

Wider Outlook

Welcome to the February Edition of Wider Outlook, the focus for this month is research, we are featuring the latest news on our institutional response to the REF 2014 as well as articles from our Research Manager on the latest research policy and news from the UK and Europe. Also this month ECD are hosting a visit by Jo Frost our UK Research Office representative. This is an annual visit that gives us time to focus on European funding. Jo will be covering the new Horizon 2020 programme as well as the successor to the Life Long Learning Programme, Erasmus for All. Spaces are still available to all staff, the day is split to enable colleagues the flexibility to attend for a short time, so if you are free on the 13th

February get in touch!

As ever, if you have any comments please let us know, Jose



Contact Us

For editorial and funding queries contact the External Projects Team:

(01785) 353774

externalprojects@staffs.ac.uk

For research policy & news queries contact:

(01782) 294945

R.I.Gorton@staffs.ac.uk

Useful Links

<http://bit.ly/externalprojects>

www.researchprofessional.com

www.ukro.ac.uk

<http://bit.ly/findfunding>

Staffordshire University's Response to HEFCE Survey of REF 2014 Submission

Intentions

Staffordshire University has taken part in HEFCE's Survey of REF 2014 Submission Intentions. The purpose of the Survey was to help HEFCE to plan the remaining stages of REF 2014, a national assessment of research quality. Universities intending to take part in REF 2014 were requested to provide brief details of the units of assessment (UoAs) they proposed to submit under, the research groups that would feature in UoA returns, the number of staff likely to be cited in the returns and the impact case studies that

would underpin the submissions.

The University submitted 9 UoAs involving approximately 120 members of staff, and identified 18 case studies. This is an increase compared with the last time this exercise was undertaken in 2008.

Further information on the University's response to the HEFCE Survey is available from Richard Gorton, extension 4117 or email: r.i.gorton@staffs.ac.uk



Up Coming Funding event:

Annual UKRO event on the Wednesday 13 February 2013

The event is aimed both at colleagues who have experience of, and those who would like to know more about

EU funding

This is an opportunity to hear about the new **EU Funding Programmes (2014-2020)** with UKRO European Advisor Jo Frost as well as first-hand experience of running EU partnerships and projects from Professor Nachi Chockalingam and Enterprise Reader Jon Fairburn

Venue: BG21 Brindley Building, Leek Road, Stoke Campus

Please register externalprojects@staffs.ac.uk , free to forward this information to colleagues

Providing Research Support for Interdisciplinary Social Science

The Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF) wishes to support independent-minded researchers to do interdisciplinary work which is unlikely to be funded by existing funding bodies. It is interested in original research ideas which take new approaches, and suggest new solutions, to real world social problems.

The Foundation intends to make a small number of awards to support original interdisciplinary research, across the range of the social sciences, to be held from a start date no later than the end of December 2014. Scholars from within Europe are eligible to apply. The award is intended to enable a scholar at the early career stage to pursue his/her research full-time, for a period of up to 12 months. The amount will be offered to buy out the costs of replacing all teaching and associated administration in the applicant's home institution, and will be considered to a maximum of £50,000 per successful applicant. Within that sum, reasonable support for research expenses may be considered on a matched-funding basis with the host institution. The applicant should normally hold a salaried position at an institution of higher education and research, and be within 10 years of PhD award. Career breaks may be taken into account. [Here](#) Applicants should consult the Criteria as set out in the Further Particulars and show that they meet them. Applicants should follow the Application procedure and should present their Proposal in the format specified. Closing date for applications is **4pm on February 15th 2013**.

British Academy raises concerns over the future of EU research funding

Following the Prime Minister's long-awaited speech on the UK and the European Union, the British Academy has raised concerns over the UK's current negotiating stance towards the EU's budget and the damaging impact it could have on the UK's economic growth, job creation and global research leadership. The Academy's letter to the Prime Minister can be viewed [Here](#). As the UK's national forum and voice for the social



sciences and humanities, the Academy has also written to the Minister for Universities and Science, David Willetts MP, detailing its serious concern at the lack of any strategy to embed and finance social science and humanities research in the soon-to-be finalised EU research programme for 2014-2020 Horizon 2020. This is despite the UK's and the European Commission's commitment to the central role the social sciences and humanities play in understanding and addressing the multiple challenges we face in the 21st century. The Academy's letter can be viewed [Here](#).

Funding Calls

If you are interested in any of these funds please contact the External Projects Team

Who /Closing Date	What	Outline details - link
AHRC 15/03/2013	AHRC/ESRC Library of Congress scholarship	The scholarships enable doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows and research assistants based in UK to travel to Washington DC and work. Providing flight costs of £500 and personal accommodation costs of £1,000 per month Here
Royal Society 15/03/2013	Education research fellowships	This scheme provides educationalists with the opportunity to build an independent research career in the field of physics education as 5-19 subjects. Up to two fellowships are available to cover salary and research expenses for up to two years. Here
TSB 27/03/2013	Inspiring New Design Freedoms in additive manufacturing/3d Printing	This competition aims to overcome some of these barriers – including the so-called dirty secrets' of additive manufacturing. By investing in these target areas, we aim to accelerate the creation of exciting new design, production and supply chain competences for UK businesses. Here
Wellcome 12/07/2013	New Investigator Awards	Provide support that is flexible and at a level and length appropriate to enable exceptional researchers to address the most important questions about health and disease. Here
Wellcome 15/03/2013, 20/05/2013 and 05/07/2013	Foundation Career re-entry awards	The fellowship is particularly suitable for applicants wishing to return to research after a break for family commitments. Here

Research News and Funding

RCUK to Investigate Economic Impact of PhD

Research Councils UK intends to launch an investigation into the economic impact of doctoral training.

The study will be informed by the experiences of PhD graduates from 2003-2006.

The aim of the study is to understand the career pathways of doctoral graduates over the medium to long term, the employment impact of doctoral graduates and the contribution they make to

UK innovation and competitiveness.

The findings of the study will be published by the end of 2013. Data generated by the study will be made available to researchers and readers through the UK Data Archive.

Further information on the study has been posted [Here](#)



HEFCE Consultation on Research Integrity Concordat

The Higher Education Funding Council for England has invited views on whether the Research Integrity Concordat should be implemented in 2013 – 14. Issued by Universities UK last Summer, the Concordat sets out five commitments for researchers, employers and funding bodies to uphold.

These commitments include maintaining high standards in all aspects of research and applying governance procedures to investigate allegations of research misconduct.

In its consultation document, HEFCE invites responses on whether compliance with the Concordat should be a condition for the receipt of Funding Council grants and seeks views on how the im-

plementation of the Concordat should be monitored. The closing date for responses to the HEFCE consultation is 8th March 2013. The University's response to the HEFCE circular will be prepared by the Research, Enterprise and Advanced Scholarship Committee, chaired by Paul Richards.

A copy of the HEFCE Circular: Research Integrity Concordat – Consultation on Proposed Implementation from 2013 – 14 has been posted on the Funding Council's web site: please follow the link to access a copy of the Circular: [Here](#) HESA to Publish Proportion of Staff Submitted to REF 2014

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) has announced that it will publish data on the proportion of staff that have been submitted by each unit of assess-

ment to the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework exercise. HESA plan to release figures that show the number of staff eligible to take part in REF 2014 in each unit of assessment.

The data released by HESA can be compared against the actual number of staff selected by universities for REF assessment and will show whether institutions decided to submit only a small number of their strongest researchers. Information of this kind was not made available following previous Research Assessment Exercises.

For further information on the HESA announcement, please follow this link: [Here](#)

Research Funding Opportunities

EPSRC Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in Composites

The EPSRC Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in Composites is offering funding for a **two year research fellowship** in the field of Composites Manufacturing. The research will aid the fundamental understanding of composites manufacturing.

The Fellowships offer a first step into an independent research career for young engineers and scientists working on innovative manufacturing processes for composite components and structures.

This can include development of new manufacturing technologies, analytical studies to develop a fundamental understanding of state-of-the-art processes, and development of process modelling and optimisation techniques. Awards are limited to a maximum duration of two years. Closing date 16/03/2013. Details [Here](#)

Search our Funding calendar :[Here](#)

Unpublished Research to be Exempt from FOI Requests

The UK Freedom of Information Act will be amended to remove the obligation on universities to release unpublished research data. The announcement by ministers on 3rd December follows a recommendation by the House of Commons Justice Committee in July 2012.

In their evidence to the Committee, several universities argued for a research exemption amendment on the grounds that in its present form, the legislation left researchers open to having to release data that was incomplete or had not undergone peer review. In their announcement ministers recognised that the adoption of a qualified exemption would provide additional clarity and reassurance.

For more information on the government's announcement, visit the Universities UK web page: [Here](#)

Copyright Reform

Plans to allow researchers and lecturers to use copyright-protected materials and data for research and teaching purposes have been published by the Business Secretary, Vince Cable. The reforms which were announced just before Christmas 2012 are based on the recommendations set out in the Hargreaves Review of intellectual property published in 2011.

The amendments announced by the Business Secretary, include plans to make it

easier for lecturers to use copyright materials on interactive whiteboards and over distance learning networks. Sound recordings, films and broadcasts can be copied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without securing the permission of the copyright holder. "Non-commercial" researchers will be allowed to use computers to study published research results and other data without infringing copyright law. Government amendments to copyright law are expected to be published

during October 2013.

Further information on the Government's proposed changes to copyright legislation has been posted on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills web page: [Here](#)



Europe's research funding programme Framework 7 is likely to be threatened by cuts in 2013 as the European Commission spreads an €8-billion (£6.8bn) shortfall in the total European Union budget among its various spending programmes.

Last month, the European Parliament accepted a deal in which member states would pay out an extra €6bn to help tackle a €9bn shortfall from 2012. However, the remaining shortfall of €3bn will have to come out of the EU's 2013 budget. On top of this, the overall budget for 2013 is €5bn lower than requested by the Commission, meaning Framework 7 could be in line for cuts again this year.

The Commission expects to have to ask for additional funding as early as September 2013, and confirms that the Erasmus student exchange scheme is under threat. The Commission's education spokesman said: "From autumn 2013, we could see a shortage in funding for Erasmus and the other education and training schemes supported through the Lifelong Learning Programme."

The 2012 shortfall included a €345-million gap in Framework 7's budget and a €90m gap for Erasmus. Under the deal "everything regarding Erasmus and research was paid in time" for 2012, according to the Commission's budget spokesman.

Peter Tindemans, secretary general of the grassroots scientists' group Euroscience, told Research Europe that the Council's push to lower the budget for 2012 and 2013 does not bode well for research in the negotiations on the multiannual financial framework for 2014-20. Agricultural subsidies and cohesion, the biggest parts of the budget, cannot really be reduced, he says, adding that, as a result, the real burden will be on "those budgetary parts which are flexible, including research".