Intro to UK funding

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I’d like to acknowledge that I am on the lands of the Wurundjeri people (with others joining from other lands) who have been custodians of this land for thousands of years, and acknowledge and pay my respects to their Elders past and present, and recognize their unceded sovereignty.
Agenda

- Why international funding?
- Overview of UK funding at UoM
- HASS UK Funding Opportunities
- Lara Krasnostein: UKRI funding strategy and objectives
- Researcher Insights and experience:
  - Prof Trevor Cohn (Computing and Information Systems) and,
  - Prof Sean Cubitt (Culture and Communication, Screen Studies)
- Questions and discussion
Why International funding?

77% of successful ARC Discovery projects involved international research collaborations

Increase publication citations (2x)

Australian academics are eligible to participate in UK opportunities

UM already has strong international partnerships (examples here)
International Pipeline (AUD)

Source: InfoHub Pipeline report. International pipeline includes grants and contracts.
UK Application Success Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Proposals submitted</th>
<th>Proposals Awarded</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>28%</td>
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Overview of UK Funding: Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
Major Funders: HASS
Endangered Languages Documentation Programme

- Grant round will open today, 15th June 2022 and close on 15th September 2022.

- Funding is provided for linguistic documentation of endangered languages worldwide.

- Anybody with qualifications in linguistic language documentation can apply (no restrictions on the nationality of the applicant or on the location of the host institution)

- **Major Project Grant:**
  - Costs covered: fieldwork costs, equipment, researchers' salaries, and graduate students' stipends.
  - Up to 300,000 euros / 450,000 AUD
  - Project duration is from 6 to 36 months.

- + Fellowships, scholarships and small research grants.
Urban Studies Foundation

• Fund groundbreaking urban research and knowledge mobilisation

• Seed funding, Fellowships and project grants available

• UoM is an eligible host institution

• 180,000 GBP / 300,000 AUD

• Grant rounds open in November 2022 (anticipated)

*From Garden City to Eco-Citadel: Global Greenbelts*, Max Holleran
UK Research Council programs

https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/
https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/international-funding/
https://www.ukri.org/publications/technician-commitment-

Eligible to participate as a funded collaborator

Up to 30% of requested project budget

Specific eligibility here
UK Research Council Award Rates

- UKRI: 21%
- AHRC: 26%
- BBSRC: 28%
- EPSRC: 36%
- ESRC: 27%
- Innovate UK: 14%
- MRC: 17%
- NERC: 20%
- RE: 32%
- STFC: 51%
• Currently 26 open and upcoming funding calls

• 30% of budget eligible for international collaborators

• UoM CIs eligible for majority of schemes

• Research Networking Scheme: A further threshold of up to £15,000 over and above the initial £30,000 may be sought for international Co-CIs

• **Must** have letter of support from HoD and Je-S account

• AHRC funding guidelines and proposal suitability query form: https://www.ukri.org/councils/ahrc/guidance-for-applicants/
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

• Currently 26 open and upcoming funding calls

• Encourages active collaboration between UK researchers and those in other countries

• The primary funding body for international relations related projects

• UoM CIs eligible for majority of schemes (except fellowships)

• 30% of budget eligible for international collaborators
Online Resources for International Funding

Finding International Funding:

- UoM Gateway
- Research Professional funding database

Common Schemes for International Funding

Building International Partnerships
Lara Krasnostein

Science and Innovation Network
UK priorities and strategic vision
Opportunities for funding in UK

June 2022
What is SIN?

Lara Krasnostein, Head of UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN) in Australia

Lara.Krasnostein@fcdo.gov.uk

British High Commission
UK strategic vision
Integrated Review: Vision for the UK in 2030

Stronger, more secure, prosperous and resilient; a problem-solving and burden-sharing nation with a global perspective in a more competitive world.

This vision puts science and technology at the heart of our alliances and partnerships worldwide: extending our international collaborations is a stated objective.

The Government’s long-term objectives for R&D are clear: to invest in the science and research that will deliver economic growth and societal benefits across the UK for decades to come, and to build the foundations for the new industries of tomorrow.
R&D Roadmap

Cutting unnecessary bureaucracy, embracing diversity in the R&D workforce, levelling up across the UK, embracing innovation, and **boosting international collaboration**.

International collaboration is a vital part of the R&D Roadmap, which sets out our ambition to **strengthen** and **grow collaborations** with **overseas governments** and **internal funders** through **strategic bilateral co-operation** and **renewed leadership** of **multilateral organisations** and networks.
Innovation Strategy: Plan for Growth

Build back better

**Infrastructure:** roads, rails, cities = net zero

**Skills:** training, Further Education

**Innovation:** incentivise, develop regulatory system, attract people, support SMEs

Resulting in levelling up the whole of the UK, support transition to Net Zero, Global Britain
UK Science and Technology System

UK Government
- GCSA
- Office Science Tech Strategy
- Research Councils (EPSRC, AHRC, MRC, ESRC, STFC, BBSRC, NERC IUK, Research England)
- Catapults
- UKRI
- Space Agency
- SIN
- UUK

Science Academies
- DAs
- CSAs

Universities
Cash is King

Increase of £400m per year for UKRI = £9 billion by 24/25

An £800m investment by 2024/25 in high risk, high-payoff research (ARIA)
At least £6.6b for defence R&D over 4 years, for cutting-edge technology and skills
At least £490m in core Innovate UK programmes and infrastructure
£79m in innovation loans to help UK businesses to access capital
£128m to support vaccines research and manufacturing
£375 million to Future Fund: Breakthrough
So what does it mean for Australia?

A Strategic tilt to the Indo-Pacific

Strong and deep partnerships where the UK:
- contributes to the region’s economic opportunities
- helps protect security interests in the region
- promotes open societies in the region
So what does it mean for Australia?

A Strategic tilt to the Indo-Pacific with Science & Technology at its heart:

Free Trade Agreement
Clean Tech Partnership
Space Bridge
AUKUS
Cyber and Critical Tech Partnership
Science Partnership Series
UK Government priorities for Australia
UK Government priorities for Australia

Climate Change – Net Zero, Industrial Decarbonisation

AgriTech

Emerging Technologies (Quantum, AI, Cyber)

Space
UK funding opportunities for Australians
Where are the opportunities?

High Potential Individual (HPI)

From 30 May 2022, you can apply for the HPI route if you have graduated from an eligible international university in the 5 years immediately before your application.

You don’t need to have a job offer to apply.

If successful you will be given a 2-year work visa (3-year for those with a PhD) and can switch to other long-term employment visas, if you meet the eligibility requirements.

Visas and Nationality Services (ecctis.com)
Where are the opportunities?

The **Turing Scheme**

Funding for international opportunities in education and training across the world

Outward student mobility

[https://www.turing-scheme.org.uk/](https://www.turing-scheme.org.uk/)
Where are the opportunities?

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

AHRC Arts and Humanities Research Council: international co-investigators
ESRC Economic and Social Research Council: international co-investigators
MRC Medical Research Council: international co-investigators
BBSRC Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council: Australia Partnering Award
EPSRC Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
STFC Science and Technology Facilities Council
NERC Natural Environment Research Council: Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund
Innovate UK Core competitions, Missions, Funding for International Collaboration

https://www.ukri.org/
Where are the opportunities?

The British Council
Studying in the UK, finding a University

UUKi
International student recruitment, research collaborations, experience and mobility
Where are the opportunities?

The Royal Society (natural sciences)
Wolfson Fellowship, International Exchanges

The British Academy (humanities and social sciences)
Small Research Grants, Knowledge Frontiers

Leverhulme Trust (all except medical and policy initiatives)
International Fellowships, Study Abroad Studentships, Visiting Professorships

National Institute for Health Research

The Wellcome Trust (health)
Where are the opportunities?

**Horizon Europe**
EURAXESS
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

**European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)**

**National agencies with international angles:**
The Belmont Forum (climate)
The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) interdisciplinary with application in Life sciences

**Royal Society of Edinburgh**
International joint projects
Get started…
Prof Trevor Cohn

UK Funding - Opportunities and landscape

Computing and Information Systems,
The University of Melbourne
My Background

- Postdoc at U. Edinburgh 06-09
- Lecturer/SL at U. Sheffield 09-14
- Joined UoM in 2014
- UK grants
  - EPSRC: first grant, responsive model, early career fellowship
  - EU: FP7 STREP, PASCAL NoE
- Several new schemes since then (e.g., Horizon, Turing)
UK Research councils

- Research councils split by research topic
- The Engineering and Physical Research Council (EPSRC)
  - *Standard grants* (∼ ARC Discovery) with rolling deadline
  - Plus several other schemes: *New Investigator*, International, *Fellowships*, Networks, Programmes, specific targeted schemes
  - Acceptance rates vary with offering and through year
EPSRC Grants on the web (gow.epsrcc.ukri.org)
Non-Parametric Models of Phrase-based Machine Translation

Lead Research Organisation: University of Sheffield
Department Name: Computer Science

Abstract

Machine Translation is the automatic process of translating human language text in one language into another language using a computer. Statistical Machine Translation (SMT) is a data-driven approach to machine translation which uses machine learning techniques to learn how to translate directly from large collections of sentences and their translations. SMT has seen a surge in popularity in the last decade, and has now matured into an invaluable means for data access and communication, as evidenced by the many successful commercial SMT systems, e.g., Google Translate and Microsoft Translator. These technologies are beginning to have a substantial impact on individuals, businesses and governments by enabling communication with foreign language speakers and enabling access to the growing amounts of foreign language data. Consequently automatic translation is rapidly becoming a key technology across all levels of the community, and improvements in its quality have the potential to further increase its impact. Although current systems can produce good translations for some language pairs, such as French-English, their performance is markedly worse for many others, e.g., Chinese-English and Basque-Spanish. There are two key reasons for this: language similarity and data availability. Predominant SMT approaches do not model the structure of the language, instead assuming that translation can be performed largely at the level of single words or small groups of words. For this reason they are unable to describe large changes in word order which are commonly required for translating between dissimilar languages. For example, in Japanese sentences typically follow a subject-object-verb order, while in English sentences are subject-verb-object. In order to translate between Japanese and English the positions of the verb and object phrase must be reversed. Another reason for SMT order ambiguity is data availability. Current techniques provide very few activations of semantics and their...
Writing EPSRC proposals

• Mostly similar to ARC schemes, but
  * reviewers are more often subject matter experts
  * continuing UK academics must be lead CI
  * specific requirements: UK research priorities (particularly targeted schemes), Chancellor’s speech also helpful

• Growing focus on **impact** of research activities
  * Concrete *pathways to impact* required, through project activities, *e.g.*, engaging UK companies & institutions
  * ARC watching closely, following their lead?

• Impact a key focus on REF ranking exercise
Questions and comments
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