

COU15D061

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Admissions position (Confidentiality status: Confidential)

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Learning and Teaching (Confidentiality status: Open)

On 16th May the Government published its White Paper and a Technical Consultation document on the operation of Year Two of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). Year Two of the TEF will be run as a voluntary pilot, with submissions and ratings working at the institutional level only. In future years, the intention is that the TEF will operate at the discipline level like the REF.

A national TEF panel of assessors is being established and recruited to. Judgements are likely to be based on a combination of a set of 'core metrics' accompanied by a 15-page submission from institutions. Institutions will be rated as either 'Meets expectations' (approximately 20% of institutions), 'Excellent' (possibly between 50 and 60%) and 'Outstanding' (20-30%).

Institutions have been sent indicative core metrics. (These are based on NSS questions 1 to 12 covering teaching quality, academic support, and assessment and feedback; retention rates; and employability outcomes based on the Destination of Leavers of Higher Education [DLHE] survey. The core metrics are benchmarked according to discipline mix and entry tariff.

The Technical Consultation sets out indicative examples of the kinds of information institutions might want to present their own information on in their 15-page supporting statement. At UEA, work is already underway to assess our areas of relative strength and weakness with respect to these indicative examples. A TEF submission will need to be produced by the end of the calendar year.

Research (Confidentiality status: Open)

- In the last financial year to date, 11 new research awards, 3 new training awards and one other award each over £500K have started. The research awards are: 3 NIHR funded clinical trials; 2 European Research Council awards and awards from BBSRC; Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, the

Volkswagon Stiftung Foundation; the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences; a further NIHR award and 1 commercially funded award linked to medical implants. The training awards are for Masters in Clinical Research and pre-registration trainee pharmacist and pharmacy technician programmes funded by NIHR and Health Education East respectively. The other award is for a programme of work funded by European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts.

- Review of Research Impact Case Studies: The review of research impact case studies by Faculty against target numbers for submission to the next REF was completed in April. In summary, progress against the target number of impact case studies is good.
- RCUK Funding Assurance: At the end of April, UEA received formal confirmation from RCUK that UEA had been assessed as having the highest assurance of “Substantial” in its administration of RCUK funding and doctoral training awards. The scope of the visit held in March was the widest ever and included engagement as well as collaboration with partners outside of the UK.
- Research Systems: There is a high level of concern about the lack of progress being made across the institution in the delivery of research systems in support of the work of the University (PURE and ABW in particular) as reported to CISB in May. At its meeting on 15 June, the University Research Executive supported the statement that progress over the last six months has been negligible and puts the efficient achievement of the strategic research objectives of UEA at risk.
- Postgraduate research application volume was up 18% to the end of May compared to the same point last year (2332 applications compared to 1977). Applications from international applicants are included in this, and similarly are up 18% (741 to 874). Even more promising is that acceptances, not counting the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme where numbers are capped, are up 31% (rising from 226 at this point last year to 295 this year) to the end of May, coming from only a 2% rise in offers (364 to 371) to mid-May, meaning that conversion of offers into acceptances across all areas, both Faculties and Doctoral Training Partnerships, is much improved on last year. By Faculty, acceptances are up as follows: FMH +130%; HUM +12%; NBI +68%; SCI +27%; SSF +14%.
- The SeNSS ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership bid has been peer reviewed and was positively received with a number of very strong endorsements. A SeNSS team will be interviewed in late June and we hope to hear an outcome over the summer. We are awaiting to hear whether the *FoodChoice* ESRC-BBSRC Centre for Doctoral Training bid will be shortlisted. A BBSRC Collaborative Training Partnership bid linked to the NRP BBSRC DTP was also submitted in May, as was the Wellcome PhD Programme for Clinicians bid led by Cambridge and involving UEA, IFR and the Earlham Institute (formerly TGAC).
- The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) and International & PGR Funding Manager (PGR/REN) visited China at the beginning of June, following up on a visit by the Vice-Chancellor and Director of ARM in April. There are promising signs around joint working on research projects and postgraduate research programme delivery with SUSTech (South University of Science and Technology) in Shenzhen, and Fudan University, which we will take forward as a priority for development over the summer.
- The Quadrum has appointed a Programme Manager (David Bird) and established a Programme Board across the four member organisations to work through the operational issues needed to establish the Quadrum. The Programme Board reports to the Quadrum Board of Directors. A series of steering groups are in the process of being established (e.g. around facilities, commercial, stakeholder engagement, business transformation, clinical research and trials, construction, endoscopy) and a science strategy board has been created and is meeting monthly.

Enterprise (Confidentiality status: Open)

- The University has supported the establishment of a new not for profit enterprise World Energy & Meteorology Council (WEMC) that will provide a vehicle for climate scientists to interact with potential end users of climate data particularly from the commercial sector. The company has

been able to attract Professor Alberto Troccoli as its first CEO who will also hold an honorary position at UEA.

- Following recent discussions over the scope of potential interactions Anglian Water is establishing a Water Research Centre at UEA. The first activity will involve the recruitment by Anglia Water of an individual who will map and broker potential interactions between UEA and Anglian Water.
- UEA was a lead sponsor of the inaugural Venturefest East exhibition which took place in late May and brought together over 800 innovators, successful entrepreneurs and investors from across the region to create new business opportunities and help innovative businesses to grow. The latest UEA research excellence was showcased at the event and the VC gave a speech. UEA also had a strong presence at the Royal Norfolk Show in June with an exhibit in the Innovation Zone where we showcased relevant research and opportunities for business to work with UEA. We also had a stand dedicated to student enterprise at which entrepreneurial students and graduates sold their products and talked about how they set up their own businesses.
- The Norwich Research Park Translational Fund that was established with funding from the various NRP institutions and the BBSRC has been highly successful but is approaching its final year of available funding. Due to the funding climate the BBSRC and the other NRP institutions apart from UEA are finding it difficult to allocate additional funding to this programme. UEA has indicated that it will make a further contribution if others also contribute. As it looks increasingly unlikely that other institutions will be able to participate UEA is planning its own scheme available to UEA academics based closely on the way the NRP Translational Fund has operated.
- Work continues on the new Enterprise Fund targeted at student enterprise and funded by donations from alumni and other high net worth individuals. Around £600k has already been pledged to the fund and it has been clarified that those donating to the fund will have no financial interest in the fund's investments but that their assistance as mentors will be key to the fund's success. An investment committee comprising UEA staff and alumni has met and the documentation on the fund's governance structures is awaiting approval by UEA lawyers. It is planned for the fund to be operational in 2016 making a combination of small grants and larger investments into companies established by UEA students and recent graduates.
- The Enterprise Centre is now fully occupied. A range of small companies with an interest in the low carbon economy have either been established or have relocated to the facility. There remains the opportunity for others to participate in the hot-desking facility the nature of which is much more fluid.

Capital/Estate (Confidentiality status: Confidential)

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International (Confidentiality status: Confidential)

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Faculty of Science (Confidentiality status: Open)

New Head of School

The Faculty of Science is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Head of School for Computing Sciences. Prof Gerard Parr moves from the University of Ulster and brings with him a wealth of experience and international networks.

Research

Since we last reported, the Faculty of Science has been awarded a total of £4M in new awards.

In early June, we were pleased to hear the Faculty of Science had been successful in being awarded, and have accepted, two Independent Research Fellowships from the Leverhulme Trust out of four applications submitted. Dr Anna Kalagirou (MTH) comes from the University of Leeds and Dr Andrew Crombie (BIO/ELSA), already working at the University, will start their fellowships in 2017.

Prof Colin Murrell (ELSA) has been awarded a prestigious European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant, awarded only to the most senior research leaders of International standing. The £2.2M award will last five years, and will employ two PhD students as well as two Postdoctoral Fellows, to study the metabolic processes causing the release of isoprene from leaf surfaces. This is the second large ERC award in two months for Science, the last being Dr Johannes Laube's €1.5M award reported in February.

Prof Elina Kulinskaya (CMP) has also been awarded £788k from the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, an project which will run over four years focused upon understanding the longevity and morbidity risks.

We are also particularly pleased to report two additional large awards

- Dr Leanne Stokes (PHA) has been awarded £401k from the BBSRC (a BBSRC New Investigator Award), for a project titled "Enhancing microbial killing through the novel action of Panax ginseng derivatives on P2X7."
- Prof Tim Osborn (ENV) has been awarded £361k from NERC, a collaboration with TYN, for a project titled "An INTEGRATED data-model study of interactions between tropical monsoons and extra-tropical climate variability"

Faculty of Arts and Humanities (Confidentiality status: Open)

Staff in the School of Art, Media and American Studies have recently received new research grants from AHRC (Keith Johnson) and HERA (Ferdinand de Jong). Dr Eylem Atakav presented her ongoing film project "Growing up Married" around child brides to the House of Lords. This year the School co-hosted the inaugural conference of the International Girls Studies Association, foregrounding the experience and cultures of girls around the world. On teaching The Graduate Teacher Prize recognizing graduate students who have made a significant impact through teaching in the Faculty was awarded to Jon Ward. The Student Article Prize for the best paper published by a graduate student was awarded to Hannah Yelin. The Public Engagement Prize that recognizes and showcases the many ways in which students in the arts and humanities increasingly engage with public audiences was awarded to Dean Bowman and to Tom Phillips of the Interdisciplinary Institute for the Humanities.

Some highlights from the School of History include Polly Ha's exhibition on the History Independence at Trinity College Dublin. See Polly's introduction here:

<https://library-trinity-college-dublin.culturalspot.org/asset-viewer/exhibition-welcome-history-of-independence/XgEaUyv2sBqnZg?hl=en> The Magna Carta Project continues to go from strength to strength and the exhibition at the British Library was one of their most successful ever:

<http://magnacartaresearch.org/> Mark Thompson was awarded the Laura Shannon and Jan Michalski Prizes for his book "Birth Certificate". Another colleague will announce that she has won a prestigious award on 14th July and the School plans to foreground the achievement via social media and the university website.

Kate Ferguson was awarded her Ph.D in November 2015. While she was a Ph.D student, she helped to found the NGO Protection Approaches. On 19th April she spoke to the House of Lords about Syria. If you want a student-centred story, this one would be good. Council members can follow this link: <http://protectionapproaches.tumblr.com/post/143112957985/dr-kate-fergusons-speech-at-the-house-of-lords-on>

For the Faculty as a whole we are delighted that our coordinated approach to the Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellows scheme has produced excellent results with three of the University's five Fellows based in Arts and Humanities.

In the School of Literature, Drama, and Creative Writing, Dr John Mark Philo, whose PhD research at Oxford University traced the reception of the ancient Roman historian Livy in Renaissance England and Scotland, will turn his attention to Tacitus. His project at UEA focuses on how Tacitus, famous for his accounts of the wicked excesses of Rome's emperors, was being read and used in sixteenth-century Britain by translators, scholars, literary writers, and political figures.

The School of Politics, Philosophy, and Languages will be joined by two new Fellows. Dr Janosch Prinz's project aims to develop a new approach to understand and tackle the crisis of political legitimacy across the Western world as public trust in political elites is declining and anti-political populism is rising. His project explores how people come to accept or reject the legitimacy of government actions and considers how political philosophy can help people to make good political judgements. Working alongside environment researchers, Dr Sophia Hatzisavvidou's project on 'Green Arguments' examines what happens to scientific arguments when presented in the context of public political debate. Her project aims to develop new forms of argumentation that help us to think through environmental issues.

On graduate students after the first three years of the CHASE postgraduate consortium, UEA has gained the largest share of PGR studentships (22%) of the seven members institutions.

Faculty of Medicine and Health (Confidentiality status: Open)

Norwich Medical School (NMC)

- There has been an excellent review and visit of the School by the General Medical Council, with several commendations received
- The Physician Associate programme began this year
- There has been a marked increase in psychological therapies commissions from the NHS

School of Health Sciences (HSC)

- The HSC recruitment for both ATR and ATS applicants continues with positive results.
- HSC continues to plan and monitor its preparations for the Comprehensive Spending Review changes in 2017. This includes fostering stronger links with all NHS partners in Norfolk and Suffolk and increased efforts in recruitment campaigns.
- Strengthening HSC partnerships with local employers continues with HoS having just completed personal visits to all Norfolk NHS providers.
- Recent meeting between HoS and nurse consultants in stroke management and care at (a) Addenbrookes and (b) Bury St Edmonds NHS Trust looks very promising with HSC being their first point of contact for future CPD activity.
- Future links between FMH and local Hospice are in progress and looking very positive

- Dr Simon Horton has been invited to lead a team in COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) CATs (Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists) to explore how an asset-based approach could be operationalised for people with aphasia and their families.
- Tina Jerosch-Herold has been appointed as member of the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) for East of England Advisory panel starting September 2016 for 2 years. Tina has also been invited to chair the panel for focus session on 'outcome measures' at the International Congress of Hand Therapy in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- The Care Quality Commission will be hiring our NEAT facilities and technical support throughout July and early August for CQC inspector induction. If this goes well, there is the likelihood that this highly influential body will use UEA for all inspector training and make use of a wide range of UEA facilities.
- Royal Life Boat Institution-Personal Narratives and Serious Incidents. An approximately 9 month qualitative project to explore the use of narratives as a tool for preventing accidents.