

Research & grants: getting ready for 2022-23

Town hall meeting, 8th June 2022

Context

- The Faculty of S&E is undergoing changes in its research support provision.
- There has also been a shift in the expectations towards research, grant activity and PhD supervision.
- In general, there is a move towards more centralisation (***general idea: pool resources***)

Faculty research themes

- Green energy
- Biodiversity & environment
- AI & data modelling
- Engineering better medicine
- Social interaction, mental health & well-being

Why care?

- Coordinate the recruitment and training of PhD cohorts
- Develop content for external profile (website etc)
- Build industrial engagement coordinating with BD and QMI
- Stimulate large collaborative grant applications
- Support the recruitment of new research staff
- Building Leadership Teams
- Mapping Research in Schools to Themes, URIs, Highways, etc

Research highways

- Accelerating Innovation & Invention
- Life, long health & well being
- Performance, Communication & Creative industries
- Digital information and data
- Sustainability, environment & energy

Questions for the audience

- How can we interact with the Faculty in a constructive way?
- How to engage with the above research themes/highways without negating our nature?
- Is there scope for interaction?
- How can we increase the visibility of the School across the Faculty, college and beyond?

Grant activity

- There is a general movement to increase the grant income volume in the Faculty. ***Ambitious targets are being set for the end of the decade (£49k fte/y in 2022 → ~£100k fte/y for SMS)***
- Accordingly, more attention is being given to the grant activity of individuals across the Faculty.
- PhD studentships regarded as leverage for grant applications. ***General idea: PhD studentships only for staff with live grants.***
- Expectation of a grant submission per year as PI.

To do list for the audience

- Start thinking about suitable PhD projects.
- Can I link PhD projects to research themes? Can I provide a credible plan for grant activity for my PhD project?
- Can I use my China contacts to attract applicants for the CSC scheme?
- How can I integrate grant writing in my yearly academic routine?
- Can I write a bid which is not for EPSRC? What alternative funding sources are there?

Questions

- What can we do to keep a healthy PhD programme?
- What sort of research supervision do we need?
- What sort of support do you need from the DoR or DDoR?
- How can we encourage the submission of large programme grants within/across groups?
- What can Faculty do for us? (***being left in peace does not count!***)

Research manager

- With Elisa's leaving, the research support provision will change.
- A replacement will take some time to come, so plan ahead and allow for longer time.
- Some tasks will be distributed across a team/not a single contact
- Some tasks will become our responsibility (e.g. costing)

Final point

- If you have any comments, suggestions, concerns please come to see me...