

Summary of the Research and Innovation Committee (was UCRI) meetings September 26

Please see below a brief summary of the main topics of discussion at the RIC September meetings:

At our operational meetings this month we:

- Highlighted our concerns about the alignment of the University Risk Register with the new University strategic research priorities.
- Reviewed the remit and principles of use for PURE and gave our feedback, including exploring the option for colleagues to add links to personal webpages within their profiles.
- Considered feedback on the UEB R&I Thematic Plan and agreed that the RIC biannual workshop in October would test emerging proposals and help finalise the plan for UEB and Council.
- Reviewed AREIF application rankings and scores and approved the recommended funding allocations.
- Held an initial discussion on the implications of potential changes to funder policies for Transformative Agreements, and agreed that we will give this further consideration during the next stage of negotiations in Summer 2027.
- Approved the Researcher Development Concordat, which we welcomed as a valuable annual reflection on activity, progress, and impact.
- Considered the annual progress report from the Co-Directors of the Statistics Community of Practice and acknowledged the significance and value of this work.
- Received an update on the streamlined RTG process which will be ready to launch soon.
- Discussed progress and reviewed the 2026/27 NIRD Trust Grant Annual Report.
- Noted that an EoI had been submitted to the new UKRI Doctoral Focal Award for venture doctorates focused on entrepreneurship.

At our strategic meeting this month meeting we:

- Discussed a report from the Health Strategy Group on the current position of health-related research and education across the University, which outlined key opportunities, future directions, and proposals to enhance the visibility of health-related activity both internally and through the University's external-facing web presence.
- Reviewed the RDF budget for 27/28, when Research Culture funding from Research England (£300K) will have ceased, and agreed on activities which would be prioritised, reevaluated or discontinued.