

Summary of the University Committee for Research and Innovation meeting (UCRI) held on 31 October 2023

Please see below a brief summary of the main topics of discussion at the recent meeting of UCRI:

Main topics of interest:

At this meeting we:

- Reviewed the selection process and the funding recommendations for the second round of the Research Engagement, Knowledge Exchange and Commercial Fund (REKEC). The robust and well considered process received a total of 29 applications demonstrating a good spread of ambition and engagement. We approved 7 applications for funding and an additional 8 applications for clarification or resubmission. All applicants will receive constructive and detailed feedback.
- Discussed our strategy for the Open Innovation Team Partnership programme on policy. We agreed next steps will comprise follow up meetings exploring plans and priorities in health and equalities and examining our relationship with DESNZ, alongside a tailored masterclass for Arts and Humanities.
- Received an update from the early REF Planning Group and considered and approved proposals for the:
 - I. Overall structure, governance and approach.
 - II. Governance of the Research Culture programme.
 - III. Development of a more consistent and centralised approach to quality assessment of outputs as part of the REF Tool.
 - IV. Process for appointment of UoA Leads and the UoA Lead role description.

We also discussed resource requirements for the submission, particularly in relation to professional services and gave feedback on the initial REF 2028 risk register.

In other news we:

- Considered and approved a draft JD for the post of Research Culture Manager which will be advertised soon.
- Approved the submission of an application for a British Academy Global Professorship which will be hosted by Department of Economics.
- Approved the guidance for the ECR Output Prize which, once endorsed by UBRI, will be launched in early November.