Arts and Humanities Research Council

Royal Holloway Visit
November 2012

Professor Mark Llewellyn

Director of Research
AHRC

History:
• AHRB formed 1998
• AHRC Royal Charter April 2005

Scope:
• 27% of research-active academic community within AHRC remit
• Over 14,000 academics
• Approximately 50 disciplines/sub-disciplines
• AHRC receives 2.8% of the science and research budget
• Arts and humanities research received highest 4* in 2008 RAE
Funding Context 2011-15: SR 2010

- 20 Dec 2010: allocations announced for each of the 7 RCs
- SR period 2011-15: £11 billion total for RCs
- AHRC: £99.9m in Yr 1, £98.4m p.a. Yrs 2-4 = approx 3% cut p.a.
- BIS covers both sides of dual support (HEFCE, RCs, BA etc)
- Need to agree efficiency measures and complementarity, rather than duplication, with QR and British Academy
Priorities, 2011-15

• Advancing UK’s world-leading reputation for research
• Strengthening value and impact of arts and humanities research
• Enhancing the role of arts and humanities in cross-disciplinary support for research on societal challenges
• Building capacity through further strategic consolidation of postgraduate funding, including support for both endangered areas and key skills
Priorities 2011-15

• Providing opportunities for researchers to work outside HE and outside the UK throughout their research careers

• Through more strategic targeting of partnerships and greater brokerage activities, developing the capacity of A&H research to:
  - influence public policy
  - engage with the creative economy
  - have an impact internationally
  - have greater profile with public
Delivery Plan: New Opportunities

http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/About/Policy/Documents/DeliveryPlan2011.pdf

• Themes
• Responsive mode – more highlighted calls
• Longer and larger awards such as KE hubs for Creative Economy
• BGP2—greater concentration, focus
• Fellowship scheme – developed to focus on leadership development
• Embedded international collaborations, incl. people flow
• Greater efficiency and demand management
Stronger Input to Continuing RCUK Strategic Programmes
Connected Communities Programme

Aims to mobilise the potential for increasingly inter-connected, culturally diverse, communities to enhance participation, prosperity, sustainability, health & well-being by better connecting research, stakeholders and communities.

www.connectedcommunities.ac.uk
AHRC Themes

- Digital Transformations in A+H
- Translating Cultures
- Care for the Future
- Science in Culture
- Connected Communities (with other RCs)
Research Funding Schemes

• Fellowships
• Research Grants
• Networking
• Highlight notices
• Themed calls
## Facts and Figures: Research

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<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
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<td><strong>Core Programmes</strong></td>
<td>£m</td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Themes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Commissioned</strong></td>
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<td>%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>51.0</td>
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**NB:** £43m p.a. on postgraduate schemes (BGPs, CDAs etc)
Developing Peer Review Processes

• Enhancing the Peer Review College especially to cover Themes and priorities (e.g. KE & strategic reviewers)
• Ensuring processes fit for purpose e.g. riskier, strategic and inter-disciplinary research, leadership in fellowships scheme etc
• Supporting commissioning and monitoring of longer and larger grants
• Maintaining excellence & confidence of the research community
Postgraduate Support: BGP2

• Fewer awards from 2014 (aim 1/3 total budget)
• Focus on highest quality PG training, experience and facilities
• Support collaborations – don’t lose capacity, dispersed excellence in A+H
• Focus on doctoral provision – support Masters only when leading to PhD
• Increased expectation that PG training stimulates KE, interactions outside disciplines, outside HE, outside UK – as appropriate to student + topic.
• CDA/CDP scheme + Project Students remain separate; some doctoral support through KE hubs
• International Placements Scheme continue and expand.
Fellowship Scheme

2 routes: Early Career and Standard

Early Career
- Developing individual research leaders
- not solely focused on completion of a project
- not spent entirely in isolation
- emphasis on leadership development, not training (including, e.g. knowledge exchange, public engagement, international engagement, peer review), as well as research excellence and dissemination
- leave period can include supervision of research assistant or research student(s)
- longer, larger and more prestigious awards
- institutions will need to demonstrate how they will support mentoring and career development during the leave period
Fellowship Scheme

Standard

• More use of highlighted calls to target areas of strategic importance, national capability or emerging priorities

• Expectation that projects will be of exceptional scale and importance, but remove the development/completion divide

• Leave period not spent entirely in isolation—some collaboration and/or public engagement expected

• Expectation that Fellows will engage, where appropriate with AHRC
Changes to the Fellowships scheme

• Move to longer and larger awards
• Minimum duration of 6 months
• Maximum duration of 18 months for standard route and 24 months for early career
• Full economic cost of between £50,000 and £250,000
• Annual budget remains at £8m but fewer, more prestigious awards will be made
Health of Disciplines & National Capability

- Work with HEFCE and other FCs and RCs where we share responsibility for disciplines to ensure no loss of capacity in core areas
- Three key areas for strategic support in BGP2:
  - Modern languages
  - Creative and Performing Arts, including Design
  - Heritage
- Work with IROs, Skillset and employers on skills requirements from A+H PGs
- Work with HEIs on supporting needs of students, future research in A+H and other employers
International

• Refresh of International Strategy & refocus around DP priorities

• United States (partnerships with National Endowment for Humanities, National Science Foundation and National Institute of Health; expanding Library of Congress scheme to include Huntington)

• Europe (joint programming—Cultural Heritage and next phase of HERA—Cultural Encounters)

• India (knowledge exchange and people flow—digital economy, film)

• Consider other priorities e.g. in BRICS

• New policy: International Co-Investigators from December 2012
Knowledge Exchange

• Emphasising Knowledge Exchange, rather than Knowledge Transfer
• Focusing budget on a small number of longer and larger grants for KE hubs in Creative Economy
• Encouraging other KE work through Follow-on Fund and Pathways to Impact
• Centre for Copyright and New Business Models: University of Glasgow leading CREATe
Public Policy

• Range of engagements
  – DCLG Concordat lead for RCUK
  – DCMS
  – FCO

• Policy critique and expertise

• New course with Institute for Government on Public Policy
New AHRC Strategy, 2013-18

• Focus on
  • People
  • Research Projects
  • International
  • KE and Partnerships
  – AHRC’s role in the wider funding ecosystem
  – Community comment phase October and November 2012
  – Council meeting December 2012
  – Publication early 2013