

Summary of the University Committee for Research and Innovation meeting (UCRI) held on 15 March 2022

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:

- Noted that a potential proposal for the development of a Centre for Citizen Science and Participatory Research is being scoped with a Research England Development Fund bid in mind.
- Reviewed success rates for ERC funding and agreed a process for more tailored support of outstanding PIs (and those with future potential) in submitting competitive ERC grant applications. We have agreed to:
 - Encourage and support RDLs in identifying talent
 - Set up an early stage identification action lab to ensure the level of ambition and refine ideas
 - Trial the use of external (paid for) critique approximately 6 months prior to submission.
- Considered the interim findings of the review of the Research Planning process and decided not to make major changes to the PRP form for 2022. However, for the future, we will be:
 - Exploring ways to reduce the burdensome aspects of the PRP form
 - Supporting RDLs to ensure that all researchers are participating in the PRP process
 - Looking to close the feedback loop by clearly demonstrating the links between the PRP, RDOP and SPS 5-year planning processes
 - Making minor revisions to the RDOP for 2022/2023.

In other news we:

- Reviewed the applications to the Leverhulme Research Leadership Call. Two applicants have been shortlisted and will present their ideas to UCRI on 29 March.
- Confirmed approval of the NIRD Trust guidance notes and assessment criteria for strategic criteria. This information will be widely communicated soon.
- Approved NIRD funding to support a corporate-funded academic post grounded in the Menu of Change mission in the School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy, subject to confirmation of matched external funding.
- Discussed how we will share the REF results when they are published on 12 May.