

Balancing Capability

Call for evidence closes



We have now closed the 'call for evidence' - the process to gather evidence to review our research area rationales. Many thanks to all of those who contributed to the balancing capability call for evidence exercise - in particular to research offices for collating and submitting the information.

In total we received 1,000 unique pieces of evidence submitted by 70 organisations. The review of the evidence has already commenced and is an important stage to support the decision-making process for

the future research areas of our whole portfolio.

We will keep you updated on progress via our website and through your usual EPSRC theme contacts.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions by emailing: evidencecall2016@epsrc.ac.uk

Further information:
<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/about/plans>



Equality and diversity action plan has launched

In May, Research Councils UK launched an action plan to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in research across all seven research councils. The plan contains six objectives including improving diversity in the membership of advisory and decision making bodies and ensuring funding is not influenced by the gender or other protected characteristics of the applicant.

You can read the full action plan with details of the objectives on the RCUK website.

Further information:
<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/documents/actionplan2016-pdf/>



Reminders:

2016-2020 Delivery plan has been published

The beginning of May saw the publication of our delivery plan covering the next four years. It sets out our vision, our science strategy and the importance of our partnerships. Four interlinked outcomes collectively underpin our strategy to deliver prosperity to the UK. These outcomes - a productive, connected, resilient and healthy nation form a framework and provide an ambitious vision to inspire researchers.

You can read the full plan on the EPSRC website:
www.epsrc.ac.uk/newsevents/news/scienceforsuccessfulnationdeliveryplan/



PRODUCTIVE



CONNECTED



RESILIENT



HEALTHY



Recruitment to our Strategic Advisory Teams

We are currently looking for experts from across academia, industry, the third sector and government to guide and advise the strategy and development of our themes including research and training. We hold regular meetings in different programme areas together with conferences to bring strategic advisory teams from all areas together. The closing date for applications is 1st July and roles are full or part time.

Full details, guidance and application forms are available on the EPSRC website: www.epsrc.ac.uk/newsevents/news/joinsat/

In the limelight

Cheltenham Science Festival 7-12 June

2016 celebrates the 15th Cheltenham Science Festival and this year Research Councils UK are a major partner of the event. Research Council supported researchers will attend the event with a range of activities from Quantum Technologies to Robotic Autonomous Systems.

Further information: www.cheltenhamfestivals.com

Researchers can now create or connect their ORCID identifier in the Research Councils' grants system (Je-S)

An ORCID identifier (ORCID iD) is a unique string of numbers (a digital identifier) that distinguishes you from every other researcher – when a name isn't enough!

Letting researchers create or connect their ORCID iD to our grants system is an important first step towards improving the flow of research information across the higher education sector.

There is no need to wait until you are applying for a new grant to create or connect your iD – we would encourage both current and past award holders to log-in to their Je-S account, which you can do at any time, and add your ORCID iD to your 'personal information' page now. New applicants you will also see the option to 'create or connect your ORCID iD' when creating a new Je-S account.

Further information: For further information visit the RCUK blog <http://blogs.rcuk.ac.uk/>

Helping businesses connect with universities



Konfer, the Intelligent Brokerage Tool developed by The National Centre for Universities and Business, HEFCE (Innovate-UK also until recently) and RCUK is now live.

This is an Agile delivery, therefore feedback from users based on the tool's primary purpose (below) is vital to help shape the system.

One of the tool's strengths is its ability to easily join together different information/data sets. It was always the ambition that a system like this would be the next step for Gateway to Research. A summary of the currently loaded/integrated information can be seen here [//konfer.online](http://konfer.online)

Tool Purpose

Konfer can help businesses, of all sizes, connect with universities. The online tool has been designed to:

- Help businesses find opportunities for collaboration including research, researchers, facilities, equipment, funding and support
- Establish opportunities for universities to find potential research partners

Alpha Release Info

The alpha version of Konfer is available so you can help make the tool as useful as possible. During these early stages there may be some errors within the programme. By sharing this early version with users, we can work together to improve the service. Please send feedback via email to: konfer@ncub.co.uk

Contact: konfer@ncub.co.uk