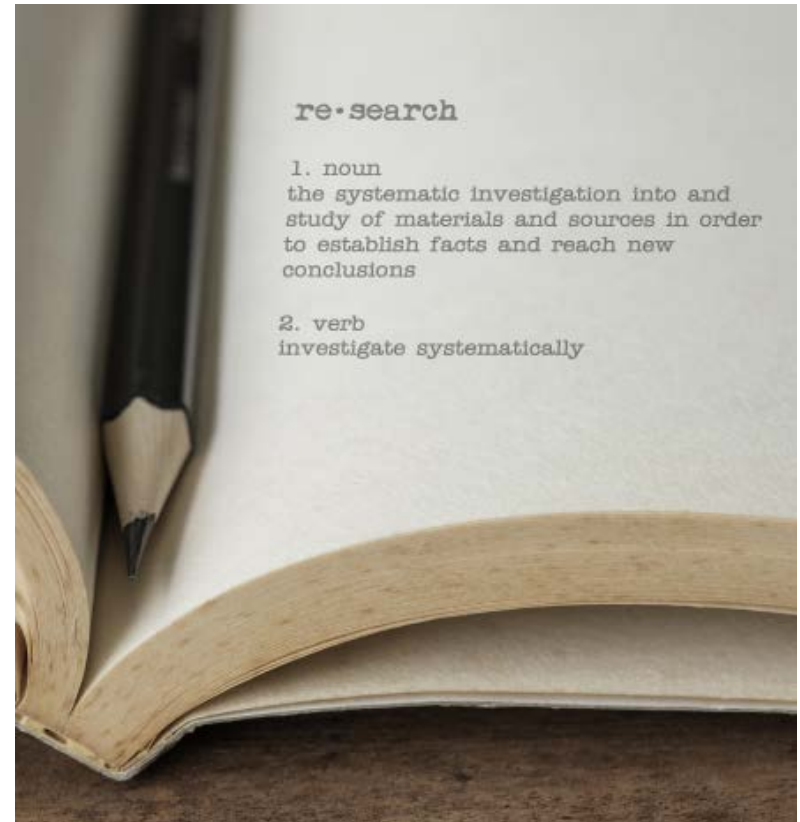


**BATH
SPA
UNIVERSITY**

RESEARCH ACTIVITY AT BSU VERITAS STUDY VISIT

RESEARCH ACTIVITY AT BSU

- Bath Spa University – research and enterprise aims
- Research Excellence Framework (REF)
- Pathways to funding
 - Research Councils UK
 - EU funding
 - Other funding opportunities
- Knowledge Exchange
- BSU – recent successes
- Good practice
 - BSU approach
 - Timescales
 - Bid writing
 - Research staff development
 - Ethics



2020 – OUR RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE AIMS

To grow our world-leading research quality, expand our entrepreneurial partnerships with the cultural and creative industries and maximise the research potential of our staff

- Significantly enhance the amount of world leading work submitted to REF
- Increase our research and enterprise income, in particular as part of research networks with other UK and international HEIs
- Create research themes that shape and inform the work of our researchers – including Environmental humanities (art, science, culture and environment), Transnational creativity and education, and Creative and cultural Industries
- Be a collaborative, entrepreneurial partner in the UK's creative and cultural economy – creating impact by shaping practice, triggering innovation and informing policy
- Be the UK gateway to a global network of partner research institutions working in our fields of professional, creative and critical practice
- Be the university of choice for early career research staff (ECR) and postgraduate research students in our research specialisms

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (REF)

- Evaluated from three perspectives: Research Quality (65%), Research Environment (15%), and Research Impact (20%).
- Research assessed in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
- Impact assessed in terms of reach and significance.
- Environment assessed in terms of infrastructure, income, sustainability, growth.
- Provides accountability for public funding of research and demonstrates public benefits.
- Determines the Quality-Related research funding that universities receive which is managed by the Higher Education Funding Council England (HEFCE)

REF2014
Research Excellence Framework

PATHWAYS TO FUNDING

- Research Councils UK (RCUK)
- European Union (EU)
- Charities
- Government
- Other e.g. industry

WHAT RESEARCH ACTIVITY CAN BE FUNDED?

- Staff salaries
- Research assistants and/or PhD students
- Materials and equipment
- Travel costs for conferences or for research work
- Costs of workshops/seminars
- Related exhibition or performance costs
- Full economic costs (fEC) is the total cost to the institution of undertaking a research project. It comprises:
 - all direct costs arising from the conduct of the research (directly incurred costs)
 - all costs in relation to use of shared staff and facilities including academic staff time and a premises charge (directly allocated costs)
 - a full indirect cost recovery and a provision for recurring investment in the institution's infrastructure (indirect costs)

TYPES OF GRANTS AVAILABLE

The range of schemes on offer from large funding agencies include:

- Travel or conference grants for purposes of dissemination or collaboration
- Small grants to include travel, basic research assistance and other modest expenses
- Collaboration grants to support interaction between two or more specific countries
- Project funding designed to support the full costs of a project on a topic nominated by the applicant
- Project funding designed to support the full costs of a project on a topic nominated by the funding agency
- Fellowship funding
- Conference, seminar or network funding
- Large programme grants (three to five years)
- Knowledge exchange schemes and industrial partnerships
- Research funding for practitioners or artists who want to develop their academic research potential

RESEARCH COUNCILS UK (RCUK)

RCUK are responsible for investing public money in research in the UK to advance knowledge and generate new ideas which lead to a productive economy, healthy society and contribute to a sustainable world.

There are seven Research Councils:

- Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
- Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)

RESEARCH COUNCILS UK (RCUK)

- Support excellent research
- Pay full economic costs
- Lengthy online applications
- Expert peer-review of proposals
- Highly competitive, success rates between 23% and 39% across the seven councils
- Demand management means only high-quality applications must be submitted
- Impact of research is embedded into the funding models
 - impact is defined as an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia
 - impact includes, but is not limited to, an effect on, change or benefit to: the activity, attitude, awareness, behaviour, capacity, opportunity, performance, policy, practice, process or understanding of an audience, beneficiary, community, constituency, organisation or individuals in any geographic location whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally

EU FUNDING

Research funding through Horizon 2020 and European Research Council will support full economic costs and include:

- Fellowships
- Multi-national research projects
- Networks
- Research staff mobility – visiting fellowships etc. (Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme)

Success rates for Horizon 2020:

- Year one 2014
- 31,115 full proposals submitted
- 4315 proposals retained for funding
- Success rate 14%

THREE PILLARS

Excellent Science

European Research
Council

Future and Emerging
Technologies

Marie Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures

Industrial Leadership

Leadership in Enabling
and Industrial
Technologies

Access to Risk Finance

Innovation in SMEs

Societal Challenges

Health, Demographic Change and
Wellbeing

Food Security, Sustainable
Agriculture, Marine and Maritime
Research and the Bioeconomy

Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy
Smart, Green and Integrated
Transport

Climate Action, Resource
Efficiency and Materials

Europe in a Changing World:
Inclusive, Innovative and
Reflective Societies

Secure Societies: Protecting
Freedom and Security of Europe
and its Citizens

CHARITIES

- Large amount of funding available but still very competitive
- Will not pay full economic costs so no overheads and many do not pay for buying out staff time, therefore there are resource implications for the institution
- Criteria generally closely linked to mission of the charitable body
- Open and closed calls
- Examples of charities funding research in the UK include:
 - The Wellcome Trust
 - The Leverhulme Trust
 - The Joseph Rowntree Foundation
 - The British Academy

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

- Linked to national priorities
- Used to help inform government policy
- Funded through Government departments such as the Department for Education or
- Funded through agencies such as Higher Education Funding Council England (HEFCE), Higher Education Academy (HEA) and publicly-funded bodies like the Arts Council
- Large calls for proposals with set deadlines and specific criteria
- Will support the full economic costs

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Knowledge Exchange describes a two-way flow of ideas, expertise and learning between academia and the wider world. BSU has an excellent track record in working with businesses, schools and organisations from the Bath and Bristol area.

Knowledge exchange activity can take place at any scale – from workshops with local community groups to large industrial R&D. Projects tend to fall into three categories:

- Custom research or consultancy projects – designed to problem-solve for a particular organisation
- Commercialisation activities – working with a business to develop a product that can be sold for profit or will add value to their business
- Public engagement activities – interactive events through which research activity can be shared with the public

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Knowledge exchange activity is an excellent way of maximising the reach and the impact of research:

- Funding mechanisms with higher than average success rates
- Funding mechanisms that support the KE potential of previous-funded projects
- Evidence of research impact and outputs which can be submitted to REF
- Expertise gained through the application of research in a non-academic environment
- New case study material
- Enhanced teaching material
- Internship/student project opportunities
- Opportunities to extend networks – to present/publish in non-academic events and journals
- Press/media coverage
- Enhanced reputation/profile/goodwill

BSU: EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH FUNDING CREATIVE WRITING IN SCHOOLS

The University was awarded in October 2015 a £600,000 grant from Arts Council England for a project designed to encourage creative writing in schools.

The Creative Writing Education Hub will bring creative writing education into schools across the South West. Drawing together expertise from leading arts organisations, educators, researchers and writers, it will create a sustainable evidence-based model of best practice for creative writing education that can be adopted by schools across the UK.

The partnership of Bath Spa University, Bath Festivals and The National Association of Writers in Education will use the grant to develop and deliver a three year programme led by Dr Bambo Soyinka Head of Department in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University, with colleagues from the Institute for Education. The consortium will work with 100 schools and a thriving community of regional arts organisations to create opportunities for pupils from areas with less opportunity to engage with arts and culture to work with professional creative writers. A research-led professional development programme for teachers and writers will also be devised.

BSU: EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH FUNDING DISRUPTED HISTORIES, RECOVERED PASTS

Led by Sian Sullivan, Professor of Environment and Culture, this international project will offer a cross-disciplinary analysis and cross-case synthesis of oral histories and history in post-conflict and postcolonial contexts.

Jointly funded by the AHRC and LABEX the £80,000 grant will bring together colleagues from the University of Huddersfield, CNRS Paris, Namibia Resources Centre Switzerland, Boulogne-Billencourt Archives, Creuse Archives and the South East Wales Regional Equality Council.

Project findings will be made available online and used to facilitate knowledge transfer and public engagement through publishing an online series of research-based working papers as well as more accessible blogposts and non-text media and will help to explain the role of oral history in post-conflict environments.

BSU: EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH FUNDING BRISTOL & BATH BY DESIGN

The University is part of an exciting £750,000 research project that is examining the use of design in businesses and public sector organisations in Bath and Bristol.

The research project, Bristol & Bath by Design, brings together experts from Bath Spa, the University of the West of England (UWE) and the University of Bristol, drawing on expertise in design, creative arts, business and law, and mechanical engineering. They will work together to undertake the first comprehensive analysis of design in the region.

The project was initiated by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Design Council. The Bath and Bristol area was selected for the study because it is a creative hotspot with strengths in the creative and digital economy.

The research team at Bath Spa comprises Dean of the School of Art and Design Professor Anita Taylor and Head of Design and Critical Studies Dr Graham McLaren, along with a Research Fellow who will specifically examine the history of design in the Bath and Bristol region.

BSU: EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH FUNDING

WELLCOME TRUST ARTS AWARD

Dr Laura Purcell-Gates, Head of Performance Research Centre, has received a £30,000 Wellcome Trust small arts award for the development of a chamber opera for puppets based on the true story of Tarre the Freak, an 18th century French revolutionary spy with an insatiable appetite for cats, amputated limbs and the occasional toddler. Tarrare's grizzly story ends on the autopsy table - a defining moment in medical history.

The project is being developed in collaboration with a leading pathologist at University College London and the University of Bristol Medical Humanities programme. The show was premiered at the Bristol Festival of Puppetry in September 2015. Additional funding has been received from the Arts Council England to take the production on tour around the UK.

BSU APPROACH & THE RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE

The Research Support Office works with BSU researchers to:

- Identify funding opportunities to support specific research themes and questions
- Provide expertise in costing proposals and agreeing project budgets
- Give guidance on meeting specific funding body criteria
- Support with the completion of application forms
- Complete post-award administration

Examples of good practice at BSU:

- Research proposal form – helps to ensure most appropriate funding opportunities are identified and that all necessary approvals are obtained
- Internal peer review college – senior academic staff provide critical feedback on draft research grant applications to help to drive up the quality of applications submitted, and to improve success rates
- Mentoring

TIMESCALES

- Funding bodies can take 6-9 months to make a decision, this needs to be factored in to project plans
- It is necessary to build in time for consultation, feedback, referees and institutional approval
- A lead time of 5-6 months is required to prepare a substantial research grant application
- A number of factors are likely to extend the application process e.g.
 - Dealing with large numbers of collaborators
 - The need to recruit steering groups, organise specific events or generate letters of support
 - Complex budgets which might involve gaining competitive quotes

BID WRITING

The effective research grant application:

- A busy person can speed read it
- A non-specialist can understand it
- It convinces readers (through evidence) that it is worth the speculative investment
- It is more memorable than its competitors
- The importance of the research is supported by evidence and clear argument

The bid writing challenge:

- To fit the **template**
- To meet the generic and specific **criteria**
- To produce a document that is **easy to read, easy to understand, easy to remember** and **convincing**
- To include every relevant piece of information and **evidence** in the best place

BID WRITING

All fundable applications make four key propositions (to meet generic criteria):

1. Importance: this proposal asks an important question
2. Success: this project is likely to answer the question
3. Value: the likely gain from this project is worth the resources requested
4. Competence: the applicant and team are competent to carry out the project as described

The Case for Support must contain evidence to support these four propositions.

RESEARCH STAFF DEVELOPMENT

At BSU we are committed to the development of our researchers and in 2012 were awarded the HR in Excellence in Research Award by the European Commission.

Development opportunities include:

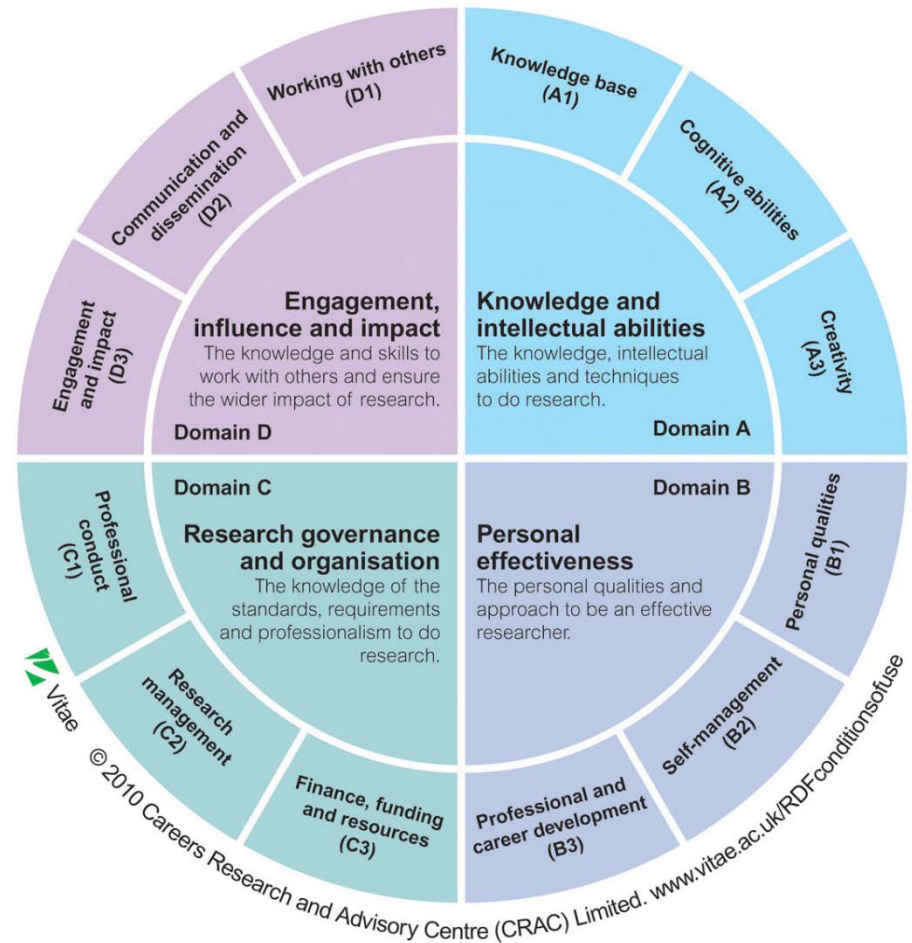
- Research Staff Lunch Programme
- Effective Researcher Programme for PhD students
- PhD Supervisor's Programme
- Early Stage Researcher Programme
- Research Leadership Programme
- Expert workshops

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Vitae are a UK-based organisation dedicated to realising the potential of researchers through transforming their professional and career development.

Their Researcher Development Framework (RDF) articulates the knowledge, behaviours and attributes of successful researchers and seeks to encourage researchers to aspire to excellence through engagement with development activities and reflection.

BSU provides access to its online materials and training to support researcher development across all career stages.



RESEARCH INTEGRITY & ETHICS

BSU complies fully with the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity and has University and School Ethics Committees to ensure that research conducted complies with the university's approach to research integrity and ethics.

A Handbook on Research Integrity and Ethics has been developed for staff and students which includes:

- the approach to research integrity and ethics
- code of good practice for research
- guide to the process and procedure for ethical approval
- procedures for dealing with allegations of misconduct in research

All academic staff are required to complete training on research integrity and ethics.

ANY QUESTIONS?