threat from climate change, but understand that a solution needs open lines of communication to the top levels of Big Oil. Giving up these investments will deprive them of such a voice.

The deeper problem with the divestment campaign is that it is aiming at a relatively easy target. The size of Wellcome's fossil fuel holdings is more than £350 million. This pales in comparison with some of its weightier investments. As of 30 September 2015 the trust had £2.4 billion in hedge funds and £4.8bn in private equity. These are popular forms of investment because their performance typically beats that of publicly quoted companies. But the problem is that these investments are, for the most part, harder to track. They could, for all we know, be investing in activities that do more harm than good. This needs investigating.

Fossil fuel companies are a problem for sure, but those traded on stock exchanges are at least transparent. Shares can be bought and sold on an open market; accounts are published. When mistakes happen or when laws are broken, questions can be asked at annual general meetings and scrutinised by government, parliament, regulatory bodies and the media.

In contrast, hedge funds and private equity holdings are more opaque; and the profit motive is the most important consideration in how they work. They operate within the law; but have no need, nor desire, to sign up to sustainable codes of behaviour.

Keep it in the Ground must now chase these bigger and more secretive funds, which may well be funding environmentally unsustainable business activities. Without this necessary scrutiny of hedge funds and private equity, the much-desired transition to sustainable development will remain little more than a pipe dream.

elsewhere

"There's a certain amount of jealousy and a certain amount of anxiety about whether they might be better."

When asked whether scientists see engineers as second rate, *Prince Phillip* suggests to Today programme guest editor and former BP chief John Browne that this could be down to the green-eyed monster. Radio 4, 2/1/16.

"To scientists, this is of greater value than an Olympic gold medal."

Ryoji Noyori, former president of the Japanese research institute Riken, expresses his excitement about a Riken team discovering one of four chemical elements that had not previously been observed. *Nature*, 4/1/16.

"It's clear that European Union membership is neither a necessary or sufficient condition for good economic growth—domestic policy is far more important."

The head of public policy at the Institute of Economic Affairs, *Ryan Bourne*, is found to be part of a pro-Brexit minority in a survey of 100 economists. *Financial Times*, 3/1/16.

"Reputation is a funny thing. Scandal can destroy it overnight...But reputation can also slip away, unnoticed, as the world's attention shifts elsewhere."

The Economist argues that the Nobel prizes may need a serious shake-up to stay relevant. *The Economist*, 2/1/16.

"If we're any good at what we do, we present science in a full human context."

Deborah Blum, director of the Knight Science Journalism Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, says journalists must remember that science is not inhuman or dispassionate. *Guardian*, 30/12/15.

"He's drawn back from bloodletting, without setting out any unifying political strategy. Further conflict seems guaranteed."

Jeremy Corbyn's reshuffle shows he hasn't decided whether to unite the party on the issues its members and MPs agree on or leave the two factions to fight to the death, writes former Labour MP *John Denham*. *New Statesman's The Stagers* blog, 6/1/16.

decade

"It's a group of quite remarkable egos. But we have many shared concerns."

Malcolm Grant, chairman of the Russell Group, says that getting the group to agree on what should happen after the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise is tricky.

Research Fortnight, 21 December 2005

what's going on

Wales to get its first Catapult

Chancellor George Osborne announced the creation of the Compound Semiconductor Applications Catapult on 7 January. The £50-million Catapult centre will have its headquarters in Wales, making it the second Catapult centre to be based outside England. The government said that the global market value for compound semiconductors—used in Wi-Fi communications, high-efficiency LED lighting and health diagnostics—could reach £125 billion by 2020.

REF review gets underway

British Academy president Nicholas Stern is to lead a review of the Research Excellence Framework that will consider alternative models of research assessment. The steering group is made up of eight academics and Gareth Davies, director-general for knowledge and innovation at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The review is expected to report in summer 2016 and will supersede the consultation on the REF that the Higher Education Funding Council for England had been due to launch towards the end of 2015.

BBC ignores culture of social science, academy says

The Academy of Social Sciences has said that the BBC must broaden its definition of science if it is to cover health, public finance and migration more accurately. In its response to the BBC Trust's review of the organisation's use of statistics, the academy says that without a sufficient backdrop of social science, the BBC will not be able to emphasise the accuracy of the data it uses.

Government must consider impact of research on teaching

The UK government lacks an understanding of how academics' research obligations conflict with their teaching requirements, Higher Education Policy Institute president Bahram Bekhradnia has said. Writing in Hepi's response to the consultation on the green paper on higher education, Bekhradnia says that government must consider the impact of increased research activity on teaching. He adds that it is "astonishing" that the green paper doesn't refer to the impact of tuition fees on research students and academic careers.

Former Newsnight editor to head Nuffield Foundation

Tim Gardam, principal of St Anne's College at the University of Oxford, will take over from Josh Hillman as chief executive of the Nuffield Foundation on 1 September. Before Oxford, Gardam worked in broadcasting for 25 years, during which time he edited Panorama and Newsnight.

GO Science programme funding falls

The Government Office for Science's 2014-15 programme funding shrank by almost a fifth compared with the previous year, falling to £1.4 million, the body's annual report has said. GO Science put the reduction down to "the improved ability to obtain expert science advice at little or no cost", as well as the fact that a number of activities were delivered in-house. The report also said that a decision on the office's next foresight project has been deferred.

St Andrews to rehouse marine research facility

A permanent home for the University of St Andrews' Scottish Oceans Institute is to be constructed to replace the outdated Gatty Marine facility on the Fife Coast. The university said that the £10-million facility would have a "smart aquarium" and a public outreach centre. The university is raising funds for the premises and will apply for planning permission early this year.

news

Scientists call for concerted effort on flood prevention

Environment researchers say that much more work is needed to provide government with the complex evidence it needs, following severe floods across the UK.

"We understand a lot of the physics but the landscape is alive and always changing," says Hannah Cloke, a hydrologist at the University of Reading. "It's difficult to understand how water moves from where it falls."

There has been much debate about how floods could have been prevented after three major storms caused an estimated £5 billion of damage in Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Yorkshire, Dumfries and Galloway in Scotland, and counties Down and Tyrone in Northern Ireland.

One widely discussed idea is to replant uplands with trees to increase the rate of water absorption. Alan Jenkins, deputy director of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, says that this might help local areas but there is little evidence to show that it would have wider benefits. "We simply don't have enough answers," he says, adding that his centre is launching a review of reforestation studies to help address this knowledge gap.

Chris Huntingford, a climate modeller at the CEH, says that the best way to iron out uncertainties in flood-management policy would be a "true UK-wide effort" by universities, laboratories and the Met Office to understand which methods will offset the most rainfall. He adds

by James Field

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that academics should do more to engage with others campaigning on issues relating to flooding, such as local landowners. "Those who live in these places and work the land—their intuition carries a lot of weight," he says.

However, scientists' best efforts could be stymied by budget cuts at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which could make it hard for the department to make use of research; a 15 per cent reduction in Defra's resource spending was announced in November's spending review. "Cuts to the agency are short-sighted," Cloke says, "because the next time a flood comes along you won't have access to the best evidence."

Cloke says that both Defra and the Environment Agency do have processes that allow them to take evidence on board properly, but Nick Reynard, science area lead for natural hazards at the CEH, says that academics should take some of the responsibility. "We need to better understand what they want, and tailor what we do to answering scientific questions while making it relevant for the agency and for Defra," he says.

Defra refused *Research Fortnight's* requests for interviews with its independent chief scientific adviser, Ian Boyd, and with floods minister Rory Stewart.

Ethics of gene editing to dominate the year ahead

The ethical debate on the use of gene-editing techniques is likely to trump the science, academics have said.

The controversial technique will dominate the biological research agenda this year, beginning with assessment of the application to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority from scientists at the Francis Crick Institute to use the CRISPR-Cas9 technique in their research. The HFEA is meeting later in January to discuss the proposal. In March a decision is expected on whether gene-editing technologies should be considered under regulations that govern genetically modified organisms in the European Union. Researchers will watch both outcomes keenly.

But much will depend on the way that the biosecurity and ethical considerations are handled, says Mark Downs, chief executive of the Royal Society of Biology. "There must be a really good dialogue between scientists and the public, and with social scientists too," he says. Such debates will ultimately affect policy and could form a template for deciding on actions on other issues such as climate change, he says.

by Anna McKie

amnews@ResearchResearch.com

Mark Caulfield, chief scientist at the 100,000 Genomes Project, agrees. "There are a lot of ethical aspects to be deliberated and studied before employing the technology on humans—if at all."

The use of health data is also likely to make headlines in 2016. At the end of January, the UK's national data guardian Fiona Caldicott is set to announce the outcome of her review into developing guidelines for the protection of personal data and patient consent. Life-sciences minister George Freeman says that he and health secretary Jeremy Hunt intend to proceed with plans that would allow medical records and health information to be used more often and more easily to support research. Declan Mulkeen, chief science officer at the Medical Research Council, says that the council expects increased access to health data to be one of the biggest changes for health researchers in 2016. "We hope to know most of the answers before we firm up budgetary plans for health informatics and so on," he says.

Social scientists look to prove their worth in the big policy debates of 2016

The New Year offers social scientists the opportunity to demonstrate the importance of their work by providing evidence to policymakers amid debates around membership of the European Union, the refugee crisis, immigration and national security.

Roger Goodman—chairman of the council of the Academy of Social Sciences and head of the Social Sciences Division at the University of Oxford—picks the UK's referendum on EU membership as the research topic of 2016. "The social sciences can introduce some real and robust evidence," he says. "It will be a very difficult and sometimes very emotional debate."

Another hot topic for academics is likely to be security studies. Paul Taylor, director of the Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats at Lancaster University, says that extremist ideologies, protective security, risk assessment and online behaviour will all see increased attention. This year the centre, which launched last October, will hire about 20 researchers and PhD students and open two funding calls.

The Institute of Fiscal Studies will be assessing inequality in the UK, devolved Scottish funding, schools and the sugar tax. The institute's director Paul Johnson

by **Cristina Gallardo**

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says: "There are significant gaps in empirical research in education and in a lot of public finance areas, which we are looking to fill."

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is expected to prioritise funding for research on environmental change and urban transformations in 2016. It is also likely to promote work that makes good use of big data. The announcement of the winner of its Centre for Doctoral Training for emerging forms of data is due in September.

But social scientists must also keep a close eye on policy issues that affect researchers, says James Wilsdon, director of policy, impact and engagement at the University of Sheffield. The implementations of the recommendations of the Nurse review and a potential reform of the Research Excellence Framework are just two such areas.

Josh Hillman, acting director of the Nuffield Foundation—which this year plans to distribute £6 million in grants—agrees, saying that he is concerned about cuts to the ESRC's budget. "If the social sciences were to receive a weaker settlement we would not be able to pick up the slack for that," he says.

Academics unfazed by slump in oil prices

Petroleum scientists and engineers have said they are certain that they are offering the oil industry what it needs as oil prices continue to fall.

On 6 January, the cost of oil dropped to a 12-year low of \$32 a barrel after months of decline. Newly cautious oil companies are now laying off staff and curbing research spending.

"It is a threat to our research partnerships," says Nick Schofield, senior lecturer in igneous and petroleum geology at the University of Aberdeen, "but the counterargument I make to companies is that now is the best time to carry out technical work. Then, when prices rise and work becomes more profitable, we will have the knowledge to proceed."

The university has a long and close relationship with the oil industry, but Schofield admits that this closeness can make it difficult to ask for money. "You phone a colleague in industry one week and the next week they've lost their job," he says. In such circumstances, he says, it's best not to chase the cash. Instead, Schofield says he lets companies know what work is being carried out and how they can get involved again when things turn around.

Although industry-funded scholarships are on the decline, John Underhill, director of the Natural

by **James Field**

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Environment Research Council's Centre for Doctoral Training in Oil and Gas, says that well-trained postdocs are increasingly in demand. "They need people who can hit the ground running with training in environmental impact and regulation," he says. NERC, he notes, has recognised this need and in December agreed to fund the centre for a further year, extending its life to 2021.

John Redfern, chair of petroleum geoscience at the University of Manchester, says that the research interests of oil companies have changed. "During the times of high oil prices, companies were apt to jump into new licences without undertaking the most rigorous regional studies," he says. Now, they need to undertake more extensive analyses. "It's about pushing the interpretation of data beyond that achieved so far: the new thinking and ideas that universities are all about."

Schofield says that he'd like to see companies funding joint projects, to make the money go that little bit further. But he adds that he is confident that the current period of belt-tightening will not have too much of an effect. "We've seen these cycles before," he says. "People I know were doing this work in the 1990s, when oil was \$7 a barrel, and companies were still paying for work then."

interview abdallah daar

Grand advice

Cristina Gallardo asks Abdallah Daar, the former adviser to Bill Gates on grand challenges, what the UK government should consider when creating its own fund.

You've worked on grand challenges programmes for more than a decade. What have you learned?

It's a very powerful approach. It's exciting and efficient, and leads to ideas that nobody had thought of before. You see impact quite early on. Global health has been transformed by these programmes.

How did you first get involved?

In 2002, my colleague Peter Singer and I published a paper in *Nature Genetics* identifying the top 10 biotechnology challenges for improving health in the developing world. Bill Gates was about to launch a grand challenges programme into health R&D and he approached us. We defined a grand challenge as a specific critical barrier that, if removed, would help solve an important health problem in the developing world, with a high likelihood of global impact through widespread implementation.

You then helped set up the Grand Challenges Canada programme. What difficulties did you face?

You need to understand that this is slightly riskier than the traditional way of funding research and innovation. There is no guarantee of success. You are innovating rapidly so you have to learn fast and be able to change direction very quickly if needed. Another thing to take into account is not to dilute your brand too much. Things can get very exciting and you might want to fund many different things, but you need to stay focused and keep the translation costs low.

CV Abdallah Daar

- * **2009-present** Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of Grand Challenges Canada.
- * **2009-2015** Chief science and ethics officer of Grand Challenges Canada.
- * **2001-present** Professor of public health sciences and surgery, University of Toronto
- * **1988-2000** Professor of surgery, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
- * **1985-1988** Founding director, Emirates Institute for Medical Research, United Arab Emirates
- * **1983** PhD in immunology, Nuffield Department of Surgery, University of Oxford

How did the Gates Foundation and the Canadian programmes differ?

For Grand Challenges Canada, we decided that 85 per cent of the principal investigators that we funded should be based in developing countries. The majority of researchers funded by Gates were in the developed world, and they were usually teams from big laboratories that were more focused on basic sciences and infectious diseases. We identified priorities in very neglected areas such as global mental health. We also introduced what we called integrated innovation: a combination of science and technological innovation, social innovation and business innovation.

A project that takes all of these three into account is more likely to have impact.

How did you address criticism from researchers working in a more traditional way?

In the early days, we were criticised by some researchers who failed to get funding or who did not understand what we were trying to do. You can't do something big and transformative and not expect some criticism. But that dies down as you show results. Some people said that the Canadian government should not spend aid money on this kind of work, but the answer to that is that this is a very small part of the aid budget, which in the long term can lead to a very big impact and return. It took people time to understand that.

The UK is about to launch its own Global Challenges Research Fund—how should it ensure it doesn't overlap too much with others?

Each country should identify its own priorities. But every year there is a big grand challenges meeting and there is an in-built affinity among funders working on grand challenges.

How do you think the fund should be governed?

I would say that not less than 50 per cent of the scientific advisory board should be from low and middle-income countries as defined by World Bank criteria. The representation in the governing board depends on other constraints, because you also want industry, funders and government. But you should aim to have at least two members from the developing world.

What advice do you have for the UK team?

Grand challenges is just a process, a platform. You need to identify the priorities separately, build consensus among those priorities, and then use the grand challenges approach to make an impact. What is important is to build consensus—if you are going to hand over money to an agency or a research council you need to have some consensus among all the people involved about what needs to be done.

Is there anything you would advise the UK not to do?

In government programmes there is often a rush to award the funding, but I would tell the UK not to rush too much once the money is committed to the research councils.

More to say? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com

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focus points

Issue no. 470

EPSRC energy demand

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, as part of the RCUK Energy Programme, invites applications for its call on manufacturing the future: reducing industrial energy demand. The budget is worth £4 million [22].

Innovate UK future retail

Innovate UK, through the IC tomorrow programme, invites proposals for its future retail competition. Businesses may receive up to £35,000 each [31].

NERC/BBSRC agriculture

The Natural Environment Research Council and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, under their sustainable agriculture research and innovation club initiative, invite applications to participate in a two-day interactive strategic workshop, with the aim of funding up to six projects to a value of £200,000 each [33].

Dengue research

The British Council, via the Newton-Ungu Omar Fund, and the Malaysian PlatCOM Ventures, via the high impact programme 2, invite proposals for their dengue tech challenge. Grants for UK applicants are worth up to £180,000 each [36].

deadlines

Opportunities from previous issues of *Research Fortnight*, listed by closing date. European Commission and associated funders marked **EU**.

Each entry is followed by a Web id

January

21 AHRC international placement scheme – short-term fellowships at the Harry Ransom Center 1183123

AHRC international placement scheme – short-term fellowships at the Huntington Library 1166330

AHRC international placement scheme – short-term fellowships at the Smithsonian Institution 1183124

AHRC international placement scheme – short-term fellowships at the Yale Center for British Art 1183125

AHRC international placement scheme at the Library of Congress 210956

EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency collaborative partnerships in the sport field 1176977

EU H2020 Societal Challenges: H2020-SPIRE-2016 sustainable process industries 1184865

EU H2020 Industrial Leadership H2020-EEB-2016 energy efficient buildings – topics 1, 2, 3 and 4 1184869

EU H2020 Industrial Leadership H2020-NMBP/BIOTEC-2016 nanotechnologies, advanced materials, biotechnology and production – topics NMBP 8, 11, 21, 24, 27, 30 to 33, 36, BIOTEC 1 and 4 1186151

EU H2020: Societal Challenges H2020-EE-2016 energy efficiency – topics 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 17 1184829

EU H2020: Societal Challenges H2020-FoF-2016 factories of the future 1184858

EU H2020: Societal Challenges H2020-FoF-2016 factories of the future – topics 11, 13 1185026

InnoCentive conquer paralysis now challenge 1183519

Innovate UK smart grants 1162409

MRC/DFID implementation research for improved adolescent health in low- and middle-income countries 1187261

NIHR cost-effectiveness of cascade testing for familial hypercholesterolaemia 1186776

NIHR health technology assessment – commissioned call: 14/229 1185197

NIHR health technology assessment programme – commissioned call: 15/172 1187600

NIHR health technology assessment programme – commissioned call: 15/175 1187592

NIHR health technology assessment programme – commissioned call: 15/174 1187591

22 Dystonia Society seed grant scheme 1175817

ERA-Net Bioenergy joint call on biobased economy projects 1187195

Mercator Ocean design and execution of research and development of a global ocean reanalysis 1187771

Mercator Ocean scientific evolution of monitoring and forecasting centres and global high resolution (MFC GLO-HR) production systems 1187773

Merck Serono oncology innovation grant 1182480

North American Native Fishes Association research conservation grant 189724

Public Health Agency of Canada supporting the health of victims of domestic violence and child abuse through community programmes 1183920

EU Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion targeted surveys on the application of core labour standards 1187588

Tuberous Sclerosis Association project grants 1187803

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Tuberous Sclerosis PhD studentships 1179198

Oxford/Georgian Group/British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Dunscombe Colt research fellowship 1176709

Wellcome collaborative awards in medical humanities 1182833

Wellcome investigator awards in medical humanities 1162635

Wellcome research fellowships humanities and social science 254308

Wellcome research awards for health professionals 1165132

25 Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board field vegetables crop sector panel funding 260811

British Library Edison fellowships 1181246

London Mathematical Society Anne Bennett prize 1182685

London Mathematical Society De Morgan medal 1157796

London Mathematical Society Fröhlich prize 1157797

Social Science Research Council Rachel Tanur prize for visual sociology 1177441

Wellcome new PhD programmes for clinicians 1170084

26 Alcohol Research UK postgraduate research studentships 1173032

EU H2020: Science With and For Society H2020-2016-SwafS call science with and for society, topic 25 1186856

EU H2020: Societal Challenges H2020-ART-2016 automated road transport – single stage 1184916

EU H2020: Societal Challenges H2020-GV-2016 European green vehicles initiative 1184919

EU H2020: Societal Challenges H2020-MG-2016 mobility for growth – single stage 1184908

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EU H2020: Societal Challenges H2020-SC5-2016 greening the economy – topics 12 and 24, single stage 1186007

27 Alzheimer's Research UK clinical research fellowship 257039

Alzheimer's Research UK interdisciplinary research grant 1175011

Alzheimer's Research UK major project grants 204424

CERN summer student programme 1182268

Pancreatic Cancer UK research innovation fund 1169802

Smithsonian Institution JS Lee memorial fellowships 1182805

STFC innovations partnership scheme 258660

28 MRC health systems research initiative call 3: providing evidence to strengthen health systems in low- and middle-income countries 1187486

Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 industrial fellowships 209190

29 Association of Surgeons in Training global surgery award 1187442

British Society of Sports History small events funding 1170437

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EPSRC resource allocation panel – access to ARCHER 1175993

EPSRC resource allocation panel – top-up of ARCHER resource for existing grant holders 1176031

ESRC celebrating impact prize 1171231

Institute of Physics Born medal and prize 160145

Institute of Physics Bragg medal and prize 1164750

Institute of Physics early-career awards 160158

Orthopaedic Research UK general and translational research funding awards 1185572

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uk highlights

New opportunities from UK-based funders.

Apples and pears quality

The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, via its horticultural division, invites proposals to tender for the improvement of quality in apples and pears. The tenderer will develop ways to improve the quality of commercial apples and pears, both at harvest and during storage. The total budget is worth £200,000 over five years.

Web id: 1187875

Email: rachel.lockley@ahdb.org.uk

Deadline: 27 January 2016 [1]

Research online tender

Skills Development Scotland invites tenders for its research online tool and library service subscription. The tenderer will maintain and develop SDS's Research Online tool to provide a more effective channel for the dissemination of labour market research and to subscribe SDS to an online library service on a fixed price basis. The total budget is worth up to £350,000 over 41 months.

Web id: 1188049

Deadline: 28 January 2016 [2]

EPSRC access to data facility

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council invites applications for the following pilot calls:

- access to the Research Data Facility for UK researchers. Applicants may request the resource for up to three years. **Web id:** 1188157

- access to the Research Data Facility for open EPSRC access. Applicants may request the resource for up to three years. **Web id:** 1188159

Email: katherine.freeman@epsrc.ac.uk
Deadline: 29 January 2016 [3]

Medical imaging/neuroscience

The Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Ministry of Science and Technology in Taiwan invite applications for their joint projects. Funding enables researchers from Scotland and Taiwan to collaborate on research related to sensors and imaging and their applications, including medical areas, and neuroscience. Grants are worth up to £6,000 per year each for a maximum period of two years for UK applicants, with matched funding from MoST available for Taiwanese applicants.

Web id: 1188106

Email: international@royalsoced.org.uk
Deadline: 29 January 2016 [5]

ScotGov oil & gas development

The Scottish Government invites tenders for its call on unconventional oil and gas development – understanding and monitoring induced seismic activity. The tenderer will conduct research to better understand the levels of induced seismic activity that could be associated with unconventional oil and gas activities in Scotland, and better understand the robust regulatory and non-regulatory actions that can be taken to mitigate any noticeable effects on communities.

Web id: 1188013

Contact: Colin MacBean

Deadline: 29 January 2016 [6]

Space technology grants

The Centre for Earth Observation Instrumentation and Space Technology, on behalf of the UK Space Agency and under the national space technology programme, invites sub-orbital and small launcher research proposals. This call aims to develop the growth of the UK space sector by funding research that will contribute to the introduction of sub-orbital flight and satellite launch operations in the UK. Grants are typically worth up to £250,000 over six months.

Web id: 1188325

Contact: Doug Liddle

Email: doug@in-space.co.uk

Deadline: 29 January 2016 [7]

Sports medicine awards

The British Association for Sport and Exercise Medicine invites applications for the following opportunities:

- fellowship and doctoral-level research in sport and exercise medicine bursary, worth up to £20,000. **Web id:** 1187846

- research bursaries. **Web id:** 1185679

Email: amanda.harwood@basem.co.uk

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [8]

Drug discovery workshop

The British Council, via the Newton Fund, the Brazil National Council of Technological and Scientific Development (CNPq) and the National Council of Brazilian State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), invite applications for attendance at the researcher links workshop on drug discovery and nanomedicine, to be held from 29 to 30 March 2016 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Web id: 1188218

Contact: Adriana R Pohlmann

Email: ppgnanofarma@ufrgs.br

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [10]

UK-Ukraine collaboration 1

The British Council in Ukraine, via its internationalising higher education programme, invites applications for its UK-Ukraine mobility and partnership exploratory visit grants. These enable UK and Ukrainian HEIs to collaborate on specific areas, and complement and build on various policy-development and capacity-building activities by funding visits between the two countries. Grants are worth up to £2,400 each to fund two visits.

Web id: 1188153

Email: ua_ihe@britishcouncil.org.uk

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [11]

Endocrinology award

The European Society of Endocrinology invites nominations for its clinical endocrinology trust award. This recognises research that addresses aspects of endocrinology at the forefront of clinical practice. The prize is worth €2,500 (£1,868).

Web id: 1188171

Email: info@euro-endo.org

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [13]

Primateology research grants

The Primate Society of Great Britain invites applications for its general research grant awards. These assist researchers working in any area of primatology, except for those already covered by the captive care and conservation grants. Grants are worth £750 each.

Web id: 1187989

Contact: Rachel Kendal

Email: rwp@psgb.org

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [14]

Research partnership

The Nexus Network invites applications for its research partnership grants. These aim to foster collaborations between researchers from different scientific disciplines and between researchers and stakeholders in business, policy and civil society, in order to improve understanding of the nexus of food, energy, water and the wider environment. Grants are worth up to £150,000 each over 12 months.

Web id: 1188024

Contact: Cian O'Donovan

Email: c.o-donovan@sussex.ac.uk

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [15]

Hand therapy grants

The British Association of Hand Therapists invites applications for its research grant. This supports one large piece of research or several smaller projects, including local research projects or audits, about hand or upper limb therapy practice. Grants are worth up to £20,000 over two years.

Web id: 1187981

Contact: Leanne Miller

Email: baht.cec@gmail.com

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [16]

Endodontics research prize

The British Endodontic Society invites submissions for the Harty prize – student essay prize in endodontics. This recognises an essay related to endodontics that considers how to assess the restorability of a tooth prior to root canal treatment, and what intra- and post-operative steps should be taken to improve its chances of long-term survival. The prize is worth £1,000.

Web id: 1187971

Contact: Alyn Morgan

Email: asst.honsecretary@

britishendodonticsociety.org.uk

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [17]

Lung disease research

The British Lung Foundation invites applications for the following opportunities:

- mesothelioma research funding awards, worth up to £200,000 each over three years. **Web id:** 1187897

- Scottish Government Chief Scientist Office research grants, worth up to £300,000 each. **Web id:** 1187874

Email: ian.jarrold@blf.org.uk

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [18]

DFID South Sudan health

The Department for International Development invites tenders to manage phase two of the South Sudan health pool fund. The tenderer will manage a health programme which aims to increase access to quality health services, in particular by children, pregnant women and other vulnerable communities in South Sudan. The fund is worth approximately £85 million.

Web id: 1188242

Contact: Tony McCluskey

Email: a-mcccluskey@dfid.gov.uk

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [20]

EPSRC energy demand

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, as part of the RCUK Energy Programme, invites applications for its call on manufacturing the future: reducing industrial energy demand. This supports multidisciplinary collaborative research in order to reduce industrial energy demand. The total budget is worth

£4 million to fund two or three proposals.

Web id: 1187964

Email: daniel.emmerson@epsrc.ac.uk

Deadline: 3 February 2016 [22]

Security threats research

The Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats invites proposals for its call on research for understanding, mitigating and countering security threats. Funding supports innovative and forward-looking economic, behavioural and social science research that contributes to understanding of contemporary security threats, or research that enhances the UK's capacity to detect and mitigate such threats. The total budget is worth up to £1.25 million at 100 per cent full economic cost.

Web id: 1187927

Contact: Nicola Ronan

Email: commissioning@crestresearch.ac.uk

Deadline: 5 February 2016 [24]

Midwifery award

The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust invites applications for its Jean Davies award. This supports midwives working to address the impact of social inequalities on the well-being of pregnant women, new mothers and their babies. The award is worth up to £5,000 per year.

Web id: 1188312

Email: info@iolanthe.org

Deadline: 5 February 2016 [25]

EPSRC circular economy

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council invites expressions of interest for its call on systems change – towards a circular economy. This supports projects on modelling and understanding whole systems approaches to the circular economy, within the context of UK manufacturing. The total budget is worth up to £5 million for a number of projects, with a maximum duration of three years.

Web id: 1188042

Email: robert.felstead@epsrc.ac.uk

Deadline: 11 February 2016 [26]

Economic and social research

The Competition and Markets authority invites applications for its tender for a framework agreement for the provision of economic and social research services. This supports the provision of specialist consultancy advice relating to economic and social research. The total budget is worth up to £4 million over four years.

Web id: 1187876

Email: colin.oakley@cma.gsi.gov.uk

Deadline: 12 February 2016 [27]

UK-Turkey housing workshop

The British Council, via the Newton Fund's researcher links programme, invites applications for attendance at its workshop on building information modelling and collaboration on retrofit for resilient housing and sustainability. Funding enables UK and Turkish early-career researchers to attend the workshop, to be held from 7 to 10 April 2016 in Gaziantep and Istanbul, Turkey, in order to establish long-lasting research collaboration between the two countries. Grants cover all travel and accommodation costs.

Web id: 1188297

Contact: John Counsell

Email: jcounsell@cardiffmet.ac.uk

Deadline: 15 February 2016 [28]

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UK-Ukraine collaboration 2

The British Council in Ukraine, via its internationalising higher education programme, invites applications for its UK-Ukraine mobility and partnership grants for one and two years. These enable UK and Ukrainian HEIs to collaborate on specific areas, and complement and build on various policy-development and capacity-building activities by funding visits between the two countries. Grants are worth up to £12,000 each.

Web id: 1188156

Email: ua_ihe@britishcouncil.org.ua

Deadline: 15 February 2016 [29]

UK-Turkey railway workshop

The British Council, via the Newton Fund, invites applications for attendance at its workshop on knowledge exchange on remote conditioning monitoring on railway. Funding enables early-career UK and Turkish researchers to attend the workshop, to be held from 22 to 24 March 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. Grants cover all travel and accommodation costs.

Web id: 1188299

Contact: Mayorkinos Papaalias

Email: m.papaalias@bham.ac.uk

Deadline: 16 February 2016 [30]

Innovate UK future retail

Innovate UK, through the IC tomorrow programme, invites proposals for its future retail competition. This encourages innovation around future retail, across themes of food waste reduction, virtual fitting, seamless shopping and enhancing in-store and market experiences. Five businesses may receive up to £35,000 each.

Web id: 1188136

Email: support@innovateuk.gov.uk

Deadline: 23 February 2016 [31]

UK-Italy science exchange

The Royal Society and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche invite applications for their international exchanges award. This stimulates new collaborations between UK and Italian researchers within all areas of life and physical sciences, including engineering, but excluding clinical medicine. Each award is worth up to £12,000 for up to two years.

Web id: 1188205

Email: international.exchanges@royalsociety.org

Deadline: 23 February 2016 [32]

NERC/BBSRC agriculture

The Natural Environment Research Council and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, under their sustainable agriculture research and innovation club initiative, invite applications to participate in a sandpit. This is a two-day interactive strategic workshop. Grants are worth up to £200,000 each.

Web id: 1188186

Contact: Anne Priest

Email: annpri@nerc.ac.uk

Deadline: 26 February 2016 [33]

Teacher education

The Centre for Cross Border Studies invites applications for its Standing Conference on Teacher Education North and South seed funding. This supports collaborative research projects and professional activities in teacher education in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Funding is worth up to £6,000 per project.

Web id: 1179302

Email: e.donnely@qub.ac.uk

Deadline: 29 February 2016 [34]

UK-Malaysia dengue research

The British Council, via the Newton-Ungu Omar Fund, and the Malaysian PlaTCOM Ventures, via the high impact programme 2, invite proposals for their dengue tech challenge. Funding supports collaborative projects that bring together researchers from Malaysia and the UK to focus on commercialisation of dengue-related research and products in Malaysia. Grants for UK applicants are worth up to £180,000 each. Grants for Malaysian applicants are worth up to MYR1.2 million (£187,200) each.

Web id: 1188293

Email: siewhui.liew@britishcouncil.org.my

Deadline: 1 March 2016 [36]

RAEng enterprise fellowship

The Royal Academy of Engineering invites applications for its Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 enterprise fellowship. This recognises creativity and innovation amongst recent engineering graduates based in the UK. Each award is worth £50,000.

Web id: 1187661

Contact: Angus Baker

Email: enterprise@raeng.org.uk

Deadline: 1 March 2016 [37]

International collaboration

The Royal Society, via the Newton Fund, invites applications for the Newton mobility grants. These enable international researchers to undertake short-term visits to the UK and develop networks, research projects and research partnerships with UK scientists in order to develop their skills and knowledge. Grants are worth up to £12,000 each over two years.

Web id: 1188329

Email: newtoninternationalexchanges@royalsociety.org

Deadline: 2 March 2016 [38]

NERC translational research

The Natural Environment Research Council invites proposals for its environmental science impact programme awards. These enable research organisations to collaborate with business, policy bodies and other actors that contribute to the economic development specific to their location, in order to deliver significant regional impact from NERC environmental science. The total budget is worth up to £5 million over five years.

Web id: 1188155

Contact: Lynne Porter

Email: lyn@nerc.ac.uk

Deadline: 3 March 2016 [39]

Optometry awards

The College of Optometrists invites applications for its clinical research fellowships. These support staff in hospital settings by allowing them to consolidate their research skills, supporting active research projects in optometry and facilitating the future acquisition of research funding. Grants are worth up to £30,000 each.

Web id: 1187878

Email: researchteam@

college-optometrists.org

Deadline: 4 March 2016 [40]

Innovate UK coating tech

Innovate UK invites registrations for its competition on surface engineering and coating technologies for high-value manufacturing. Funding supports technical feasibility studies that stimulate innovative new concepts and applications in surface engineering and coatings, including the creation and evaluation of innovative and accessible real-time process control technology; process informatics; surface or coating characterisation techniques; and integration of surface engineering and coating manufacturing technology with digital techniques, technology and design. Each project may receive up to £150,000 over 12 months.

Web id: 1188036

Email: support@innovateuk.gov.uk

Deadline: 9 March 2016 [41]

uk other

Renewed opportunities from funders based in the UK.

MRC health systems

The Medical Research Council, the Department for International Development, the Economic and Social Research Council and the Wellcome Trust invite applications for the third call under its health systems research initiative. This supports research that generates evidence on how to strengthen health systems and improve health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries, informs the delivery of evidence-based interventions or structural changes, and provides evidence that is of direct relevance to decision-makers and users in the field. The total budget is worth £5 million.

Web id: 1182792

Email: mandy.brown@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk

Deadline: 28 January 2016 [42]

EPSRC access to Archer

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, via its resource allocation panel, invites proposals for the following calls:

- access to ARCHER. Users may request at least 1 million allocation units of computing resource over one year.

Web id: 1175993

- top-up proposals for the ARCHER resource, with a maximum project duration of two years. Web id: 1176031

Email: archerrap@epsrc.ac.uk

Deadline: 29 January 2016 [43]

Paediatrics award

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, in collaboration with the British Academy of Childhood Disability, invites applications for the Paul Polani research award. This supports projects on paediatric neurodisability. The award is worth up to £7,500.

Web id: 1172501

Email: kelly.robinson@rcpch.ac.uk

Deadline: 29 January 2016 [45]

Congenital heart disease

The British Cardiovascular Society affiliate the British Congenital Cardiac Association invites applications for the Madeleine Steel travel fellowship. This enables UK doctors or allied medical professionals

working on congenital heart disease to travel to a centre in North America to gain further experience, learn new techniques or undertake research. The fellowship is worth £10,000.

Web id: 1165203

Contact: Mike Burch

Email: bcca@bcs.com

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [48]

Mathematics visitors

The Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences invites proposals for its visitor programme. This aims to bring together mathematical scientists from UK universities and leading experts from overseas for research on specialised topics in all branches of the mathematical sciences. Around £40,000 per month is available.

Web id: 211834

Contact: John Toland

Email: jft26@newton.ac.uk

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [50]

Progressive palsy research

The Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association invites applications for its research grants. These support research into early and accurate diagnosis, aetiology and pathogenesis, and clinical and social impacts of progressive supranuclear palsy. The total budget is £500,000.

Web id: 1165209

Email: psp@pspassociation.org.uk

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [51]

Iraq studies grants

The British Institute for the Study of Iraq invites applications for its research and conference grants. These support projects and conferences that focus on the lands and peoples of Iraq in any field of the arts, humanities and social sciences. Grants are worth up to £4,000 each.

Web id: 212986

Email: bisi@britac.ac.uk

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [52]

Lung research

The British Lung Foundation invites preliminary applications for the following opportunities:

- Mesothelioma UK research grant, worth up to £150,000 over three years.

Web id: 1183020

- Sarcoidosis Charity research grant, worth up to £120,000 over three years.

Web id: 1184560

Email: ian.jarrold@blf.org.uk

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [53]

Healthcare infection research

The Healthcare Infection Society invites applications for its small research grants. These support small-scale projects on the subject of healthcare associated infection, to be carried out in the UK or Ireland. Grants are worth up to £10,000 each.

Web id: 1164637

Contact: Sandra Smith

Email: grants@his.org.uk

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [58]

Mental disorder research

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh invites applications for the John, Margaret, Alfred and Stewart Sim fellowship. This supports research into the causes or treatment of depression, with the aim of fostering mental health research and the academic careers of early

or intermediate researchers. The fellowship is worth up to £300,000.

Web id: 145968

Email: standards@rcpe.ac.uk

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [61]

Gastroenterology awards

Core and Bowel & Cancer Research invite applications for their joint diverticular research development award. This supports projects ranging from basic and translational science to research for patient benefit related to diverticular disease. The total budget is worth £80,000.

Web id: 1173627

Contact: Alice Kington

Email: research@corecharity.org.uk

Deadline: 3 February 2016 [62]

Stroke projects

The Stroke Association invites applications for its project grants. These support the entire spectrum of stroke research, from prevention and risk factors through to treatment and rehabilitation in an acute setting and longer term in the community. Grants are worth up to £210,000 each over three years.

Web id: 260896

Email: research@stroke.org.uk

Deadline: 3 February 2016 [64]

Parkinson's disease

The Cure Parkinson's Trust invites applications for its research funding. This supports laboratory or clinical research projects that have the potential to advance knowledge that might lead to a cure for Parkinson's disease, or that represent a substantial advance in treatment. Grants are worth up to £250,000.

Web id: 1162652

Contact: Helen Matthews

Email: helen@cureparkinsons.org.uk

Deadline: 4 February 2016 [65]

Agriculture bursaries

The Farmers Club invites applications for its agricultural educator awards. These enable early-career researchers employed in agricultural education to widen and develop their own technical expertise through study activities either inside or outside the UK. The total budget is worth £25,000.

Web id: 1174168

Email: generaloffice@thefarmersclub.com

Deadline: 8 February 2016 [66]

International partnerships

The British Academy invites applications for its international partnership and mobility scheme. This supports the development of partnerships between the UK and other areas of the world where research excellence would be strengthened by new, innovative initiatives and links. Grants are worth up to £30,000 each over three years.

Web id: 1165189

Email: partnerships@britac.ac.uk

Deadline: 10 February 2016 [69]

Jewish fellowships

The Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe invites applications for the following fellowships:

- doctoral fellowships, worth up to £48,000 each over three years.

Web id: 1177306

- doctoral fellowships in archival research, worth up to £48,000 each over three years. **Web id:** 257129

- postdoctoral fellowships, worth up to £32,500 each. **Web id:** 210007

Email: fellowships@

rothschildfoundation.eu

Deadline: 11 February 2016 [70]

HIV research awards

The British HIV Association invites applications for its research awards. These support research on the improvement of clinical care and management of people living with HIV in the UK, including projects that focus on finding a cure. Awards are worth up to £30,000 each.

Web id: 253156

Email: bhiva@bhiva.org

Deadline: 12 February 2016 [73]

Endangered species

The People's Trust for Endangered Species invites applications for its conservation insight grants. These support projects on endangered species that aim to find critical scientific evidence to facilitate conservation, answer key conservation questions, and implement key local action that will result in significant positive impacts for endangered species. Grants are worth up to £20,000 each over two years.

Web id: 1165284

Email: grants@ptes.org

Deadline: 12 February 2016 [74]

NIHR research centres

The National Institute for Health Research invites applications for its biomedical research centres competition. Funding supports NHS-university partnerships in England that have a substantial portfolio of world-class biomedical research across either a range of clinical or research areas, or in a specific clinical or research area. The total budget is £800 million.

Web id: 1162031

Email: katie.cook@nihr.ac.uk

Deadline: 15 February 2016 [76]

Physical sciences fellowships

The English-Speaking Union invites applications for the Lindemann Trust fellowships. These enable postdoctoral scientists in both the pure and applied physical sciences to carry out research in the US. Fellowships are worth US\$40,000 (£27,500) each.

Web id: 258125

Email: william.stileman@esu.org

Deadline: 15 February 2016 [77]

UK-Russia exchanges

The Royal Society and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research invite applications for the cost-share programme of their international exchanges scheme. This stimulates new collaborations within the natural sciences between scientists in the UK and Russia. Funding is worth up to £12,000 for the UK team.

Web id: 1177532

Email: international.exchanges@

royalsociety.org

Deadline: 15 February 2016 [78]

Agriculture studentships

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Northern Ireland invites applications for its postgraduate studentships. These enable students to conduct research leading to a PhD qualification at a university in the UK or the Republic of Ireland. Each studentship provides tuition fees and a grant worth £14,142.

Web id: 212351

Email: postgraduate@dardni.gov.uk

Deadline: 16 February 2016 [79]

NERC environmental tech

The Natural Environment Research Council invites applications for its technology proof of concept programme. This supports the development of new and innovative technologies for environmental science. The total budget is worth £2 million.

Web id: 1175360

Contact: Lucy Hopewell

Email: tpsc@nerc.ac.uk

Deadline: 17 February 2016 [81]

RAEng engineering award

The Royal Academy of Engineering invites nominations for the Colin Campbell Mitchell award for engineers. This recognises an individual or a team of up to six engineers for contributions to the advancement of any field of engineering within the preceding four years. The prize is worth up to £6,000 for a team.

Web id: 1177183

Deadline: 17 February 2016 [82]

ScotGov commercialisation

The Scottish Government's Scottish Enterprise invites applications for its high-growth spinout programme. This supports the pre-commercialisation of new technologies emerging from Scotland's universities, research institutes and NHS boards by enabling researchers to take their ideas and inventions from the lab to the global marketplace. The programme covers 100 per cent of the direct project costs, including salaries, consumables, market assessment, patent costs, equipment, subcontracting and travel.

Web id: 1166897

Email: hgsp@scotent.co.uk

Deadline: 17 February 2016 [83]

Science/engineering fellows

The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 invites applications for its research fellowships in science or engineering. These enable early-career scientists or engineers to conduct an innovative research project of their own instigation. Each fellowship is worth £32,000 for the first year and £33,500 for the second and third years.

Web id: 209176

Contact: Nigel Williams

Email: royalcom1851@imperial.ac.uk

Deadline: 18 February 2016 [84]

Bone research

The Bone Research Society invites applications for the Barbara Mawer travelling fellowship. This enables new investigators to spend time with another research group in order to learn a new technique related to bone diseases, or otherwise benefit from a specific expertise that is not available at their host institution. The total budget is worth up to £3,000.

Web id: 253049

Email: info@boneresearchsociety.org

Deadline: 19 February 2016 [85]

Social sciences research

The Independent Social Research Foundation invites applications for its mid-career fellowships. These support original interdisciplinary research across the range of social sciences. Grants are worth up to

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Faculty of Natural and Mathematical Sciences,
King's College London
Closing date: 11.59pm,
17/01/2016

Details: www.hirewire.co.uk.

Research Officer (maternity cover) £25,769-£30,738 pro rata

Leeds Trinity University
Closing date: 5pm, 18/01/2016
Email: recruitment@leedstrinity.ac.uk

Research Support Manager
Competitive

Research and Faculty Office,
London Business School
Closing date: 18/01/2016 .
Email: jobs@london.edu

Licence Administrator £22,224

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Closing date: 24/01/2016 .
Tel: 01793 867000

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Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Closing date: 24/01/2016 .
Tel: 01793 867000

Director, Institute for Global Food Security NS

Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences,
Queen's University Belfast
Closing date: 01/02/2016
Contact: Jayne Woodside
Email: j.woodside@qub.ac.uk

Group Leader/Senior Research Scientist – Primary Liver Cancer depending on experience,

Institute of Hepatology,
Foundation for Liver Research
Closing date: 08/02/2016
Contact: Natalie Day
Email: n.day@researchinliver.org.uk

Group Leader/Senior Research Scientist – Mechanisms of Liver Cell Injury £49,230-£57,047 depending on experience

Institute of Hepatology,
Foundation for Liver Research
Closing date: 08/02/2016
Email: n.day@researchinliver.org.uk

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Handling sensitive research with care

Sex, religion, and violence can be difficult to talk about, even with your closest friends. But how do academics approach these subjects with complete strangers? When gathering qualitative evidence through interviews with older women who have been raped, Hannah Bows, a doctoral candidate at Durham University, says the best approach is to let your participant take the lead.

"People don't like to think about older people having sex, much less older people being raped. It's a real taboo," says Bows. When conducting interviews, Bows says that she avoids asking direct questions about the traumatic experience.

"I ask how it has affected them, rather than asking about the experience itself," she says. "By doing that the person only tells you what they're comfortable telling you. In all instances, my interviewees decided to divulge that information of their own free will."

You can also help interviewees feel comfortable with the process by making sure they understand what your research is about and by letting them see your questions in advance, she says.

Bows also thinks that being conversational rather than formal has helped. David Geiringer, a history researcher at the University of Sussex who has just finished a PhD researching the sex lives of Catholic women in the 1960s, agrees. He says that he will even answer questions about his own life if an interviewee asks. "It would have felt

by **Lindsay McKenzie** lmnews@ResearchResearch.com

unnatural to refuse," he says. "I found honesty and candidness were really important."

But opinion is divided on whether sharing personal information is a good idea. "It can make people feel more comfortable, but it's not always the right choice," says Priscilla Alderson, a professor of childhood studies at University College London. She says that when interviewing parents of children with heart defects, she chose not to tell them that one of her own children had died of a heart defect, as it could have affected the interviews.

Another challenge is finding participants who are willing to talk about such personal issues. Geiringer found 26 participants for his research through a family connection in the Catholic Church and by advertising in Catholic media. But Bows did not find advertising to be a successful method; she found most of her participants through referrals from professionals who were working with women who had been raped.

Nonetheless, both Bows and Geiringer say that conducting sensitive research can be very rewarding. "There's a real gap in the research," says Bows, "but awareness is growing. There seems to be a big increase in funding for research into violence against women. I think recent scandals have made people more aware of the subject."

Bearing witness: giving evidence to a parliamentary committee

In their scrutiny of government policy, MPs and peers often ask academics to give evidence to parliamentary committee inquiries. Although being the one in the firing line might seem daunting, Graeme Reid, chair of science and research policy at University College London, says there are plenty of things you can do to make the process more enjoyable.

Having worked in government for almost two decades, Reid has made numerous appearances before committees. But even with his years of experience, he still sets aside time to collect and prepare his evidence. "I would expect to spend a good few hours preparing," he says.

Reid says that witnesses will usually be given a few weeks' notice before a hearing. You should start your preparation by looking at the committee's questions, he says. Use them to write bullet-point answers and take time to look up data or statistics that you might want to refer to.

However, he adds that the committee's questions are a guide and not a rule book, so you should also expect the unexpected. "Even if the questions aren't asked, the process of reading up and refreshing my memory makes me feel more comfortable," Reid says.

For academics with little experience of how committees work, Theresa Marteau, director of

by **Lindsay McKenzie** lmnews@ResearchResearch.com

the Behaviour and Health Research Unit at the University of Cambridge, recommends contacting the committee clerk with questions, trying to meet some committee members in advance and watching Parliament TV to see how evidence sessions are run.

On the day, Marteau strongly advises witnesses to take the opportunity to make an opening statement, while Reid cautions that the committees don't like to hear waffle. "They've asked you in front of them to share your expertise," he says, "so they're expecting what you say to be well grounded in research." He notes that although academics aren't tied to a party line, the committee will expect you to tell them if an issue is highly contested among researchers, rather than simply "spouting prejudices".

Finally, Marteau and Reid note that if you want to get involved, you don't have to wait until a committee gets in touch with you. One way to get noticed is to submit written evidence. Alternatively you could start following the process as an observer. "Appearing as a witness is not for everyone," says Reid. "But what is for everyone is a slightly heightened awareness of what is going on so that when opportunities arise you can spot them and take advantage of them."

POLICY MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT VACANCIES

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Queen Mary Innovation Ltd,
Queen Mary University
Closing date: 17/01/2016
Email: recruitment@qmul.ac.uk

CTU Quality & Contracts Manager £41,255-£42,488

Medical School,
University of Exeter
Closing date: 17/01/2016
Email: r.taylor@exeter.ac.uk

Research Theme Leader – Power Networks Metrology

£49,230-£55,389
Faculty of Engineering,
University of Strathclyde
Closing date: 18/01/2016
Email: humanresources@strath.ac.uk

Director – INVOLVE NS

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) INVOLVE Coordinating Centre,
University of Southampton
Closing date: 18/01/2016
Email: recruitment@southampton.ac.uk
Tel: 023 8059 2421

Research Group Administrator £29,800-£33,860

Inflammation, Repair and Development Section, National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London
Closing date: 18/01/2016
Email: rb.recruitment@imperial.ac.uk

Research Projects Administrator £19,273-£20,989

Faculty of Science and Engineering, Manchester Metropolitan University
Closing date: 18/01/2016
Email: resourcing@mmu.ac.uk
Tel: 0161 247 3502

Research Administrator (0.5 fte) £22,249-£26,537 pro rata

School of Medicine – Rehabilitation & Ageing, University of Nottingham
Closing date: 19/01/2016
Email: hr@nottingham.ac.uk
Tel: 0115 951 5206

Assistant Research Finance Manager £28,982-£37,768

Research & Graduate Services Dept, University of Nottingham
Closing date: 19/01/2016
Email: hr@nottingham.ac.uk
Tel: 0115 951 5206

Research Data Officer £28,982-£37,768

Library, University of Warwick
Closing date: 20/01/2016
Email: recruit@warwick.ac.uk

Knowledge Exchange Manager £38,896-£47,801

Institute of Environmental Analytics, University of Reading
Closing date: 20/01/2016
Email: recruitment@reading.ac.uk

Research Contracts Manager £38,896-£46,414

Research Services, University of Kent
Closing date: 20/01/2016
Email: jobs@kent.ac.uk

Research Administrator £25,513-£27,864

Clinical Neuroscience Dept, University of Nottingham
Closing date: 21/01/2016
Email: hr@nottingham.ac.uk

Research Development Officer (BASS)

£33,822-£39,934 (inc LW)
Research Support & Development Office, Brunel University
Closing date: 22/01/2016
Contact: Human Resources
Email: recruitment@brunel.ac.uk

Research Development Officer (HLS)

£33,822-£39,934 (inc LW)
Research Support & Development Office, Brunel University
Closing date: 22/01/2016
Contact: Human Resources
Email: recruitment@brunel.ac.uk

Business Manager – IP Commercialisation (two posts) £27,057-£31,342

Research Support Office, University of Liverpool
Closing date: 5pm, 22/01/2016
Contact: Human Resources
Email: jobs@liv.ac.uk

Business Development Officer £38,896-£42,488

Centre for International Tourism and Events Management Research, Oxford Brookes University
Closing date: 22/01/2016
Contact: Human Resources
Email: hrteam-edi@brookes.ac.uk

Research Governance Officer £31,565

Research and Enterprise Services, University of Sussex
Closing date: 25/01/2016
Email: profservicesrecruitment@sussex.ac.uk



Director, Institute for Global Food Security

Ref: 15/104302

Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences

Queen's University Belfast is seeking an outstanding individual to lead its Institute for Global Food Security.

Queen's University is one of the UK's leading Higher Education Institutions. A member of the Russell Group, it is a research intensive, international centre of education. Founded in 1845, with over 17,000 students and 3,500 staff, it is a magnet for inward investment and a global player across a wide range of academic disciplines.

The Institute for Global Food Security is recognised nationally and internationally for its research excellence as clearly demonstrated by its performance in REF2014. The strategic importance of the Institute to the University has been demonstrated by a £45M investment in infrastructure and new appointments to support its further development as a global leader in food security research.

The successful candidate will lead a dynamic research environment at an exciting time to further advance the Institute and the Faculty's research profile internationally.

The Director will report to the Faculty Pro Vice Chancellor and will play a key role in providing effective and efficient leadership and management of the Institute in the context of the University's corporate plan.

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For further information on the post please contact Professor Jayne Woodside, email: j.woodside@qub.ac.uk or telephone: 028 9097 8942.

Anticipated interview date: will be held at the end of February 2016

Salary: The salary will be negotiable within the Professorial Salary Range, commensurate with the responsibilities of the post and the qualifications, experience and current salary of the successful applicant.

Closing date: Monday 1 February 2016

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Belfast, BT7 1NN.
Tel (028) 90973044
E-mail on personnel@qub.ac.uk



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Research & Enterprise Services,
University of Sussex
Closing date: 25/01/2016
Please visit: www.sussex.ac.uk/aboutus/jobs/523

Research Grants Officer**£25,000**

Sarcoma UK
Closing date: 28/01/2016
Email: info@sarcoma.org.uk

Senior Research Fellow in Ecological Economics**£47,808-£59,649**

Centre for Agroecology, Water & Resilience, Coventry University
Closing date: 31/01/2016
Please visit: www.coventry.ac.uk/job-vacancies

Institute Manager**£31,656-£36,672**

Faculty of Science & Technology,
Anglia Ruskin University
Closing date: 31/01/2016
Contact: HR Services
Email: recruitment@anglia.ac.uk
Tel: 0845 196 4778

Research Manager**£33,784-£40,867**

Marshall Institute for
Philanthropy and Social

Entrepreneurship,
London School of Economics
and Political Science
Closing date: 01/02/2016
Contact: Human Resources
Email: hr.jobs@lse.ac.uk
Tel: 020 7955 6659

Research Administrator**(0.7 fte) £19,632 pro rata**

College of Social Sciences and
International Studies,
University of Exeter
Closing date: 01/02/2016
Contact: Bernie Samuel
Email: b.samuel@exeter.ac.uk
Tel: 01392 725134

Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) NS

Faculty of Science and
Engineering,
University of Liverpool
Closing date: 5pm, 01/02/2016
Contact: Recruitment
Email: jobs@liverpool.ac.uk

Associate Dean Research and Knowledge Exchange £64,188

HL Research & Knowledge
Transfer, Oxford Brookes
University
Closing date: 05/02/2016
Contact: Human Resources
Email: hrteam-er@brookes.ac.uk

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CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND
EVIDENCE ON SECURITY THREATS

£1.25m call for research on understanding, mitigating and countering security threats

The Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST) is commissioning up to £1.25m for research on understanding, mitigating and countering security threats.

CREST conducts, commissions and communicates unclassified research on a broad programme, including on violent ideologies and actors, online behaviour, effective interviewing, and protective security. CREST is funded by the UK's security and intelligence agencies in partnership with the UK's Economic and Social Research Council.

Applicants are invited to submit proposals for activities that address areas of both theoretical and practical importance, including workshops, and research projects of short and longer duration. These projects could include high quality synthesis and communication of existing research, and original empirical research involving all forms of qualitative and quantitative analysis, including case studies, proof-of-concept studies, and methodological developments.

More details of CREST's commissioning activities can be found at www.crestresearch.ac.uk/commissioning.

The deadline for applications is 5 February 2016.



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€60,000 each.

Web id: 1167564

Email: applications2016@isrf.org

Deadline: 19 February 2016 [86]

International exchanges

The Royal Society invites applications for the standard programme of its international exchanges scheme. This stimulates new collaborations within the natural sciences between scientists in the UK and overseas. Grants are worth up to £12,000 over a maximum period of two years.

Web id: 1162434

Email: international.exchanges@royalsociety.org

Deadline: 23 February 2016 [87]

STFC public engagement

The Science and Technology Facilities Council invites applications for its public engagement fellowships. These enable highly skilled practitioners of public engagement to deliver a prolonged, thematic programme of public engagement and highlight the achievements of STFC science and technology. Fellowships are worth up to £100,000 each.

Web id: 1177291

Email: neville.hollingworth@stfc.ac.uk

Deadline: 25 February 2016 [88]

DFID challenge fund

The Department for International Development invites applications for its challenge fund under the Land – Enhancing Governance for Economic Development (LEGEND) programme. This supports the development and testing of innovative approaches and partnerships for strengthening land governance, with a specific focus on piloting approaches to responsible land-related investments. Grants are worth up to £750,000 each.

Web id: 1187908

Email: legend-partners@landportal.info

Deadline: 26 February 2016 [88.1]

Glaucoma nursing awards

The International Glaucoma Association and the Royal College of Nursing invite applications for their nursing research awards. These facilitate research on patient support during glaucoma care. Awards are worth up to £25,000 each.

Web id: 1171660

Contact: Richenda Kew

Email: r.kew@iga.org.uk

Deadline: 26 February 2016 [90]

Veterinary research grants

The British Small Animal Veterinary Association's Petsavers division invites applications for its clinical research project grants. These support clinical studies in small animals that are kept as pets, with the aim of advancing understanding of the cause or management of clinical disorders. Grants are worth up to £8,000 each.

Web id: 259993

Email: grantstudyadvice@bsava.com

Deadline: 28 February 2016 [91]

Japanese studies

The Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures invites applications for the Robert and Lisa Sainsbury fellowships. These provide recipients with an opportunity to work in a scholarly environment conducive to the completion of a publication project. Fellowships are worth up to £23,500 each.

Web id: 209367

Email: sisjac@sainsbury-institute.org

Deadline: 28 February 2016 [95]

Cardiovascular research

Heart Research UK invites applications for its translational research grants. These support research that can improve the health and treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease by advancing current practice or enabling innovative discoveries to be efficiently transferred into practical tools to prevent, diagnose and treat human disease. Grants are worth up to £150,000 each.

Web id: 199753

Email: grants@heartresearch.org.uk

Deadline: 1 June 2016 [96]

europa highlights

New opportunities from European funders, excluding funders based in the UK.

Cardiology nurse training

The European Society of Cardiology invites applications for its nurse training grant. This enables candidates to attain clinical and academic competence and acquire experience of high quality cardiac nursing practice, which will enable them to contribute to improving academic standards on return to their own country. The grant is worth up to €25,000 (£18,658).

Web id: 1187895

Email: grants@escardio.org

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [97]

EU rare diseases

ERA-Net E-Rare invites proposals for its eighth joint call on rare diseases – clinical research for new therapeutic uses of already existing molecules in rare diseases. This call enables scientists in different countries to build effective collaboration on a common interdisciplinary research project based on complementarities and sharing of expertise, with a clear translational research approach. Funding is worth up to €2 million (£1.49m) per project.

Web id: 1188073

Contact: Juliane Halftermeyer

Email: e-rarecalls@agencerecherche.fr

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [99]

EU protection certificates

The Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs invites tenders for a study on the legal aspects of supplementary protection certificates in the EU. The tenderer will conduct a legal study on the EU system of SPCs to be used for an overall evaluation of the SPC system in the EU, and to inform the decision on whether to come forward with a new SPC title at European level and whether to revise the existing SPC legislation. The contract is worth €200,000 (£149,000).

Web id: 1188129

Contact: Sawomir Tokarski

Deadline: 4 February 2016 [100]

EU neurotoxicity testing

The European Food Safety Authority invites tenders for a literature review and appraisal on alternative neurotoxicity testing methods. The tenderer will perform a literature search, analysis and appraisal of currently available or under

development state-of-the-art neurotoxicity testing methods, excluding developmental neurotoxicity and developmental neurotoxicity testing, in order to support peer review of active substances. The contract is worth €400,000 (£297,900).

Web id: 1188211

Deadline: 4 February 2016 [101]

EU carcinogens analysis

The Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion invites tenders for the provision of a second study to collect updated information for a limited number of carcinogenic substances with a view to analyse the health, socio-economic and environmental impact in connection with possible amendments of Directive 2004/37/EC. The tenderer will provide up-to-date input in relation to certain substances so as to prepare an impact assessment report necessary to accompany a draft proposal to amend the directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work. The contract is worth up to €400,000 (£297,900).

Web id: 1188185

Email: empl-vt-2015-068@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 5 February 2016 [102]

EU consumer law check

The Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers invites tenders for a study to support the fitness check of EU consumer law. The tenderer will assess whether the objectives of the directives of the fitness check have efficiently achieved consumer protection and market integration objectives. The contract is worth €900,000 (£670,200).

Web id: 1188250

Contact: Renatas Mazeika

Email: just-a4-cft@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 5 February 2016 [103]

EU mortality study

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control invites tenders for the provision of a HAI-Net mortality review validity and reproducibility study. The tenderer will conduct a mortality review for the healthcare-associated infections surveillance network. The contract is worth €110,000 (£81,900).

Web id: 1187903

Deadline: 5 February 2016 [104]

EU online data security

The European Union Agency for Network and Information invites tenders for a study on state-of-the-art applied online data protection and security. The tenderer will conduct a project on the evolution of privacy enhancing technologies, or a study on privacy and security in personal data clouds. The contract is worth up to €74,000 (£55,100) over two lots.

Web id: 1188169

Email: procurement@enisa.europa.eu

Deadline: 5 February 2016 [105]

EU Earth observations

The European Environment Agency invites tenders for services supporting EEA's implementation of the Copernicus programme. The tenderer will support the implementation of cross-cutting activities for coordination of the in situ component of the Copernicus programme, the European programme for the establishment of a European capacity for Earth observation. The contract is worth €3.2 million

(€2.38m) over 48 months.

Web id: 1188170

Contact: Bitten Serena

Email: procurement@eea.europa.eu

Deadline: 8 February 2016 [106]

EU manufacturing occupations

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions invites tenders for a detailed look at key jobs in European manufacturing. The tenderer will carry out a comparative qualitative analysis of five key occupations in four countries, each covering different European regions, to provide a better understanding of the changes in the nature of key manufacturing occupations in Europe in recent years. The contract is worth €150,000 (£111,700).

Web id: 1188298

Contact: Lidia Jankowska

Email: osutenders@eurofound.europa.eu

Deadline: 8 February 2016 [107]

EU health sector

The Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency invites tenders for the following contracts:

- European structural and investment funds support in the area of health. The contract is worth €745,000 (£554,500) over 24 months. **Web id:** 1188107

- studies on vaccination in the EU member states. The contract is worth €220,000 over nine months. **Web id:** 1188035

Contact: Georgios Margetidis

Email: chafea-hp-tender@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 9 February 2016 [108]

EU personal data security

The European Union Agency for Network and Information invites tenders for the provision of a framework on appropriate security measures for the processing of personal data. The tenderer will design and propose a framework that enables small and medium organisations to implement appropriate security measures for the processing of personal data. The contract is worth up to €55,000 (£40,900).

Web id: 1188167

Email: procurement@enisa.europa.eu

Deadline: 9 February 2016 [110]

EU ecodesign

The Directorate-General for Energy invites tenders for a single framework contract for the provision of preparatory studies, review studies and technical assistance on ecodesign, energy labelling, tyre labelling and energy star. The contract is worth up to €8 million (£5.99m) over four years.

Web id: 1188241

Email: ener-tender-2015-619@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 11 February 2016 [111]

EU HIV statistics

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control invites tenders for developing methods to improve the accuracy of HIV estimates in EU/EEA countries. The tenderer will develop a set of methods or tools, which will allow member states to improve the utility of the HIV national surveillance data and to provide better estimates for some key parameters in a user-friendly way. The contract is worth €455,000 (£338,600) over four years.

Web id: 1188143

Deadline: 12 February 2016 [112]

EU pesticide residue data

The European Food Safety Authority invites tenders for a collection and analysis of pesticide residue data for pollen and nectar. The tenderer will integrate the new evidence into the risk assessment scheme in order to make it more realistic. The contract is worth €70,000 (£52,100).
Web id: 1188263
Deadline: 15 February 2016 [113]

EU hepatitis C

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control invites tenders for the development of a seroprevalence survey for hepatitis C in EU/EEA countries. The tenderer will collect and synthesise information and evidence for conducting representative seroprevalence surveys of hepatitis C among general populations and key population groups in the EU/EEA. The contract is worth €410,000 (£305,100).
Web id: 1188137
Deadline: 16 February 2016 [115]

EU hepatitis B and C testing

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control invites tenders for the Sweden-Solna – hepatitis B and C testing guidance in the EU/EEA. The tenderer will provide member states with an evidence-based framework that will support the development of national HBV and HCV testing policies by providing key evidence-based options for intervention and considerations for their implementation. The contract is worth €340,000 (£253,100) over four years.
Web id: 1188139
Deadline: 17 February 2016 [116]

EU fisheries data framework

The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries invites tenders for a study on the availability and dissemination of data collection framework data. The tenderer will contribute to improving the timelines, quality and availability of DCF data for end users, whilst reducing the burden on member states for making this data available. The contract is worth €600,000 (£446,900).
Web id: 1188224
Contact: Bernhard Friess
Email: mare-tenders@ec.europa.eu
Deadline: 19 February 2016 [117]

EU co-production funds

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency invites applications for its support to international co-production funds. This scheme aims to increase the capacity of audiovisual operators in developing European audiovisual works, with a potential to circulate in the EU and beyond, and to facilitate European and international co-production. The total budget is worth €1.5 million (£1.12m).
Web id: 1188270
Email: eacea-media-coprod-funds@ec.europa.eu
Deadline: 25 February 2016 [118]

Sustainable food system

The Agropolis Foundation invites concept notes for its thought for food initiative. This aims to advance understanding of the sustainability of food systems, facilitate the emergence of new research activities, and generate a leverage effect that encourages new collaboration between different types of disciplines. The total

budget is €2 million (£1.49m).
Web id: 1188123
Email: cfp2015-07@agropolis.fr
Deadline: 29 February 2016 [120]

EU Erasmus+ policy tools

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency invites applications, via its Erasmus+ programme, for key action three – support for policy reform and support to European policy tools. This aims to test possible procedures, mechanisms and quality criteria at European level in order to support recognition of qualifications forthcoming from European core profiles of qualifications, and to improve the de-facto and formal recognition of international qualifications. Grants are worth up to €180,000 (£134,100) each.
Web id: 1188132
Email: eacea-policy-networks@ec.europa.eu
Deadline: 29 February 2016 [121]

EU health performance

The Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency invites tenders for a health systems performance assessment – integrated care assessment. The tenderer will test and validate methods for describing the readiness of health systems to implement integrated care models or solutions, and propose an assessment tool to measure the performance of integrated care. The contract is worth €300,000 (£223,500).
Web id: 1188265
Email: chafea-hp-tender@ec.europa.eu
Deadline: 1 March 2016 [122]

EU marine protected areas

The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises invite tenders for a study on the economic benefits of marine protected areas. The tenderer will evaluate how maritime protected areas provide benefits to specific blue economy sectors, with the aim of feeding the results into relevant EU policies. The contract is worth €300,000 (£223,500).
Web id: 1188231
Deadline: 14 March 2016 [123]

Road research

The Conference of European Directors of Roads invites applications for its transnational road research programme. This supports cooperation and promotion of improvements to the road system and its infrastructure, as an integral part of a sustainable transport system in Europe. The total budget is €3.6 million (£2.68m).
Web id: 1188162
Email: paula.lillis@tii.ie
Deadline: 15 March 2016 [124]

EU automotive safety

The Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs invites tenders for a multiple framework contract in cascade for the provision of consultancy services in the field of automotive safety. The tenderer will facilitate the procurement of total or partial studies and other supporting services in the framework of the commission's impact assessment and evaluation procedures in the field of automotive safety. The contract is worth €3 million (£2.23m).
Web id: 1188248
Deadline: 15 March 2016 [125]

EU smart urban futures

JPI Urban Europe, supported by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme, invites pre-proposals for its call on ERA-NET Cofund smart urban futures. This aims to create sustainable and economically viable urban areas. The total budget is €23.5 million (£17.5m).
Web id: 1187467
Email: johannes.bockstefl@ffg.at
Deadline: 15 March 2016 [126]

EU marine biotechnology

Era-Net ERA-MarineBiotech invites applications for its second transnational joint call for research projects. Funding aims to stimulate joint European R&D activities within marine biotechnology related to valorisation of bioactive molecules from the marine environment. The total budget is worth €8 million (£5.96m).
Web id: 1187122
Contact: Marta Norton
Email: erambt2015@fct.pt
Deadline: 16 March 2016 [127]

EU H2020 Ebola outbreaks

The Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking invites applications for its eighth call. Proposals may address the topic IMI2-2015-08 Ebola and other filoviral haemorrhagic fevers (Ebola+) programme – future outbreaks. The budget is worth up to €70 million (£52.1m).
Web id: 1187750
Email: infodesk@imi.europa.eu
Deadline: 16 March 2016 [128]

EU H2020 innovative medicines

The Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking invites applications for its seventh call for proposals. This aims to speed up the development of, and patient access to, innovative medicines, particularly in areas where there is an unmet medical or social need. The budget is €46.8 million (£34.9m).
Web id: 1188183
Email: infodesk@imi.europa.eu
Deadline: 17 March 2016 [129]

EU railway innovation

The Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking, with financial support from Horizon 2020: Societal Challenges, invites applications for the following calls:
• H2020-S2RJU-2015-01 first open call for proposals for non-JU members. Indicative budgets are worth up to €1.5 million (£1.12m) per topic. **Web id: 1188165**
• H2020-S2RJU-2016-01 first open call for proposals for non-JU members. Indicative budgets are worth up to €7 million per topic. **Web id: 1188166**
Deadline: 17 March 2016 [130]

EU urban actions

The Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy invites applications for its urban innovations actions initiative. This provides urban areas throughout Europe with resources to test innovative solutions to the main urban challenges, to see how these work in practice and respond to the complexity of real life. Funding covers up to 80 per cent of eligible costs over three years. Additional grants of up to €20,000 (£14,900) are available.
Web id: 1188105
Contact: Raffaele Barbato
Email: r.barbato@uia-initiative.eu
Deadline: 31 March 2016 [132]

Young researchers exchange

The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies, the Australasian Neuroscience Society, the Japan Neuroscience Society and the Chinese Neuroscience Society invite applications for their young researchers exchange programme. This enables young researchers from Europe and Australasia, Japan or China, to participate in training courses or exchange training visits. Stipends are worth up to €2,000 (£1,500).
Web id: 1187861
Email: nens@fens.org
Deadline: 25 April 2016 [133]

europa other

Renewed opportunities from European funders, excluding funders based in the UK.

EU healthcare tenders

The Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency invites tenders for the provision of a behavioural survey of HIV/Aids and associated infections, together with a survey and tailored training for community-based health workers. The contract is worth €2 million (£1.49m).
Web id: 1186154
Contact: Georgios Margetidis
Email: chafea-hp-tender@ec.europa.eu
Deadline: 9 February 2016 [136]

EU Eurostars programme

EUREKA invites applications for its Eurostars programme. This funds collaborative innovation research and projects that will be rapidly commercialised. The budget is worth €1.4 million (£1.04m) per project.
Web id: 199550
Deadline: 18 February 2016 [140]

EU low carbon technology

EUREKA invites proposals for projects under its Eurogia2020 cluster. Funding supports multidisciplinary, innovative research and development projects on energy technologies that will reduce the carbon footprint of energy production, improve energy efficiency and that develop solar, wind, biomass or geothermal technologies. Funding is granted via EUREKA countries' national programmes.
Web id: 1161448
Contact: Nil Atmaca
Email: contact@eurogia.com
Deadline: 19 February 2016 [141]

Respiratory awards

The European Respiratory Society and United Therapeutics Europe Ltd invite applications for the Sir John Vane grant. This recognises a recent publication on pulmonary vascular research that furthers our scientific understanding of the pharmacology, biology, genetics, or pathophysiology of pulmonary hypertension. The award is worth €2,500 (£1,900).
Web id: 1161538
Email: scientific@ersnet.org
Deadline: 28 February 2016 [143]

EU citizens calls

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency invites proposals for the following calls under its Europe for Citizens programme:
• European remembrance call, with grants worth up to €100,000 (£74,600)

each over 18 months. **Web id:** 1159033
 •town twinning call, with grants worth up to €25,000 each. **Web id:** 1157718
Deadline: 1 March 2016 [144]

Oncology clinical visits

The European Society for Medical Oncology invites applications for its clinical unit visits. These enable young oncologists to visit European facilities and gain insight into oncology care and translational research, as well as expand their professional network. Grants are worth €5,000 (£3,700) each.

Web id: 260967

Deadline: 1 March 2016 [146]

Genetic diseases research

The Jérôme Lejeune Foundation invites applications for its research grants. These support research on intellectual disability from genetic origin appearing in early childhood. Grants are worth up to €20,000 (£14,900) each per year.

Web id: 213435

Email: conseilscientifique@fondationlejeune.org

Deadline: 7 March 2016 [148]

EU civil protection grants

The Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection invites proposals for its call on prevention and preparedness in civil protection and marine pollution. This supports projects that complement the efforts of participating states and eligible third countries, focusing on areas where a common European approach is more appropriate. The total budget is €8.3 million (£6.19m).

Web id: 213189

Email: echo-cp-p&p@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 14 March 2016 [149]

Ecology prize

The Inter-Research Science Center's International Ecology Institute invites nominations for its prize. This recognises an ecologist distinguished by outstanding and sustained scientific achievements. The prize is worth €6,000 (£4,500).

Web id: 1165324

Email: ir@int-res.com

Deadline: 15 March 2016 [150]

EU maritime projects

The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries invites proposals for interoperability improvement projects in member states. Funding encourages member states to improve the interoperability of maritime surveillance authorities' information systems, in order to enhance cross-sector and cross-border information exchange, and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of national authorities in ensuring safe, secure and environmentally protected seas. The total budget is worth €2.54 million (£1.9m).

Web id: 1183416

Deadline: 31 March 2016 [151]

Life sciences awards

The Human Frontier Science Programme invites applications for its young investigator grants. These support young researchers working on innovative approaches to understand complex mechanisms of living organisms. Awards are worth up to US\$1.35 million (£926,900).

Web id: 194734

Email: grant@hfsp.org

Deadline: 31 March 2016 [152]

Microvascular complications

The European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes, in collaboration with Boehringer Ingelheim, invites applications for its European research programme in microvascular complications of diabetes. This aims to stimulate and accelerate European basic and clinical research focusing on microvascular complications of diabetes. Grants are worth up to €300,000 (£223,900) per project.

Web id: 1172958

Email: foundation@easd.org

Deadline: 1 April 2016 [153]

Reproductive medicine

The European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology invites proposals for its research grants. These enable scientists and clinicians to undertake basic and clinical research in the field of reproductive medicine, with a special focus on the theme of endometrial receptivity. Two grants are available: one worth €50,000, and the other worth €150,000.

Web id: 1179176

Email: grant@eshre.eu

Deadline: 1 April 2016 [154]

EU education policy

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency invites applications via its Erasmus+ programme for key action three – support for policy reform and initiatives for policy innovation. This call aims to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of education and training systems and youth policies through the collection and evaluation of evidence on the systemic impact of innovative policy measures. Grants are worth up to €2 million (£1.49m) per project.

Web id: 1177959

Email: eacea-policy-support@ec.europa.eu

Deadline: 14 April 2016 [155]

EU smart electronic systems

EUREKA invites proposals for projects under its Euripides2 cluster. Funding supports the development of innovations in the field of smart electronic systems, including smart sensors, smart power modules, electronic hardware platforms, and more generally, electronic product integration and embedded systems for automotive, aeronautics and space, security, medical electronics, smart everywhere and industrial electronics. Funding may vary for each country.

Web id: 1161501

Email: euripides@euripides-eureka.eu

Deadline: 12 May 2016 [157]

Oncology fellowships

The European Society for Medical Oncology invites applications for the following fellowships:

•clinical research fellowships, worth €40,000 (£29,800) each for one year.

Web id: 260981

•translational research fellowships, worth €40,000 each. **Web id:** 260977

Deadline: 12 May 2016 [158]

Oncology research fellowship

The European Society for Medical Oncology invites applications for the Georges Mathé translational research fellowship. This enables oncologists to receive training in translational research in a European centre of excellence in medicine and

therapeutic innovation, in the field of oncology and cancer immunology. The fellowship is worth €35,000 (£26,100) for one year. The host institute receives €1,000 for administration costs.

Web id: 1177552

Deadline: 16 May 2016 [160]

Psychiatry prize

The Anna-Monika Foundation for the Investigation of the Biological Substrate and Functional Disturbances of Depression invites applications for its research prize. This recognises papers that have contributed to significant advances in knowledge that are helpful in promoting treatment and that may open new paths of progress within the field of psychiatry. The award is worth €25,000 (£18,700).

Web id: 207982

Email: rainer.rupprecht@medbo.de

Deadline: 31 August 2016 [161]

rest of world

Opportunities from funders outside of the UK, Europe and the US.

Science and technology grants

The Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation Veski invites applications for its innovation fellowships. These aim to bring international scientists and researchers in the fields of science and innovative technology to Victoria. Fellowships are worth up to AU\$150,000 (£72,000) over three years.

Web id: 213643

Email: fellowships@veski.org.au

No deadline [162]

Respiratory health fellowship

The Canadian Thoracic Society and the European Respiratory Society invite applications for the Peter Macklem fellowship award. This enables a researcher to undertake research training and projects in Canada or Europe. The award is tenable for one year.

Web id: 1174781

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [163]

Spine research

The International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine invites nominations for the Wiltse lifetime achievement award. This recognises a scientist, clinician or basic science researcher who has made a major contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field of spinal disorders. The award is worth US\$15,000 (£10,300).

Web id: 204094

Email: katarina.olinder@gu.se

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [164]

Commonwealth scholarships

The Government of Canada and the Association of Commonwealth Universities invite applications for their Commonwealth scholarships in low- and middle-income countries. These enable Commonwealth candidates to undertake master's studies in either Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Pakistan, Rwanda, Swaziland or Uganda. Scholarships cover travel costs, tuition fees, living, sustenance and local transport cost, and removal costs.

Web id: 1188223

Deadline: 29 February 2016 [35]

usa nih

Opportunities from the National Institutes of Health. Recurring NIH calls include the next closing date only.

Natural history of disorders identifiable by newborn screening (R01)

NIH ref: PAR-16-061

Web id: 1159135

Deadline: 5 February 2016 [166]

Collaborative research projects to enhance applicability of mammalian models for translational research (R01)

NIH ref: PAR-16-058

Web id: 1179926

Deadline: 5 February 2016 [167]

Research projects to enhance applicability of mammalian models for translational research (R01)

NIH ref: PAR-16-059

Web id: 1179928

Deadline: 5 February 2016 [168]

Ancillary studies to the NIDDK intestinal stem cell consortium (R01)

NIH ref: PA-16-062

Web id: 1161818

Deadline: 5 February 2016 [169]

Global non-communicable diseases and injury across the lifespan: exploratory research (R21)

NIH ref: PAR-16-052

Web id: 1188018

Deadline: 24 February 2016 [170]

Advanced development and validation of emerging molecular and cellular analysis technologies for basic and clinical cancer research (R33)

NIH ref: RFA-CA-16-002

Web id: 210167

Deadline: 26 February 2016 [171]

Innovative molecular and cellular analysis technologies for basic and clinical cancer research (R21)

NIH ref: RFA-CA-16-001

Web id: 1182925

Deadline: 26 February 2016 [172]

Innovative technologies for cancer-relevant biospecimen science (R21)

NIH ref: RFA-CA-16-003

Web id: 210158

Deadline: 26 February 2016 [173]

Validation and advanced development of emerging technologies for cancer-relevant biospecimen science (R33)

NIH ref: RFA-CA-16-004

Web id: 210161

Deadline: 26 February 2016 [174]

Exploring epigenomic or non-coding Ribonucleic acid regulation in HIV and Aids and substance abuse (R01)

NIH ref: RFA-DA-16-012

Web id: 257337

Deadline: 2 March 2016 [175]

Integration of infectious diseases and substance abuse intervention services for individuals living with HIV (R01)

NIH ref: RFA-DA-16-011

Web id: 1183352

Deadline: 2 March 2016 [176]

Seek, test, treat and retain for youth and young adults living with or at high risk for acquiring HIV (R01)

NIH ref: RFA-DA-16-010

Web id: 1187990

Deadline: 2 March 2016 [177]

usa
other

US funding opportunities available to UK researchers.

Welch Foundation Welch award in chemistry

Web id: 196728

Deadline: 29 January 2016 [198]

Cognitive Science Society Robert J Glushko dissertation prizes

Web id: 1173102

Deadline: 30 January 2016 [199]

University of Illinois at Chicago Douglas A Garofalo fellowship

Web id: 1188177

Deadline: 30 January 2016 [200]

Herb Society of America research grants

Web id: 179867

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [201]

Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy research grants

Web id: 201249

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [202]

International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Lipids international research exchange scholarships

Web id: 1167808

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [203]

International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry/ThalesNano prize in flow chemistry

Web id: 1175576

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [204]

Medieval Academy of America John Leyerle-CARA prize for dissertation research

Web id: 196067

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [205]

National Multiple Sclerosis Society Barancik prize for innovation in MS research

Web id: 1183147

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [206]

University of Louisville Grawemeyer award for ideas improving world order

Web id: 207160

Deadline: 31 January 2016 [207]

American Cancer Society Audrey Meyer Mars international fellowships in clinical oncology

Web id: 187881

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [208]

American Schools of Oriental Research Bert and Sally de Vries fellowship

Web id: 171811

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [209]

American Schools of Oriental Research Harrell family fellowship

Web id: 171814

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [210]

American Schools of Oriental Research Pierre and Patricia Bikai fellowship

Web id: 171818

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [211]

American Society of Mechanical Engineers Burt L Newkirk award

Web id: 199070

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [212]

American Society of Mechanical Engineers Dixy Lee Ray award

Web id: 199094

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [213]

American Society of Mechanical Engineers George Westinghouse medals

Web id: 199121

Deadline: 1 February 2016 [214]

policy diary

January

20 AHRC: Best Practice Day for Research Officers and Research Managers, London.
<http://rsrch.co/206QwSH>

26 ESRC: Write a Data Management Plan Workshop, Colchester.
<http://rsrch.co/22P0pE6>

- HEPI: What is University For? London.
<http://rsrch.co/1ZaAUKo>

27 CaSE: Annual lecture with the Science Minister, London.
<http://rsrch.co/22P0sji>

28 WHEF: Future for Charity Law, Funding and Social Investment, London.
<http://rsrch.co/1Ia9UCZ>

February

11 WHEF: Next Steps for Computer Science Teaching in HE, London.
<http://rsrch.co/1kPDwAY>

23 HEPI: A Dis-United Kingdom? UK Universities and the EU Referendum, London.
<http://rsrch.co/1S8qRqm>

March

1 WHEF: The Future for the Catalyst Network, London
<http://rsrch.co/1LhAUG8>

- EPSRC: Council Meeting, London. To 2.
<http://rsrch.co/1G7t0IJ>

- Universities UK: International Higher Education Forum 2016, London.
<http://rsrch.co/1iIZc0b>

10 WHEF: The Changing Shape of Higher Education Admissions and Next Steps for Policy on Widening Participation, London
<http://rsrch.co/1BlQVa0>

22 WHEF: The future for the Catalyst network, London.
<http://rsrch.co/1LhAUG8>

April

7 WHEF: Next Steps for Postgraduate Research: Funding, Student Experience and Transition to Post-doctoral Roles, London.
<http://rsrch.co/1QZN0FO>

12 WHEF: Improving Graduate Employability, London.
<http://rsrch.co/1QDrEia>

14 WHEF: The Future of STEM Subjects in HE, London.
<http://rsrch.co/1HhJXXr>

18 WHEF: Implementing the Teaching Excellence Framework, London.
<http://rsrch.co/1ZRYgH2>

27 Universities UK: Universities, Cities and Innovation – powering the knowledge economy, London.
<http://rsrch.co/1ZaB8kK>

EPSRC launches Internet of Things research hub

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council has announced that a consortium of nine universities, led by University College London, will establish an interdisciplinary research hub for the Internet of Things. The council will provide £9.8 million, with other partners investing a further £23m. Research will focus on the challenges associated with the internet of things, including questions of safety, security, privacy and trust.

Oxford doubles Wellcome Trust grant income

The University of Oxford received more funding from the Wellcome Trust in 2015 than any other UK university, doubling its award income from £82.9 million in 2014 to £161.6m in 2015. The awards include £63m for the renewal of major grants in Vietnam and Thailand. Wellcome awarded a total of £673.1m in research grants in 2015.

NERC seeks to boost regional impact

The Natural Environment Research Council has launched a £5-million call for a five-year programme to translate environmental science into practice in the UK's regions. The programme, which aims to encourage research organisations to work with businesses and policymakers in their area, is accepting proposals until 3 March.

Engineering fellowships announced

The Royal Academy of Engineering has awarded eight fellowships for research on critical or unresolved issues in engineering. The fellowships went to researchers at the universities of Birmingham, Cambridge, Glasgow, Kent and Southampton, as well as Imperial College London, Queen's University Belfast and University College London. The funds will provide financial and career support for five years.

MQ looks to fund better talking therapies

Mental health charity MQ has opened a £1-million funding call for research to make psychological therapies more effective. The second round of MQ's Psyimpact programme is open to researchers from all disciplines who want to develop and test theory-driven, psychological interventions focused on the development or relapse of mental health conditions. The call closes on 1 February.

Offshore Catapult acquires wind turbine for research

The Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult has taken over ownership of the world's most advanced, open-access, offshore wind turbine dedicated to research from Samsung Heavy Industries. The 7 mega-watt wind turbine is located in the Fife Energy Park on the east coast of Scotland.

Glasgow awards contract for research hub

The University of Glasgow has named WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff and global architecture firm HOK as the winners of a tender to develop a £40-million research hub at its Gilmorehill campus. The hub is the second part of the university's £300m building plan for the West End campus.

More applicants to fall at first hurdle of Horizon 2020 applications

Future calls for European Union funding will see 80 per cent of applications rejected at the first stage, following the roll out of a two-step process across Horizon 2020 calls, Robert-Jan Smits, the European Commission's director-general for research, has said.

Smits told *Research Fortnight's* sister publication *Research Europe* that the Commission will extend its two-step evaluation process to all programmes. At the moment this process is used for only a handful of calls.

The Commission will seek to reject 80 per cent of applications on the basis of a 10-page proposal covering only the science and potential impact of the project. Of the 20 per cent of applicants asked to produce a full, 70-page application—covering implementation and more details on scientific excellence and impact—one third will be successful, Smits said.

This could lead to an overall success rate of less than 7 per cent, but increase the success rate of second stage proposals to more than 30 per cent. The move is likely to be supported by applicants, who have expressed concern that too many projects were progressing to the second stage, negating the point of the two-step procedure.

by Laura Greenhalgh

lgnews@ResearchResearch.com

The Commission's decision follows complaints about the low success rates of Horizon 2020 in its first two years. In 2014 and 2015, the Commission received 80,000 proposals for Horizon 2020 funding, and recorded an average success rate of 12 per cent. However, the rate for some individual programmes was as low as 3 per cent.

"We have been flooded with proposals," Smits said. "I never expected this and it's extremely dangerous because good applicants who find it relatively easy to find funds elsewhere may no longer apply. We can't afford for that to happen."

Smits said that the change would be introduced gradually, because evaluation of a two-stage procedure will take longer. "We have tight planning for 2016," he said.

Under Horizon 2020, the Commission has taken steps to reduce the time between application submission and signing a grant agreement. The target for this waiting time now stands at 8 months, and the Commission will be anxious to avoid increasing this waiting time as a result of the planned change.

europe in brief

French R&D spend on the rise

Government and industry investment in R&D in France increased in 2013 and is expected to have risen through 2014, the latest figures show. A government analysis published in December put total funding at €47.5 billion (£35.6bn) in 2013, a 1.3 per cent increase on 2012. Industrial and government R&D spending rose by 1.4 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.

China to support collaboration

The Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology has published its first call under a co-funding mechanism to push involvement in Horizon 2020. The ministry will provide up to €28 million for Chinese participants in EU projects in a range of research topics, and will support an exchange programme for early-career researchers.

Dutch presidency kicks off

The Netherlands took the reins of the European Council on 1 January, launching an 18-month work programme that will include a review of European Research Area advisers and changes to research-programme monitoring. Slovakia and then Malta will follow the Netherlands' presidency; this trio will be responsible for finalising the ex-post evaluation of Framework 7 and the mid-term review of Horizon 2020. They will also focus on support for young researchers and cooperation with non-EU countries.

Initiative on cybersecurity floated

The European Commission is considering setting up a funding mechanism under Horizon 2020 to address digital and online security. The Commission's proposal is to set up a contractual public-private partnership, involving industry and public organisations, to support R&D in line with a research strategy for cybersecurity. It has launched a consultation to gather feedback on the idea.

Varoufakis pushes for EU reform

The former Greek finance minister Yanis Varoufakis will call for a more unified, democratic European Union as part of a political movement to be launched in February. A draft manifesto for the Democracy in Europe Movement 2025 says the EU needs a "surge of democracy" to tackle officials' authoritarian approaches and the rising popularity of nationalism. He suggests European Council meetings should be streamed live, and calls for full transparency on trade negotiations between the EU and the United States.

Ombudsman backs transparency in science advice

The European Commission should do more to ensure that its scientific committees' advice is seen to be independent, the European ombudsman Emily O'Reilly has said. The comments came in a decision on the Commission's handling of possible conflicts of interest in a working group on dental amalgam, under the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks.

view from the top martin turner

Immigration policy must stop putting UK research at risk

In 2008, Chris Hays, an American working as a lecturer and researcher in particle physics at the University of Oxford, spent seven months at the Fermilab accelerator near Chicago.

Such visits are a routine part of an academic career. But in 2012, a retrospectively applied rule-change by the UK Home Office meant that this visit made Hays ineligible to settle in the UK. He had not spent enough time in the UK and he and his family would have to leave.

Hays took the Home Office to court—at a personal cost of more than £5,000—and won. Other researchers who have fallen foul of the same rule have left the country.

On 21 January, the Campaign for Science and Engineering will launch the report *Immigration: Keeping the UK at the heart of global science and engineering*. In it, we show the great scientific, economic and cultural contribution of immigrant scientists and engineers to the UK. We also find that there are many rules and policies making it hard—and sometimes impossible—for research institutions to access international talent. The government's approach to immigration appears to be at odds with its stated ambition to make the UK the best place in the world to do science and business.

From the structure of DNA to the design of the Mini, immigrants have brought discoveries and ideas to our shores. The Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge—which has produced more Nobel laureates than any other British institution and indeed most countries—was founded by the Austrian-born Max Perutz. He is one of the 40 per cent of Britain's science Nobel prize winners born overseas.

A quarter of academic staff at UK universities are from other countries. In 2014-15 more than 13,000 scientists and engineers from outside the European Union came to work in the UK. Even so, competition from countries such as China means that the UK share of the global talent pool is shrinking.

We are still a global hub for science and engineering. Talented researchers want to work here and countries want to build collaborations with us. But the government is jeopardising this. Its anti-immigration rhetoric damages our international reputation and its rules make immigration harder without bringing any benefit to the UK.

The public support more researchers coming to the UK: 35 per cent of those asked in a 2013 YouGov poll said

that they would like to see immigration of researchers increased, against 20 per cent wishing to see it reduced.

So with a supportive public and obvious economic benefits, what should the government do to improve its approach to skilled immigration?

First, it has to talk about immigration more positively. Ministers protest that they are doing so already but that is not how overseas or domestic scientists and engineers see it. The government promotes the UK as a place to invest; it should also promote it as a destination for the world's top talent.

The government must then back up welcoming messages with changed rules, streamlined visa routes and policy initiatives that are a positive statement of intent.

The arbitrary annual cap of 20,700 on skilled worker visas should be abolished. It is causing talented engineers to be rejected simply because too many better-paid people applied for visas that month. And rules that discriminate against scientists and engineers must be fixed. Hays's case created a legal precedent for changing the rule that caught him out, yet the Home Office has not acted.

There are also opportunities for positive policies to show that the government really does want to keep the UK at the heart of global science and engineering. Part of the Global Challenges Research Fund announced in the spending review should be spent on helping immigrant researchers from developing nations maintain research ties with their homelands. This will both attract talent and fuel international development, turning brain drain into brain circulation.

The government should also allow universities to sponsor visitor visas for academics who are coming to give lectures or take part in research collaborations. At the moment the Home Office has to assess every visitor visa application; removing this requirement would cut costs and bureaucracy for all involved.

Future generations want to be creators—not merely consumers—of technology and innovation. For this, the UK must remain a global hub of science and engineering. The recommendations set out in our report provide an opportunity for this government to leave a positive legacy in immigration policy that will complement its science and innovation policies.

More to say? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com

Martin Turner is a former policy adviser at the Campaign for Science and Engineering and author of its report Immigration: Keeping the UK at the heart of global science and engineering, to be published on 21 January.

'There are rules making it hard or impossible for UK research institutions to access international talent.'

kathryn oliver **view from the top**

Measure impact as though the answer really mattered

Almost everyone agrees that bibliometrics are a bad way to measure the impact of research on society. Such measures are said to discriminate against early-career researchers, interdisciplinary researchers and possibly women, and in any case they are not good indicators for wider societal impact. But there is not much consensus on how impact should be evaluated.

Perhaps the best way to think about this is to admit that measurement is a political choice, always contingent on practical and logistic concerns. Choosing metrics such as citations, for example, tells us about what we value—in this case, time and convenience.

We must acknowledge this, and that what we do depends on what our measurements tell us. To take stock of how impact is measured, we must ask who it's for, how it's measured, and what is done with that information.

In the cases studies submitted to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, impact was measured by researchers, using small case studies, anecdotes, citations and papers to support their claims, occasionally supplemented by patents and economic data. The clients were the Higher Education Funding Council for England and university managers. To an extent, case studies were also written for researchers themselves, bolstering cases for promotion and helping to show how work had interacted with the outside world.

What has this information been used for? Undoubtedly, some case studies have been drawn on to write funding proposals. But mainly, the impact section of the REF has been discussed in the context of the allocation of research funds, university rankings and individual careers.

Thus far, the evidence suggests that—despite the huge bureaucratic burden of the REF—neither universities nor funders have taken impact seriously.

If we really wanted to understand how research leads to change, we would frame the research process itself as an intervention to be evaluated. We would fund studies on the relationship between research and policy or practice and invest in ethnographies or even trials of impact.

Research—and not just applied research—affects us all. Academics and researchers get wonderful careers; students learn skills and different approaches. Businesses and services get innovations and inventions.

Impact could be anything from an improved patient experience to a happier health professional. It could

be motivated researchers, better transport systems, reduced job losses, newspaper articles, or even conversations with students. We all benefit from being part of a knowledge system that is continually enriched and improved. The evaluation of impact needs to reflect this.

Researchers are exhorted to increase impact by any means possible. Ethically and financially, there are reasonable arguments for this—because research is paid for by public money, or because of the contributions that universities and academics make to our cultural lives.

But in no other realm of research would it be acceptable to intervene without at least a hypothesis about the mode of action. Until we understand better how to influence policy and practice and the implications for ourselves as researchers, we risk creating gulfs between us and those we wish to help.

Few academics are experts in knowledge exchange, let alone policy. Our understanding of how different forms of knowledge are used and valued has developed over the past 20 years but fundamental questions remain, such as the effect of advocacy roles on academics, the best and most effective ways to engage with policy and practice, and the roles of research staff in user-driven projects.

We need to think about how we value and measure impact in a much more creative and holistic way beyond rankings, citations or anecdotal descriptions. There is a consultation about the next incarnation of the REF at the moment, but there is as yet no indication that the way impact is assessed will radically change.

If, as seems likely, funding and employment decisions are to be made at least partly on the basis of impact then we need to think carefully about how we evaluate what we do and who will support and own this evaluation. We need to think about the audience for our research and create systems to democratise decision-making about research.

Imagine how different evaluations would be if research users were involved in designing them. Greater involvement of managers, practitioners and the public is one way to improve impact. But creating time and opportunities to notice and value all the other things research can do may be equally important. We need to move towards a more rigorous and more holistic means of evaluation to understand the contribution that we as researchers can and do make.

Something to add? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com

‘Despite the huge bureaucratic burden of the REF, we have not taken impact seriously.’

Kathryn Oliver is departmental lecturer in evidence-based social intervention and policy evaluation at the University of Oxford.

Why failure needs funding

Difficult as it seems to convince government bodies of the importance of continuing and increasing funding for scientific research, I would nonetheless like to make an even more costly and adventurous proposal. What is needed is not just increased funding for science, but increased funding for failure—the secret of science’s success for the last 400 or so years.

Arguments are made regularly for the value of scientific research in modern societies. It won the second world war for democracy, it continues to make life better in almost every way imaginable, it drives economic growth, it employs thousands in highly productive work. Most simply, imagine where we would be without it. But many others have been hammering bravely away on these points for years, seemingly to little or no avail.

I will instead try to put away my indignation and astonishment at our so-called leaders, both political and economic, and focus on the most pernicious aspect of funding scientific proposals at historically low levels of around 10 per cent of applications.

Such a policy has the effect, intended or not, of only funding the sure things, which are rarely the most interesting things. If instead we want science to tell us things we don’t know then we’d better be ready to accept a fairly high failure rate, because that’s how it goes in the big mysterious unknown.

Science mostly fails. We do experiments because we don’t know something. Successful experiments are measurements, failures are often discoveries.

These discoveries come from delving into the deepest parts of our ignorance, where failure rates are the highest. Don’t want any failure? Then we will be denied admission to the territory of the great mysteries, where exceptional findings and unexpected advances occur.

The current strategy for allocating restricted funds is to take a top-down approach and direct money to where it’s perceived to be most needed. This almost always means so-called applied or translational research. Cures and gadgets.

But it is naive to believe that fundamental and translational research are separable processes; that you can have or would want one without the other. Fundamental research is regularly translated and translational research makes use of fundamental findings in ingenious and unpredictable ways. It’s one pipeline, not two spigots.

The top-down approach emphasises success and milestones, not failure and exploration. Draconian policies to “ensure” greater success lead to

perverse outcomes, where the fear of failure drives researchers to write grant proposals that are less and less exploratory and more and more predictable.

In the United States, both the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation have special high-risk, high-impact categories of grants. These are funds set aside for projects with a very low probability of succeeding but that could result in a substantial and deep change in our perception of the world.

Last year, 1.5 per cent of the NIH grant budget went to this category. What does that say about the other 98.5 per cent? That it was spent on incremental, predictable and pedestrian science that is likely to succeed but is of little importance and impact?

Why would we even have a category like high risk, high impact? Isn’t that what virtually all science should be? If there needs to be a separate category, let it be 1.5 per cent reserved for the necessary incremental work following from major discoveries.

THE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION to the problem of restricted funding is to do the obvious: throw money at it. If that sounds cavalier or glib, it isn’t. Throwing money at problems often works quite well. We recently threw gobs of money at banks that had gotten into troubles of their own making, and it averted a global depression. We throw money at military problems and natural disasters, and often it works.

Could there be a cheaper way to accomplish the same goals? Perhaps, but often we’re either not smart enough to figure it out or the risk of getting it wrong is too great.

Throwing money at science works for two reasons. First, the returns have been historically quite large, so the likelihood of there being lots of waste is acceptably small. Second, it wouldn’t take that much money. Science worked quite well when around 30 per cent of grant applications received funding, as was the case until just after 2000. That rate seemed to give researchers the confidence to propose things that might well not work, and allowed for a reasonable amount of failure without it being catastrophic.

We threw money at banks because they were too big to fail. We should throw money at scientific research because failure is too precious to lose.

Something to add? Email comment@Research Research.com

Stuart Firestein is the former chair of the department of biological sciences at Columbia University, and the author of Failure: Why science is so successful (Oxford University Press, 2015).

‘Why even have a category like high risk, high impact? Isn’t that what all science should be?’

Christmas in Tehran

With a nuclear deal in the offing, China, Russia and western nations are queuing up to get inside Iran. **Ehsan Masood** went there to talk Saadi and science policy.

It is past 1am on Christmas Day and my Turkish Airlines flight is preparing to land at Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport. Khomeini, the prime mover behind the 1979 Islamic revolution that deposed the ailing and unpopular Shah Reza Pahlavi, was a man of few words. On television he seemed to communicate through his stare alone.

One of his first decisions was a massive expansion in free higher education. Yet in 1989, he called for the death of the novelist Salman Rushdie, for writing *The Satanic Verses*. As the plane lands, I keep telling myself it isn't possible to insult revered figures from the history of Islam through the medium of science policy.

In contrast to securing the visa, clearing immigration is a doddle. But the immigration officer asks a question that I will hear repeatedly on this trip: "Your name is Ehsan Masood. This is a common Farsi name. So why don't you speak Farsi?"

Kind hearts

I am curious to know why the airport is 80km from the capital, a journey that can take two hours in traffic. A closer look at the map reveals that Tehran's international airport is roughly midway between Tehran and the theological capital Qom, Iran's second seat of power and home to universities and seminaries. It's as if the UK had decided to site its main international airport halfway between London and Oxford, in High Wycombe.

Our (female) hotel manager's first name is Rehm-Dil, which translates as "Kind-Hearted"—first names in Farsi are often chosen for what they mean, rather than how they might sound. Four decades of minimal international contact has forced Farsi to develop without borrowing European words. The word for hospital is still *bimaristan*, or "land of the ill", just as it has been for centuries. Later this morning I am due to visit Tarbiat Modares, or the University for Nurturing Teachers.

The poetry of bureaucracy

Iran, like Turkey, is a serious student of science policy. With a public science budget of around \$1.4 billion, successive governments have invested in research evaluation systems and there's a small but significant community of academics conducting research, training students and publishing in Farsi science-policy journals.

I have come to meet one such academic, Sepehr Ghazinoory, who runs a small group at Tarbiat Modares University. Ghazinoory came to academia after a series

of senior posts in Iran's research ministry and I ask him which he prefers: policy or academia? He breaks into a smile before asking if I know the poems of Saadi, the humanist writer from 13th-century Persia who wrote of incompetent governments, religious hypocrisy and the corrosive nature of wealth. Er, vaguely, I say. "Go and read one called *The Cat*, and you will know the answer," Ghazinoory says.

Tehran has a clean, efficient and very cheap metro, which I use to get to the next appointment, a meeting with one of Iran's vice presidents. His personal assistant calls my mobile expecting that someone with my name will naturally speak Farsi. I make my apologies and hang up. Fortunately, a fellow passenger is kind enough to lend me her phone, makes the call and translates: "The PA says hurry up."

When we finally meet, the vice president is bemused. A group of UK universities wants to visit Iranian higher education institutions but the plans are mired in their respective governments' bureaucracy and mistrust. "There should be no problem. We want more university cooperation." Then he tells me that Scotland's former first minister Alex Salmond has just left after a four-day visit with Scottish National Party members of the Scottish and Westminster parliaments.

A parable of power

Back at the hotel I'm Googling "Saadi The Cat". Except I'm not Googling, as Google is blocked, along with Youtube, Facebook, Twitter and even—thanks to three letters in its domain name—the University of Sussex. But the bans seem inconsistent: BBC News is blocked but not the Guardian; Amazon.com is open, while Amazon.co.uk is not. Gmail is blocked but not Hotmail or Yahoo. *The Saudi Gazette* is available, but for how long?

Saadi's poem turns out to be a parable on the temptations of power. A cat lives with an old woman who looks after it faithfully but frugally. The cat hankers after life at the palace of the king and one day his wish is granted. There, he discovers that the food may be better, but the palace staff are cruel and sadistic. The cat escapes, returns home and never complains again.

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'Iran is a serious student of science policy, with a public science budget of around \$1.4 billion.'

interesting if true

RAIN STOPPED PLAY Floods minister Rory Stewart will soon report lessons learned from the recent northern deluges. When the time comes, we hope his grasp of the situation is better than at the end of December. The minister turned up at the village of Pooley Bridge—where the eponymous structure had collapsed—only to find he was on one side, while the villagers he was coming to commiserate with were on the other.

SPIRITED AWAY Ric Parker, director of research at Rolls-Royce will represent the Royal Academy of Engineering before the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee this week. Your correspondent eagerly awaits his opinion on how the UK research base benefits from EU membership, especially given Rolls-Royce's plans, announced in 2014, for a 500-strong R&D facility in India. The company went on to seek 800 voluntary redundancies among its UK engineers throughout 2015. In some areas it seems the EU can't compete.

ARE EU KIDDING? Elsewhere in the EU debate, some MPs aren't letting facts get in the way of a good argument—even when it might help their case. In a Westminster Hall debate on 5 January, Philip Hollobone, Conservative MP for Kettering, criticised the bureaucracy of EU institutions, asking why they had so many presidents. "Who are

these pompous five presidents?" he asked, before being interrupted by Labour MP for Blackley and Broughton Graham Stringer, who pointed out that there are seven, not five. Unfazed by the impression his poor fact-checking might have given, Hollobone quipped: "I'm grateful for that—the situation is even worse than I had feared."

OUT OF THE FRYER English artist Ellie Harrison has come under fire for her £15,000 grant from the government-funded organisation Creative Scotland. The project? To live in Glasgow for a year. Harrison, a lecturer at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, has vowed not to leave the city during 2016 to "test out what becomes possible when she invests all her ideas, time and energy within the city she lives". The Glasgow Effect project, which is illustrated on Facebook with an image of chips, has been widely panned.

'PAMPERED' SCOTS Apparently when former science and universities minister David Willetts was a political aide to Margaret Thatcher back in the '80s, he also had some ideas about Scottish spending. In a note sent to Mrs T (as he calls her) released last month, he encouraged her to drastically cut public funding for the nation, saying that the Tories' position there was so bad it was unlikely to get any worse.

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