



Who are UK Research and Innovation and Research England?

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is the national funding agency investing in science and research in the UK, operating with a combined budget of more than £6 billion. UKRI is funded through the science budget of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

UKRI was established on 1 April 2018 by the [Higher Education and Research Act 2017 \(HERA\)](#), to bring together the seven existing research councils, Innovate UK and the Research and Knowledge Exchange functions of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) into one body.

UKRI was created following the Nurse Review of Research Councils, which recommended the merger in order to increase integrative cross-disciplinary research.

UKRI works in partnership with universities, research organisations, businesses, charities, and government to create the best possible environment for research and innovation to flourish.

Collaborative working

In September 2018 UKRI signed a [collaboration agreement](#) with the Office for Students (OfS), the higher education (HE) regulator in England, confirming how the two organisations will work together on shared priorities across research and teaching.










The Department for BEIS and the Department for Education identified several strategic areas for cooperation between UKRI and OfS during the passage of HERA 2017. These include the skills and talent pipeline; infrastructure funding; financial sustainability of HE providers; accountability and assurance; evidence gathering; the Research Excellence Framework (REF); the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF); and the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF).

Research England

Research England is a new organisation within UKRI and will take forward the England-only responsibilities of HEFCE in relation to research and knowledge exchange. RE will create and sustain the conditions for a healthy and dynamic research and knowledge exchange system in English universities. RE is responsible for funding, engaging with and understanding English HE institutions and will lead on both the REF and the currently in development KEF. It also has oversight of the UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF) is designed to support investment in higher education research facilities.



UKRI brings together the following organisations:

-  [Arts and Humanities Research Council \(AHRC\)](#)
-  [Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council \(BBSRC\)](#)
-  [Economic and Social Research Council \(ESRC\)](#)
-  [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council \(EPSRC\)](#)
-  [Innovate UK](#)
-  [Medical Research Council \(MRC\)](#)
-  [Natural Environment Research Council \(NERC\)](#)
-  [Research England](#)
-  [Science and Technology Facilities Council \(STFC\)](#)

Related links:

[UK Research and Innovation](#)
[Research England](#)
[Office for Students](#)

For more information contact:

[Bryony Victoria King](#), Senior Policy Advisor
[Pam Macpherson Barrett](#), Head of Policy, Funding & Regulation