

Researcher ten

Faculty of Creative Arts, UWE

April 2008

Research Fortnight, an independent publication, has produced the latest set of figures showing the amount of Research Council funding awarded to Higher Education Institutions last year. It shows UWE as way above other post 1992 HEIs in terms of the volume of peer-reviewed funding. We have earned £4.6m, Oxford Brookes in next with £3.7m. UWE is also ranked higher than a dozen older universities like Swansea, Hull, Salford, Aston, Keele etc.

Congratulations to all those in the Faculty who have had recent external grant successes and contributed to the University's national success:

Judith Aston, Funder: Great Western Research, Network Media Distribution Systems, three year doctoral studentship (£59,700).

Jane Arthurs, Jon Dovey: Funder: Arts and Humanities Research Council
Project title: 'Chronicle 2010; inter-disciplinary practice based research in documentary and the space of Web 2.0.' Three year Funded Research Fellowship (£218,831).

Sarah Bodman, Funder: Arts and Humanities Research Council. Project title: 'In an arena including digital and traditional artists' publishing formats - what will be the canon for the artist's book in the 21st Century?' (£117,000).

Claire Doherty, Funder: Calouste Gulbenkian Foudation
Project title: 'Ivan and Heather Morison: towards the development of a public art project in the city of Bristol addressing concerns about environmental change' (£15,000).

Paul Gough, Funder: European Commission, *Animated Science* (£21,000)

Christine Hill, Funder: Higher Education Innovation Fund/HEFCE, Proof of concept funding (£10,000).

Richard Hornsey, Funder: Royal Geographical Society. Project title: 'The Bureaucratisation of Everyday Movement in 1930s London' (£905).

Richard Hornsey, Funder: British Academy conference grant: Association of American Geographers (£400).

Paul O'Neil, Funder, Arts Council of England, Project title: Situations: Locating the producers (£9,329).

Gill Sandford, Funder: HERDA, South West Regional Development Agency
Project title: 'Professional skills programme for community arts/media & creative education practitioners' (£63,085).

Mandy Ure, Funder: Arts and Humanities Research Council, three year collaborative doctoral studentship, Learning Beyond Formal Education - Regional Cities - Peer Learning Within The Networks of Contemporary Art with Spike Island (£53,915).

Sherryl Wilson, Funder, Arts and Humanities Research Council, There's no such thing as society: a study of Broadcasting under three Thatcher governments (£9,364).

Co-funded Projects

Simon Morrissey, Intervention/Decoration, £25,000.00 grants from Somerset County Council and Arts Council England, as well as a range of sponsors including Henry Moore Foundation.

Project partners, *Foreground* has offered a range of UWE Fine Art students and graduates internships, including 9 Level II undergraduate students through the work experience option module, 1 current MA student and 1 graduate doing voluntary internships and the project team are employing 1 UWE graduate as project assistant, providing her first professional appointment.

UWE will be credited on 30,000 promotional brochures, on 3000 print run publication accompanying the exhibition and on the project website. On the website and in the publication there will be discussion of the significant professional link between UWE and *Foreground* in terms of it's research, development and the employability links.

Please forward any information regarding staff research and knowledge exchange activity to John4.edwards@uwe.ac.uk; these will be included in future newsletters and faculty publications.

Recent Conferences organised by the Faculty:

Ageing Femininities: Representation, Identities, Feminism 6 October 2007
Josie Dolan, St. Matthias

Heritage and Artistic Media: New Ways of Seeing 3 November 2007 James Dixon

Common Ground 10 November 2007 Dr Iain Biggs /LAND2

CREATE: Putting the Human Back into Colour 21-24 February 2008 Carinna Parraman
Institute of Technology (IUT) of the University of Reims Champagne Ardenne at Charleville-Mézières, France

Forthcoming Conferences:

Philosophy and Film/Film and Philosophy: An Interdisciplinary Conference 4-6 July 2008 Dr Greg Tuck & Dr Havi Carel, Arnolfini

Drawing Quarters 2008 8-11 July 2008 Professor Paul Gough, ACID and staff from Drawing and Applied Arts

CREATE: New Ways to use Print Technology
13-18 October 2008 Carinna Parraman School of Creative Arts
20-25 October 2008 Carinna Parraman University of Ulster in Belfast

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Press Release

UWE leads new universities in research funding

Press release Issued: 21/04/2008

The University of the West of England's position as the leading new university in the UK for research has been reinforced by the outcome of a study of Research Council funding. The study, undertaken by the magazine Research Fortnight, shows that UWE was head and shoulders above all the other new universities in terms of the research funding awarded by the UK Research Councils, and the Wellcome Trust, last year.

UWE won grants worth a total of £4.6m in 2006/7, nearly £1m more than the next best placed new university, Oxford Brookes with £3.7m. This level of funding also places UWE above a dozen older universities including Swansea, Hull, Salford, Aston, Keele and Bradford.

Vice Chancellor Steve West commented, "This latest analysis further demonstrates the growing reputation and national significance of UWE's research. Research Council funding is not just a measure of how much research we are doing but reflects the very high standing of UWE researchers among their peers across the country."

Allocations of Research Council (and Wellcome Trust) funding 2006/7:
Top 5 new universities

Institution ranking (new universities)	Institution	Research Council allocation
1	UWE, Bristol	£4.6m
2	Oxford Brookes	£3.7m

3 Plymouth £3.2m
4 De Montfort £2.3m
5 Sheffield Hallam £1.6m

The data is a snapshot showing the value of successful applications to the Research Councils during 2006/7. It can therefore be distorted by a small number of large grant awards. However UWE's success was the result of more than 40 successful proposals. This has led to it rising 32 places in the rankings of all universities on this measure in just one year. And as there is a lag between the value of successful applications and the resulting income stream, this success bodes well for UWE's future income from the Research Councils.

Last year, an analysis by the Times Higher showed a similar outcome with UWE leading the way among the new universities. It also showed that UWE's success rate in bidding to the Research Councils put it on par with research-intensive universities such as Birmingham and Southampton, and ahead of the likes of Liverpool, Cardiff and Exeter.

According to Richard Bond, Assistant Director of Research, Business & Innovation at UWE, "we are beginning to see some of the newer universities out-performing some of the older universities in these league tables. It is a measure of the quality of UWE's research but also our considerable commitment to research that we are leading the way in this".

Among the projects supported by this £4.6m investment are:

An EPSRC grant of £440k to Professor Glenn Lyons (School of the Built and Natural Environment) to investigate future intelligent transport systems.

A NERC award of £120k to Dr Vyvyan Salisbury (School of Life Sciences) to study the role of parasitic worms in storing environmental pathogens.

An AHRC Research Fellowship worth £200k for innovation in the vitreous enamel surfaces of jewellery, awarded to Jessica Turrell (led by Professor Steve Hoskins, School of Creative Arts)

An EPSRC grant of £245k to Dr Melvyn Smith (Bristol Institute of Technology) to develop face recognition techniques using photometric stereo.

An ESRC grant to Dr Barry Percy-Smith (School of Health & Social Care) of £66k to explore the role of schools in the development of sustainable communities

A Wellcome Trust award of £180k to Dr Aniko Varadi (School of Life Sciences) to explore biomolecular activity of insulin in the pancreas

An EPSRC grant of £280k to Professor Larry Bull, (Bristol Institute of Technology) to develop new computing tools to model complexity.