

## **Senate Update November 2017: VP Research and Life Sciences Interim Director**

### **REF 2021 – HEFCE announcement on output submission portability**

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November HEFCE announced some additional decisions on the regulations for REF2021, including details on staff and output submission. A summary was circulated to Schools and Institutes. Key points include: confirmation of the number of outputs and impact case studies required; guidance on portability of outputs and clarity over regulations governing 100% staff submission. Draft REF guidance is due to be published in Summer 2018, with full guidance published by January 2019.

### **REF dry-runs 2018**

Full guidance notes and templates for the REF 2018 dry runs have been developed and circulated to Schools and Institutes. REF eligible staff lists and institutional environment data will be released in the next couple of weeks. Interviews for a new REF Manager post to help coordinate REF activities took place in mid-November and the successful candidate is expected to start in March 2018.

### **HR data project**

Significant work has been undertaken to ensure the accuracy of the 16/17 staff HESA return, including alignment with the REF eligible population data. Lessons learned will feed into the on-going process improvement work to enhance data quality and reporting.

### **Strategic grants**

Following an internal selection process, a Medieval and Renaissance European Literary History proposal led by Warren Boutcher will be the QMUL submission for a £10m Leverhulme Research Centre.

Two outline proposals were submitted to the £20m GCRF call 'Interdisciplinary Research Hubs to Address Intractable Challenges Faced by Developing Countries': a bid focused on under-nutrition, based in Zimbabwe and Zambia led by Andrew Prendergast and; a hub for salt and sugar reduction in Asia led by Graham MacGregor.

### **KEF and HEIF**

The Minister for Universities and Science, Jo Johnson, announced plans in October for a Knowledge Exchange Framework to compare how effective universities are at business engagement and knowledge exchange. Research England, within the new UKRI from April 2018, will be consulting with the sector on the development of this new KEF, which will join our familiar friends the TEF and REF. The annual Higher Education Business Community Interaction Survey (HE-BCI) is expected to inform this new development, and linkage with the Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) programme is also expected.

### **Data science**

It has recently been announced that QMUL will be a new partner, along with the universities of Leeds, Newcastle and Manchester, in the Alan Turing Institute. The ATI focuses on data science, and was founded by Cambridge, Edinburgh, Oxford, Warwick and UCL, with additional government and industry funding. This new partnership sits alongside continuing successes in this area at QMUL – recent examples being the BBC Data Science partnership and grant successes such as the STFC CDT in Data Intensive Science and the Health Data Research UK: RCUK Innovation/Rutherford Fund Fellowships award.

### **Open Access compliance**

QMUL participated in a joint open access survey conducted by Jisc, Wellcome, RCUK and HEFCE. Data analysis submitted as part of the institutional response has highlighted a number of outputs that appear not to meet [QMUL OA Policy](#) requirements and therefore we will shortly be launching an institutional-wide reminder to researchers that adherence to this policy is essential to ensure that their outputs are eligible for REF2021.

### **Life Sciences Update**

The recent [Life Sciences Update](#) provides information on current and planned activities within the Life Sciences initiative. This includes a call for the next round of LS PhD studentship projects, announcements of funding schemes, an update on the LS educational programmes, summaries of activities of the four LS Centres (Bioengineering, Mind in Society, Genomics Health and Computational Biology), note of recent high-level meetings with IBM and Philips, and the recent launch of QMUL's Centre for Inflammation and Therapeutic Innovation (CiTI).