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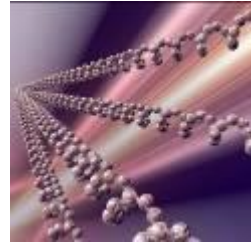
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RESEARCH CAREERS



A strategy for success



Overview of Research Council PG Strategy

Iain Cameron

RCUK

Why do we fund Postgraduates

- **Masters**
 - Knowledge Transfer/Exchange
 - Preparation for Professional practice
 - Research Preparation

- **Doctoral**
 - To train research leaders for the future
 - To provide highly trained people with skills the economy needs

Supply of Researchers

Research staff:

Total 42,000: RC-funded 10,000 (+4000 in Institutes)

Postgraduate researchers:

Stock: 50,925 FT; 20,630 PT; 25,385 writing-up: RC stock ~19,000

Annual PhD output Total: 17,400 – RC: ~5000

(70% in STEM subjects – PSA target)

UK:

Mature students:

Returners to
education/research:

Employees

**UK Education
system**

Rest of world

~42%

EU ~13%

RCUK Key Foci

PG training is part of a skills pipeline which works right across the academic life course

Direction of travel:

- Devolution
- Flexibility
- Strategy
 - Health of disciplines
 - Holistic approach with physical infrastructure developments and cross council programmes

Devolution

- Most RC Studentships through block grants
- DTA/DTG Model EPSRC/MRC/BBSRC/NERC/STFC
- ESRC DTC/DTU model (from 2011)
- AHRC Block Grant Partnerships

- Gives HEIs the opportunity to provide:
 - Early confirmation
 - Make decisions on best
 - Fit with HEI training strategy

- HEIs opportunity to work in partnership e.g. ‘Research Pooling’ in Scotland

Flexibility

- Within a commitment to training and research RCUK mechanisms provide an opportunity for a more HEI, project led personalised approach
- ESRC : 1+3; 2+2; +4
- Sciences: increasing moves to 4 yr (part-structured) PhD
- Aligns with Bologna

Strategy

- Health of Disciplines
- Align with resources and directed programmes
- Cohort-based approaches e.g. Centres for Doctoral Training (EPSRC, ESRC)
- Longer PhDs with more opportunity for structured approaches
- Embedded transferable skills including user-led skills content
 - Enterprise, outreach, policy

Health of Disciplines

- Demography of Academic Work Force
- Emerging Areas
- Examples:
 - Language Based Area Studies
 - Public Health
 - Quantitative Social Science

Links with resources/research programmes

- E-health human capacity through OSCHR
- ESRC links to longitudinal studies/ cohorts
- RCUK Cross Council programmes
 - Lifelong Health and Well-being
 - Living with Environmental Change
 - Sustainable Energy Systems
 - Global Uncertainties: Security for all in a changing world
 - Digital Economy
- Emerging Challenges
 - Connected Communities
 - Food Security
 - A more resilient Economy

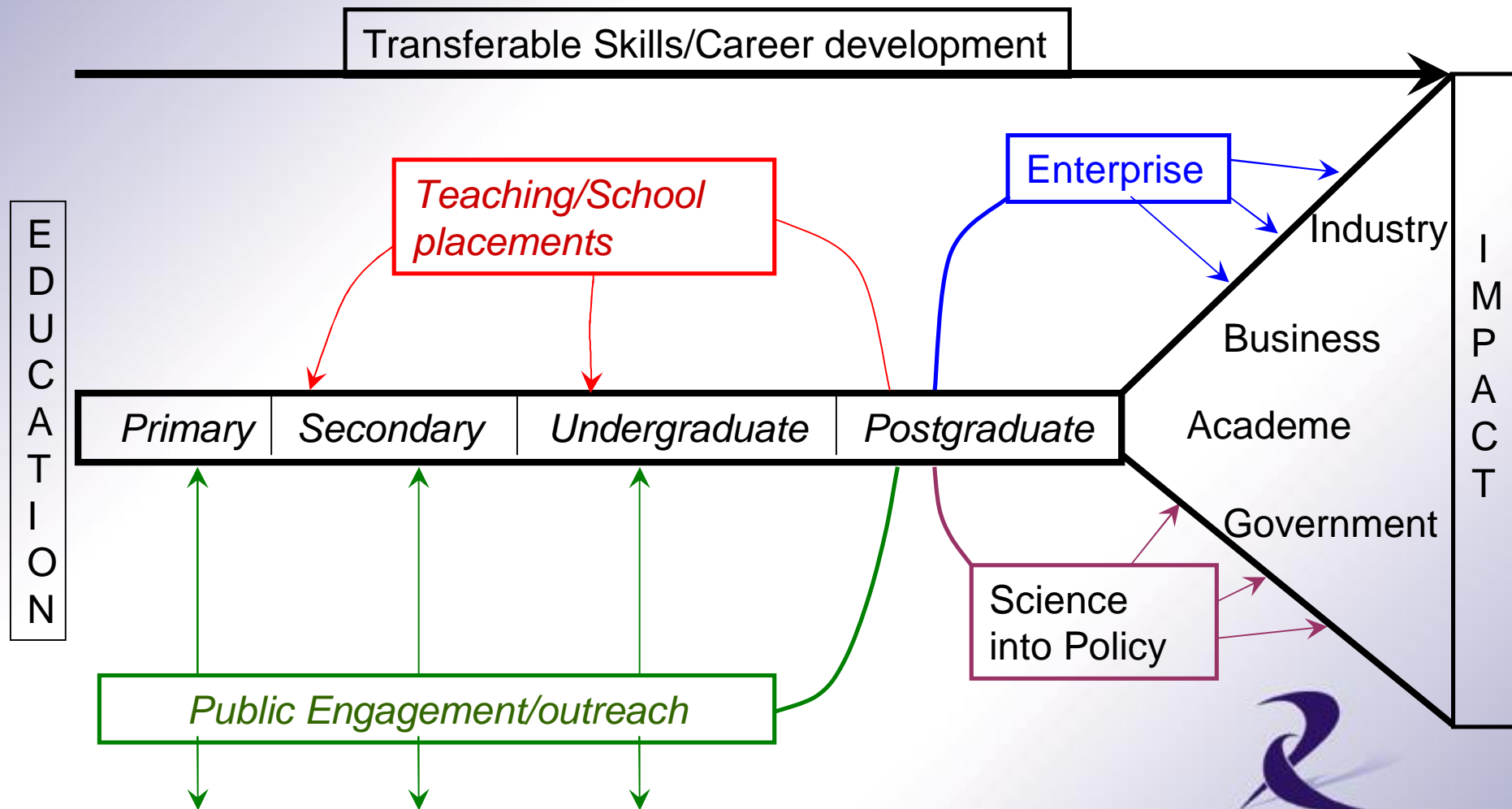
Skills and Impact

- **Roberts Agenda**
- **Excellence with Impact**
- **Opportunities and Measurement**

Sustaining the Roberts agenda

- **2002 - SET for success**
 - two weeks p.a. of transferable skills training
 - Roberts Money via RCUK
 - UKGRAD/Vitae programme (RCUK-funded)
 - ring-fenced funds until 2011
- **Future - Impact and Employability**
 - Broadening the financial base
 - Embedding skills training in the doctorate
 - Universities taking full control/responsibility
 - Understand employment and employability
 - RCUK monitoring more selective

Researcher skills: acquisition and impact



Cohort Study

- Major longitudinal study of PhD graduates – up to 10 years post graduation (from 2003/04 cohort)
- Includes all contactable UK and EU domiciled graduates
- Target of 2500 responses

- Options analysis – IER (April/June 2008):
 - Initial statistics via existing survey
 - Qualitative as well as quantitative analysis
 - “Impact” and employer views necessary but more difficult
- First data in May 2009
- Analysis - IES (June-August 2009)
- Case studies from Autumn 2009 as part of career profiles work
- Longer term maintaining contact – further studies, qualitative analysis

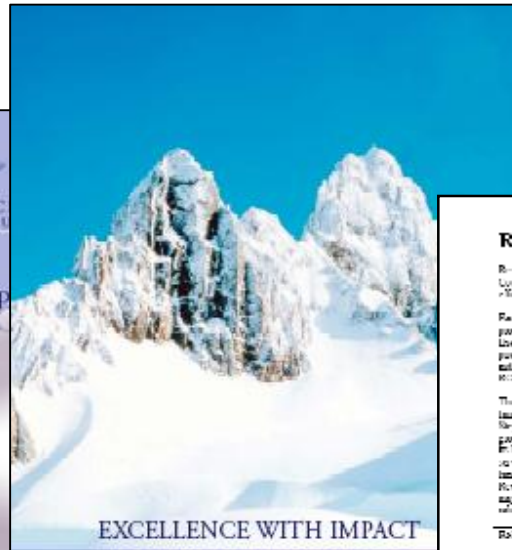
Increasing the economic impact of Research Councils

Increasing the economic impact of Research Councils

Advice to the Director General of Science and Innovation
DfI from the Research Council Economic Impact Group

14th July 2006

INCREASING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE RESEARCH COUNCILS



EXCELLENCE WITH IMPACT



Progress in implementing the recommendations of the Wary Report on the economic impact of the Research Councils

January 2007

RCUK Delivery Plan 2008/09 to 2010/11

Research Councils UK (RCUK) is the strategic partnership of the seven UK Research Councils. RCUK exists to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils and to provide a more effective and efficient means of delivering research to the public and industry.

Each Research Council has a specific remit. RCUK is a framework for the activities supported by the Research Councils. The RCUK Delivery Plan reflects the Research Councils' joint commitment to the Wary Report and the Government's 'Research Councils' delivery plan and to be based on agreed outcomes. It also reflects the RCUK's commitment to the Government's 'Research Councils' delivery plan.

The Government's 'Research Councils' delivery plan sets out the Government's intention to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010. The Government's intention is to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010. The Government's intention is to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010. The Government's intention is to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010.

Role of the Research Councils

The Research Councils exist to deliver world class research here and abroad. This means a high level of research impact and a high quality of life for the UK. The Research Councils are responsible for delivering this.

Objectives

Research Councils will work to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010. The Research Councils will work to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010. The Research Councils will work to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010.

Benefits

Research Councils will work to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010. The Research Councils will work to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010. The Research Councils will work to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010.

Key messages

Research Councils will work to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010. The Research Councils will work to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010. The Research Councils will work to increase the economic impact of the Research Councils by 2010.

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Opportunities

- **Joint Studentships e.g. CASE; ESRC/WAG**
- **Internships/secondments e.g. ESRC, NERC**
- **Increased focus on transferable skills**
 - Need to understand which and effective delivery
 - 50% of Students develop careers outside academia
- **Roberts supported by Thrift, Wellings**
 - Suggested that earmarked funding impacted on culture
 - Thrift: Sustain Roberts funding long-term to ensure high-quality researcher development programmes become embedded across the sector.
 - Wellings: Broader set of courses – wider eligibility for all PGR and research staff)

Measurement

- Academic Impact : improved capture of PhD research output
- Non-academic Impact
 - Improved capture of direct impacts
 - Longitudinal study of UK/EU domiciled students
 - Possibilities for parallel non-EU study (BIS)
- Implies greater use of HESA data

BIS Postgraduate review (PGT and PGR)

Principal areas of investigation:

- competitiveness of UK institutions in the global market
- benefits of postgraduate study for stakeholders
- evidence on needs of business and other employers
- levels of participation:
 - who undertakes study
 - barriers affecting diversity of participation
 - associated reduction high-quality entrants
- Comments to BIS by 18 December
 - Reports Spring 2009

BIS PG Review – Further evidence

“Based on submissions 6 areas identified where further evidence would be helpful.”

1. International
2. Value of PG
3. Business and employment skills
4. Participation
5. Fees and funding
6. The student experience

Thank you for your attention!



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