



A guide to UKRI competitive funding data

UK Research and Innovation

July 2020



Contents

UK Research and Innovation.....	1
1. Introduction.....	3
1.1 Uses and Users	3
2. Background to published data.....	3
2.1 Historical Publications.....	3
3. What is the UKRI competitive funding decisions	4
4. Definitions	5
5. Data Processing.....	6
5.1 Data Sources.....	7
5.2 Data Union.....	7
5.3 Data Removed	8
5.4 Data Quality.....	8
6. Dashboard	9
6.1 UKRI funding decisions in 2019-20	9
6.2 Lead and Collaborating Organisations in 2019-20	9
7. Contacts.....	11



1. Introduction

This document provides a comprehensive guide to the UKRI competitive funding data published by UK Research and Innovation.

The key areas covered in this guide are:

- Background to published data
- Definitions and coverage
- Data processing

1.1 Uses and Users

The published data are used frequently in answers to parliamentary questions and public enquiries, including those made under the Freedom of Information Act.

The data are used internally as a base dataset to understand more widely the impact of funding decisions on for example place, and equality, diversity and inclusion. The data are used by the academic research community and by central government, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

2. Background to published data

UKRI brings together the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK, and Research England into one organisation.

These datasets show the competitive funding decisions made by UKRI from the 1 April 2019 to the 31 March 2020. It is a breakdown of data in the [UKRI Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20](#), Annex – Performance Metrics.

This standardised approach enables UKRI to incorporate all the councils in a consistent and easily comparable way.

2.1 Historical Publications

The first UKRI publication for 2018-19 is available here:

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-data/decisions-on-competitive-funding/>

Prior to the formation of UKRI award rate data was individually published by councils. This UKRI-wide publication replaces previous methodologies and as such the following council award rate publication sites will no longer be updated.

<https://ahrc.ukri.org/about/competitionstatistics/>

<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/post-application/success-rates/>

<https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/fundingdecisions/successrates/>

<https://esrc.ukri.org/about-us/performance-information/application-and-award-data/>

<https://mrc.ukri.org/research/funded-research/success-rates/>

<https://nerc.ukri.org/funding/application/outcomes/success/>

<https://stfc.ukri.org/funding/funded-grants/grant-success-rates/>

The figures published as part of this data release are not comparable to years prior to 2018-19 as the methodology has changed – for example, in the past some councils recorded competitive funding applications made rather than actual funding decisions. This standardised approach has enabled UKRI to incorporate all the councils in a consistent and easily comparable way.

In Autumn 2020, we will be releasing a 5-year data set to allow trend analysis and historical comparisons.

3. What is the UKRI competitive funding decisions

This document describes the public commitment to research and innovation through UKRI competitive funding demonstrated in the data set release and the dashboard representation.

Competitive funding is not reflective of all the UKRI budget. It doesn't include strategic funding (such as block grants to institutes), training awards including studentships or quality related research funding from Research England. These can be found in the financial statements of the Annual Report.



This dataset is an overview of activity by UKRI to support research and innovation it provides an indication of the demand from the community and their response to our funding opportunities.

The released dataset is a breakdown of the data presented in Table 2 of the 2019-20 UKRI Annual Report Annex. The table shows the number of decisions to fund applications and the successful funding decisions made and the value of that commitment at a UKRI level. The dataset breaks this down further showing:

Grant Category: The number and value of decisions made in 2019-20 aggregated by UKRI Council and Grant Category.

Organisation: The number and value of decisions made in 2019-20 aggregated by Lead organisation.

Organisation by Council: The number and value of decisions made in 2019-20 aggregated by UKRI Research Council and Lead Organisation.

Organisation by lead and collaborating: The number of decisions made in 2019-20 aggregated by lead and collaborating organisations.

Awards: Details of the awards offered in 2019-20 including UKRI Council, Grant Reference, Amount awarded, Project title, Lead Organisation Flag, Organisation and amount awarded. Some awards may have been declined by the Organisation after the award offer. This data is a subset of the data available in Gateway to Research, which provides more detail about the award, collaborating organisations and reported impact.

Awards collaborating details: Details of the awards offered in 2019-20 including Collaborating and Lead Organisations, Principal Investigators, Co-Investigators and Fellows.

4. Definitions

Number of applications: This is the number of applications that were considered for funding between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020, regardless of when the application was received.

Number of decisions: A decision to fund an application is made based on the research quality of the proposal assessed by peer review. This is the number of applications where there was a successful decision to fund.

Applied value: the amount requested by the applicant at the point of application.

Awarded value: represents the amount committed by UKRI and is the total value committed to spend over the duration of the grant. It is not reflective of actual expenditure. For information on UKRI expenditure please see the UKRI Annual Report and Accounts.

The award rate: by number and by value is the total number/value of positive decisions taken to fund applications as a percentage of the total number/value of applications that were considered for funding.

Award rate by number

$$= \left(\frac{\text{total number of application with a positive decision}}{\text{total number of applications considered for funding}} \right) \times 100$$

Award rate by value

$$= \left(\frac{\text{amount awarded}}{\text{amount applied for}} \right) \times 100$$

Research Organisation: The organisations who applied for UKRI funding. This list contains Universities, Academic organisations, Independent Research Organisations, Research Institutes and businesses. Detail for organisations funded by Innovate UK and Research England are not included due to commercial sensitivity.

Grant Category: Research and Innovation Grants and Fellowships are included. This dataset excludes Studentships, Outline Grants, and directed strategic funding to Centres, Institutes and Units.

5. Data Processing

The sections below outline how the UKRI funding data goes from operational data to a finalised data set for release and reuse.

5.1 Data Sources

The data are collected from:

- Joint electronic Submission system (Je-S) for the Research Councils (65% of the dataset)
- Innovation Funding Service for Innovate UK (33% of the dataset)
- Research England’s application process (1% of the dataset)
- Additional funding decisions captured outside the above systems such as rapid response funding, opportunities administered by funders outside of UKRI and grants awarded to MRC Institutes, Units and Centres (1% of the dataset)

5.2 Data Union

The data from the different systems have been brought together with a singular methodology using similar data fields. The table below demonstrates the fields used in the publication for each data source.

Field Name	Je-S (Research Councils)	Innovation Funding Service (Innovate UK)	Application process for Research England	Additional funding decisions
Grant Category	Grant Category (Research Grant, Fellowship)	Assigned “Research and Innovation Grant”	Assigned “Research and Innovation Grant”	Grant Category (Research Grant, Fellowship)
Reference	Grant Reference	Application Number	Grant Reference	Grant Reference
Lead Organisation Flag	Primary Flag	Is Lead Participant	N/A	N/A
Organisation	Research Organisation	Organisation	Organisation	Research Organisation
UKRI Council	Research Council	Innovate UK	Research England	Research Council
Amount Applied For	Amount Applied For (80% fEC ¹)	Amount Applied For	Amount Applied For	Amount Applied For

¹ Full Economic Cost

Amount Awarded	Amount Awarded (80% fEC)	Amount Awarded	Amount Awarded	Amount Awarded
----------------	-----------------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

TABLE 1 – COMMON DATA FIELDS ACROSS THE DATA SOURCES USED IN THE UNION

5.3 Data Removed

For all breakdowns of data, except Grant Category, awards that are commercially sensitive have been removed. This includes:

- Commercial organisations applying for Research Council funding.
- Organisations applying for Innovate UK funding.
- Organisations applying for Research England competitive funding.
- Applications that have been administered by Research England for UKRI funding.

5.4 Data Quality

The following should be considered when reviewing the UKRI funding data.

The data represents the commitment made to support research and innovate not actual expenditure.

This dataset is not comprehensive of all UKRI funding. It represents the delivery of competitive funding through funding opportunities.

There has been no consideration of Council demand management policies impact on the number of applications received.

Additional funding decisions captured outside of Je-S, Innovation Funding Service and Research England’s application process may not include decisions on the unsuccessful application data. For example, where UKRI is working with another funder who leads on the application process, we would only record the successful grant applications.

The applied for and award values have been rounded to the nearest 1000 for clarity. Full award values are available on Gateway to Research.

In the case of the Research Councils the lead organisation is based on the Research Organisation that led on the grant application. The collaborating organisation is based on the Je-S account of the Co-Investigator as of 1 April 2020, not the grant application details, and may be incorrect as researchers change organisations.

For Research Council data the region of an organisation is based on the postcode contained in the organisation's Je-S account.

6. Dashboard

Alongside the data release are two dashboards showing a visual representation of:

- UKRI Competitive Funding Decisions in 2019-20
- Lead and Collaborating Organisations in 2019-20

6.1 UKRI funding decisions in 2019-20

The dashboard can be filtered by measure: number of awards; value of awards; award rate by number; award rate by value; Grant category; and UKRI council. The circles at the top of the dashboard show the selected measures for each council, with the UKRI total shown on the left.

The map on the bottom left shows the selected Measure by the UK Region of the lead Research Organisation on the award. Only includes lead organisations where the region is known.

The scatter graph on the middle right shows the number of applications against the number of awards for each Research Organisation. Each point represents a Research Organisation.

The box plots on the bottom right show the selected Measure by Council and Research Organisation. Each column represents a council. Each circle represents a Research Organisation.

6.2 Lead and Collaborating Organisations in 2019-20

Research and Innovation Grants only. Research Councils only.

The dashboard can be filtered by:

- Organisation

Select the organisation that you wish to view data for.

- Relationship

Lead to Collab: The selected organisation is the lead organisation on the research, and the other organisations are collaborating.

Collab to Lead: The selected organisation is a collaborating organisation, and the other organisations are the lead.

Collab to Collab: The selected organisation and the other organisations are all collaborating organisations and are not leading.

- UKRI Council

Choose a specific Research Council.

Applications, Awards and Award Rates for <selected organisation>

Shows the number of applications, awards and the award rate for the selected organisation. Broken down by the role of the selected organisation: Lead and Collab. Includes a total across the roles.

Number of organisations collaborating with <selected organisation>

The distinct count of organisations collaborating with the selected organisation broken down by relationship. Includes a total across the relationship types.

Location of <selected organisation>

Two maps showing the location of the selected organisation; one of the world based on the country of the organisation, and one of the UK based on the postcode of the organisation.

Location of the organisations collaborating with <selected organisation>

Two maps showing the location of the organisations collaborating with the selected organisation. Tooltips show the relationship between the organisations. The world map is based on the country of the organisation. The UK map is based on the postcode of the organisation.



7. Contacts

Data questions:

Contact UKRI Data Team: data@ukri.org

General enquiries:

Contact: 01703 44400 or communications@ukri.org



© Crown copyright **2020**

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/official-documents.

ISBN 978-1-5286-1870-0

CCS0320273568 19/20