

Summary of the University Committee for Research and Innovation meetings (UCRI) September 25

Please see below a brief summary of the main topics of discussion at the September meetings of UCRI:

At our operational meetings this month we:

- Reviewed and approved the annual NIRD Trust Report for Council.
- Agreed to support the Leverhulme ECR Fellowship Scheme 2026, with a limit of 1 application per school.
- Approved an Autumn launch of the Research Engagement, Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation (REKEC) Call 2025 to 2026.
- Considered the next stage of development of the H&C Creative Entrepreneur in Residence programme which will align to the work of the KEEP Team.
- Reflected on the progress of Policy Engagement activity so far and considered the future direction of travel.
- Reviewed the work of the Research Assessment Working Group (RAWG) and supported a proposal to progress the activity by forming a Research Assessment Implementation Group (RAIG) to work on a set of strategic principles to underpin a policy.
- Agreed the membership of a task and finish group to develop a Public Engagement with Research (PER) revised framework and action plan.
- Agreed to progress with a potential Leverhulme Centenary Doctoral Scholarship application in collaboration with NHM.
- Approved a 3 year extension to the RDF role of Research Facilitation Manager supporting NHM and BM.
- Approved a request for RDF to support two Centre for Mathematics of Planet Earth (CMPE) events at Reading.

In other news we:

- Have been invited by Local Innovation Partnerships Fund (LIPF) to take part in discussions about a local partners joint bid to a UKRI led initiative investing up to £500m to develop and scale high-potential innovation clusters across the UK.
- Discussed how we might progress with our UKCEH collaboration.

At our strategic meeting this month we:

Held a detailed discussion to consider key headline and second layer KPIs alongside a supporting group of watch metrics linked to the four pillars of the R&I Strategy.