

Welcome, EDI moment & update Sarah Thompson

Research Forum, 10 December 2025

~~Update on University~~ ~~Finances~~

Research Forum, 10 December 2025

REF Update 10 December 2025



- REF2029 is now "unpaused" and new guidance has been published on all elements
- **Weightings (REF2029/REF2021):**
 - Outputs (55%/60%)
 - Environment (20%/15%)
 - Impact (25%/25%)
- **Environment (SPRE; formerly PCE):**
 - Research culture still in the REF
 - Renamed SPRE: Strategy, People, and Research Environment
 - 60:40 split (Institution:UoA)
 - Builds on 2021 Environment statements, expecting demonstration of:
 - strategic prioritisation
 - distance travelled
 - challenges overcome
- **Outputs (CKU):**
 - max 5 outputs per staff
 - 5 years' portability of longform outputs
 - no discipline-level statement; representativeness to be dealt with in SPRE statement
- **Engagement and Impact (E&I):**
 - no unit level narrative statement
 - rigour has not been added as a criterion for assessment of impact
 - confirmed: removal of the 2* threshold for research quality for underpinning research; FTE thresholds for the number of ICSs required for submission.

Revised Mission

“To advance knowledge,
improve lives and drive growth”



UK Research
and Innovation

UKRI allocations: what we know so far

The three R&D priorities for DSIT are:

1. Protecting curiosity-driven, foundational science
2. Supporting strategic government and societal priorities
3. Targeting innovative, UK-based company scale-up and growth

These are not standalone and the symbiosis between them is crucial.

In delivering on these, UKRI will be focused on...

- Identifying opportunities with **growth** potential (particularly economic)
- Measuring and demonstrating **outcomes**
- **Partnering** with those we invest in to maximise the outcomes to UK citizens



Spending Review

- Budget on 11 June set DSIT budgets until 2030:
- UKRI budgets announced on 30 October:

Table 5.21: Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

£ billion (current prices)	Outturn 2023-24	Plans ¹ 2024-25	Plans ² 2025-26	Plans 2026-27	Plans 2027-28	Plans 2028-29	Plans 2029-30 ³	Average annual real growth ⁴	
								Phase 2 Period ⁵	SR 2025 Period ⁶
Resource DEL	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7	–	7.4%	8.6%
Capital DEL	12.4	13.3	14.7	15.1	15.7	15.8	16.2	0.5%	2.2%
of which: Financial Transactions	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	–	–
Total DEL	12.7	13.9	15.2	15.9	16.4	16.5	–	0.9%	2.8%

Organisation	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	Total
UKRI	8,811	9,220	9,589	9,791	9,986	38,586
UK contribution to EU programmes	2,736	2,121	2,195	2,200	2,200	8,716
UK Space Agency	668	679	693	706	720	2,798
Met Office	310	327	456	337	347	1,467
ARIA	184	220	300	300	400	1,220
National Academies	217	219	226	230	235	910
Office for Life Sciences	129	264	286	229	146	925
National Measurement System	130	131	139	143	145	558
AI Security Institute	60	60	60	60	60	240

- Internal UKRI allocations process ongoing.
Expecting announcement imminently.



York's response



Implications of external developments:

- Funding environment in a period of **realignment**
- Funding available through **new routes with different drivers and expectations** of delivery
- Need to be aware of the **range of audiences** that research proposals need to speak to in order to be successful
- Effective **cross-sector partnership working** essential

The Industrial Strategy's Growth Driving Sectors and the Frontier Industries within them



Advanced Manufacturing

- Aerospace
- Advanced Materials
- Agri-tech
- Automotive
- Batteries
- Space



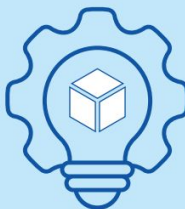
Clean Energy Industries

- Wind (Onshore, Offshore and Floating Offshore)
- Fusion Energy
- Nuclear Fission
- Hydrogen
- Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS), including Greenhouse Gas removals
- Heat Pumps



Creative Industries

- Advertising and Marketing
- Film and TV
- Video Games
- Music, Performing and Visual Arts



Digital and Technologies

- Artificial intelligence
- Engineering Biology
- Advanced Connectivity Technologies
- Quantum Technologies
- Semiconductors
- Cyber Security



Life Sciences

- Pharmaceuticals
- Medical Technologies (MedTech)



Financial Services

- FinTech
- Insurance and Reinsurance Markets
- Sustainable Finance
- Capital Markets
- Asset Management and Wholesale Service



Professional and Business Services

- Accountancy, Audit, and Tax
- Management Consultancy
- Legal Services



Defence

- Drones and Autonomous Systems
- Combat Air
- Directed energy weapons
- Complex weapons
- Maritime capabilities



R&D Missions Programme (RDMP)



What we know so far:

- Recruitment of **Challenge Directors** (Spring/Summer 2025) and what these roles will be responsible for
- Development of '**Problem statements**' to structure funding
- Budget
 - £525m commitment to date (£25m already allocated in current FY)
 - Expectation of programmes 'attracting, securing and achieving co-investment' (£1.5bn)



Kickstarting Economic Growth



An NHS Fit for the Future



Safer Streets



Break Down Barriers to Opportunities



Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower

R&D Missions Programme (RDMP)



e.g.

R&I Challenges announced to date are:

2GW Peak Time Flexibility: We are seeking to partner with industry to develop AI and digital solutions that enhance the flexibility and resilience of the power grid. Our goal is to deliver at least 2 gigawatts of peak time grid flexibility by 2030.

Concentration of Crime Data Challenge: We are seeking partners to develop a unique regional and national integrated data map, by 2030, defined to 350m hexes, which will detect, track and predict the concentrations of knife crime, violence against women and girls, theft and anti-social behaviour.

Dementia Patient Flow: We are seeking to partner with industry and academia to identify, develop, validate, and implement innovations for the NHS and wider social care setting that, by 2029, ensure that 92% of patients referred for dementia assessment receive a diagnosis within 18 weeks of referral.

University of York Mumbai

Research Forum, 10 December 2025

Joint venture



The Joint Venture Agreement
was signed on the 17th
November and the Joint Venture
incorporated.

Service agreements still being
finalised.

Recruitment



Provost: [Lindsay Oades](#)



COO: [Akshay Malhotra](#)



CASO: [Amrita Sadarangani](#)

Professional Services appointments:

- Head of HR - appointed
- Registrar - interviewing
- Director of Admissions - appointed
- Director of Campus Operations - offered
- Coordinators - appointed
- CFO - to be advertised

Academic recruitment:

- 1500 applications received for 22 posts
- 35 interviews in November
- 14 offers made
- Acceptances TBC
- Secondments from York - 3 x Profs

Academic programmes



UNIVERSITY
of York
MUMBAI

Discover undergraduate courses



Business and Management

Academic year: 2026
Duration: 3 years
BA (Hons)



Economics

Academic year: 2026
Duration: 3 years
BSc (Hons)



Computer Science

Academic year: 2026
Duration: 3 years
BSc (Hons)



Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence

Academic year: 2026
Duration: 3 years
BSc (Hons)



Computer Science with Cyber Security

Academic year: 2026
Duration: 3 years
BSc (Hons)



Business of the Creative Industries

Academic year: 2026
Duration: 3 years
BA (Hons)

Discover postgraduate courses



Artificial Intelligence

Academic year: 2026
Duration: 1 year
MSc



Management

Academic year: 2026
Duration: 1 year
MSc



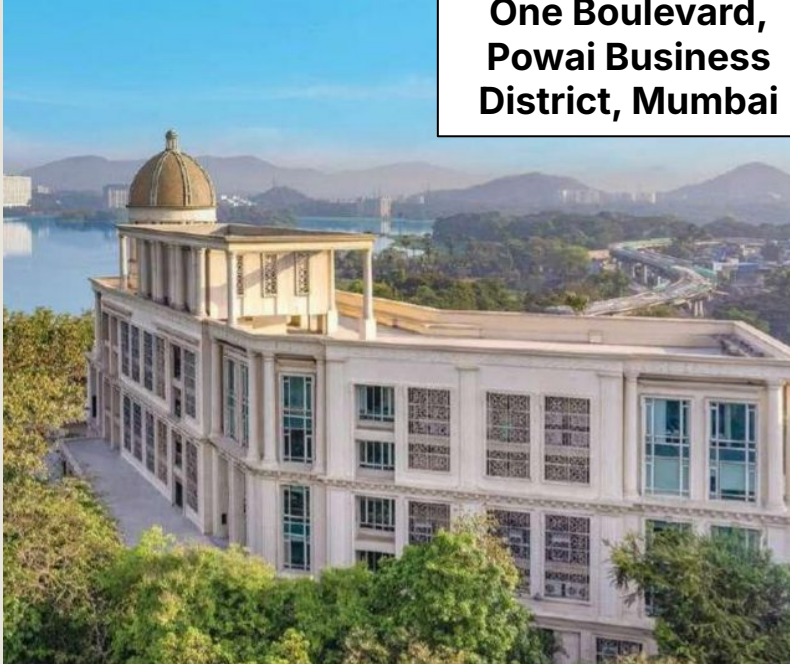
Finance

Academic year: 2026
Duration: 1 year
MSc

Programs (UG)	Launch Year	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total enrolments
BA (Hons) Business and Management	2026	30	40	60	80	100	310
BSc (Hons) Economics	2026	30	40	60	80	100	310
BSc (Hons) Computer Science	2026	30	40	60	80	100	310
BSc (Hons) Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence	2026	30	40	60	80	100	310
BSc (Hons) Computer Science with Cyber Security	2026	30	40	60	80	100	310
BA (Hons) Business of the Creative Industries	2026	20	30	40	60	60	210
BSc (Hons) Economics and Finance	2027		30	40	60	80	210
BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Finance	2028			30	40	60	130
BSc (Hons) Marketing	2028			30	40	60	130
BSc (Hons) Data Science	2029				30	40	70
BSc (Hons) Economics and Econometrics	2029				30	40	70
BSc (Hons) Environmental Science	2030					30	30
Total new admissions		170	260	440	660	870	2400
Programs (PG)	Launch Year	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total enrolments
MSc Artificial Intelligence	2026	30	40	60	80	100	310
MSc Management	2026	30	40	60	80	100	310
MSc Finance	2026	30	40	60	80	100	310
MSc Advanced Computer Science	2027		30	40	60	80	210
MSc International Business	2028			30	40	60	130
MSc Business Analytics	2029				30	40	70
MSc Data Science	2030					30	30
Total new admissions		90	150	250	370	510	1370

Estate

**One Boulevard,
Powai Business
District, Mumbai**



**Powai Lake,
Mumbai**

Research in Mumbai

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Research Power

University of York has a significant opportunity to leverage its unique research strengths to make the University of York-Mumbai highly distinctive and impactful.

Initial Academic Research Missions

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Responsible Business
3. Culture and Creativity
4. Future Technologies
5. Sustainability & Food Security

Broad interdisciplinary themes allowing for problem/challenge led research matching needs of the Mumbai and Maharashtra state.

Purposefully broad to bring in areas of excellence e.g.our atmospheric and water pollution work.

Potential Approach- Ideas

- Opportunity to deliver on UoY research mission of **curiosity driven action orientated research to deliver societal impact** (i.e. public good)
- Build **diverse external stakeholder network** including JV partners, researchers, Research Foundations, industry, universities, government/public sector, NGOs, students, the Mumbai community.
- Co-create interventions for complex, real-world problems
- Using the Mumbai area as testbeds for iterative experimentation, ensuring solutions are practical, user-friendly, and ready for adoption, reducing risks and fostering public good (societal impact) e.g. **Living Lab and place based approaches**
- Strong connections with **employability!**

Launch with a series of Research Showcase events



Example: bring the UoY research together on the **Bioeconomy** (BioYorkshire, CNAP) and **Food Systems** (LCAB, YESI, FixOurFood) for launch event on World Environment Day 5th June, 2026 (maximise media coverage).

Context:

- 21 Bioeconomy Hubs announced in Sept 2025 by the India Government, one in Mumbai coupled with a Mumbai Bioeconomy Network.
- A number of large food corporations based in Mumbai e.g. Mondelez coupled with a thriving community of social innovators in this space.
- This event brings at least three of the academic missions together

Research exemplars in Mumbai

Research Forum, 10 December 2025

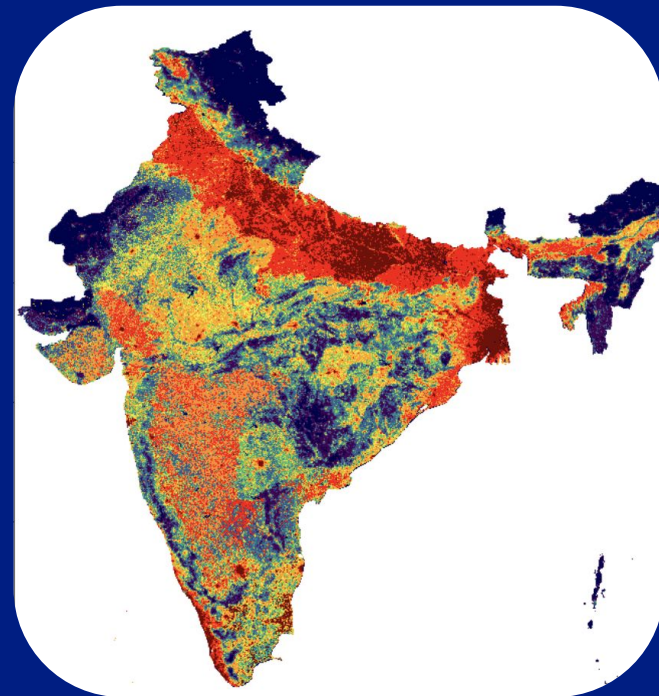
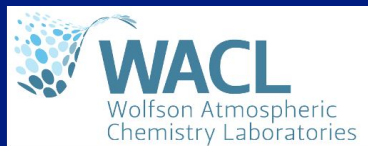
Air pollution research and links to India

Professor James Lee

Professor Jacqui Hamilton

Wolfson Atmospheric Chemistry Laboratories

National Centre for Atmospheric Science



Emissions of Volatile organic compounds
from residential, waste and crop burning

Stewart et al., Atmos Environ: X, 2021

The declination of international borders on this map are proximate and must not be considered authoritative.

Wolfson Atmospheric Laboratory



UK's largest dedicated atmospheric chemistry facility

A long-term partnership for the study of **indoor, urban and global air pollution, stratospheric ozone depletion and climate change**

World class experimental and modelling capabilities

Over 70 staff and students

Investment in over £15 Million in instrumentation and laboratory facilities

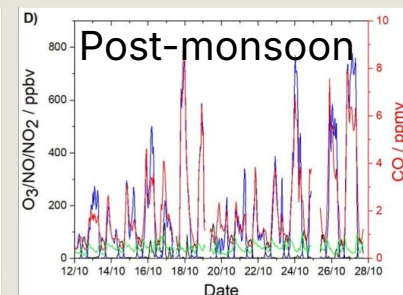
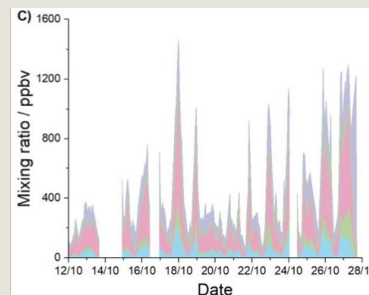
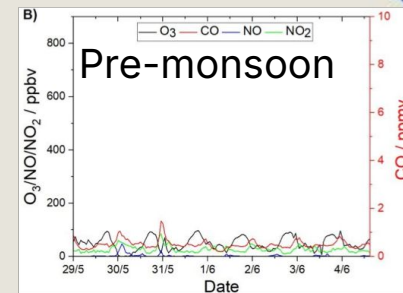
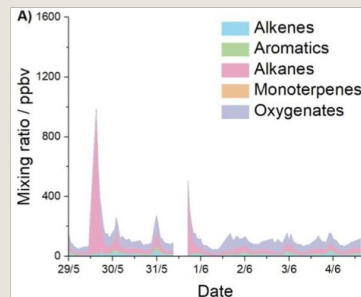
Supports national and international policy and decision making

Extensive industrial collaborations including BP, JCB, BAeSystems, Unilever



Air Quality Research in India

- We investigated the sources and chemistry of air pollution in Delhi in 2018
- Air Quality supersite set up at the Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women
- Very high pollution levels observed and main source was traffic emissions
- Extreme levels of nitrogen oxides at night led to unusual atmospheric chemistry
- Results indicated the government policy restricting HGVs entry may exacerbate pollution levels



UK: CEH, York, Lancaster, Manchester

India: NPL, NEERI, IGDTUW, PRL, IIT-Kanpur, IIT Roorke



Ministry of Earth Sciences
Government of India



Newton-Bhabha
Fund



Natural
Environment
Research Council

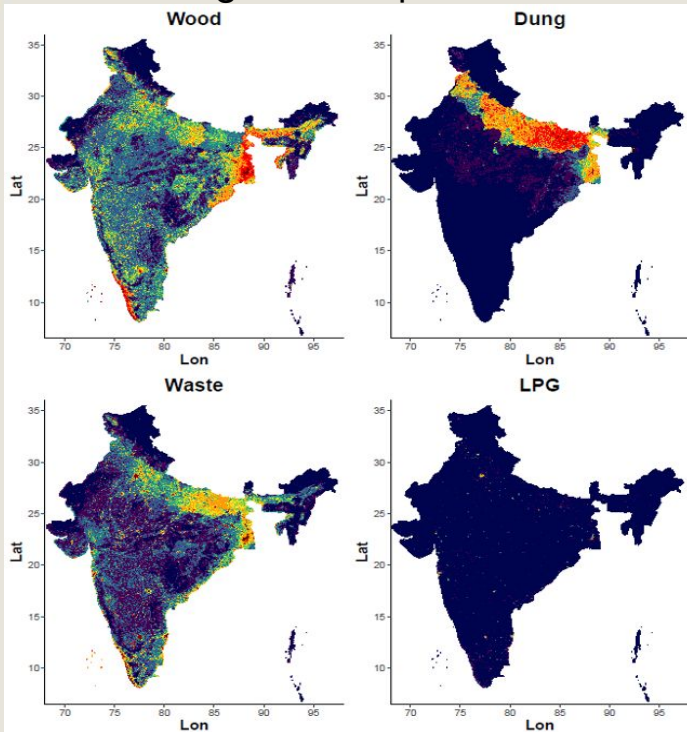


DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
Ministry of Science & Technology

Stewart et al., Faraday Discussions, 2021
Nelson et al., ES&T, 2023

Sources of Air Pollution in India

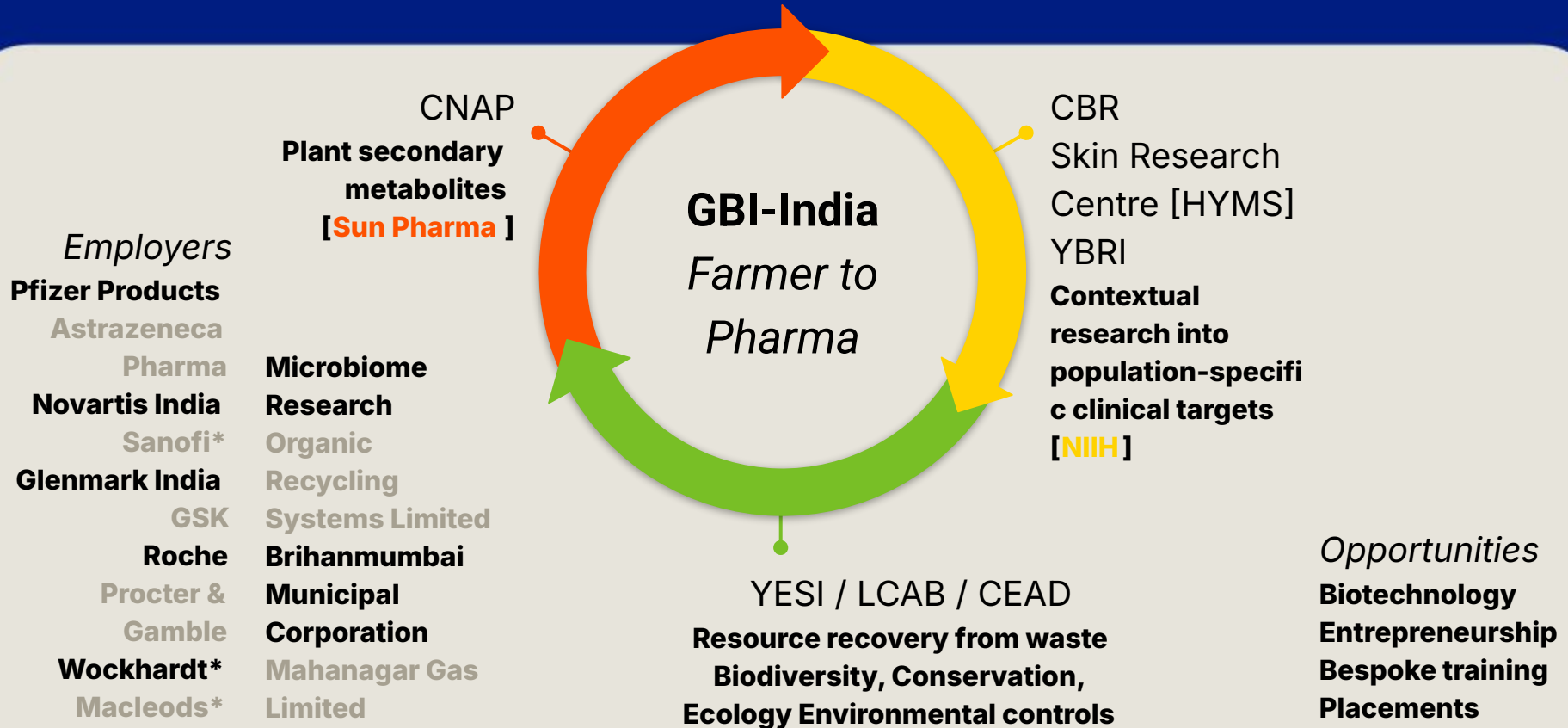
Volatile organic compound emissions



Emission factors were used to build an emission inventory based on fuel use for India

- Cow dung cake is very polluting even though its only used by a relatively small number of users
- The policy of increased LPG uptake was estimated to have prevented emissions of 2.9 (0.7–14.7) Tg in 2016 compared to these new users burning solid fuels.
- But overall total NMVOC emissions increased

Biology in Mumbai



Potential in India (Pop: 1.46 bn)



CBR (YBRI)

- **Thalassemia 10-12k p.a. (10% of global incidence)**
- **ALL: regional variation up to 101.4 per million for boys**
- **higher proportion of T-cell ALL (20-50%) than Western nations.**
- **childhood leukemia incidence rate 2-3x North America / Europe**

CEAD

- **Wastewater: 26.4 tn L/y = 29.2M tDS (44% treatment capacity, 28% treated)**
- **MSW: 370 g/person/d = 197 Mt/y**
- **Agri-residues: 500-620 Mt/y**

CNAP

- **≥45,000 plant species (28% endemic) = 12,600**
- **#1 in pulses, milk, jute**
- **#2 in rice, wheat, sugarcane, vegetables, fruits, cotton, groundnuts**
- **357 Mt foodgrains (2024-25)**
- **~9000 biotech startups**
- **665 FDA-approved plants**
- **>1,400 WHO-compliant manufacturing facilities**

LCAB / YESI

- **Variety of ecosystems with 4/36 global biodiversity hotspots**

CEAD potential in Bangalore



What?	Pilot Hall	Process Scale Demonstrator	Centre of Excellence
Where?	Garden City University Hoskote Campus	Bangalore Municipal Waterworks	Hoskote (rural Bangalore), 100k pop
Support?	GCU Chancellor GCU Director of Strategy and Planning	Senior Civil Servant	Local MP
TRL	3-6 5 acre site	6-8 Stakeholder conference	9 Exemplar deployment

Our main aim is to improve population health in East and West Africa through helping to ensure health resources are spent and allocated in the most effective and efficient manner.

We achieve this across three 'pillars'.

A Venn diagram consisting of three overlapping circles. The top circle is green and labeled "Research evidence generation". The bottom-left circle is red and labeled "Research and policy engagement". The bottom-right circle is orange and labeled "Capability and capacity building".

Research
and policy
engagement

Research
evidence
generation

Capability
and
capacity
building

Impact = population health improvement
through better policymaking in respect of DEE

Thanzi Programme

MSc Health Economics Studentships 2025-2028

In September 2025, the Thanzi Programme will be launching 2 new funded Health Economics Distance Learning MSc Studentships to support postgraduate training in health economics.

The Studentships are open to candidates based in West or East Africa who are currently working on health economic-related issues for ministries of health or public universities. The Studentships cover the MSc course fees.

What is the Health Economics Distance Learning (HEDL) programme?

Led by academics at the University of York, Health Economics Distance Learning (HEDL) is a three-year MSc programme, specialising in health economics and related disciplines. Teaching and learning is delivered online via a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and is designed to be completed part time, enabling students to gain their qualification and continue working. Students have access to a wide range of study resources and support and are part of a learning community at University of York.

Entry Criteria

To apply for the course, students must meet the following requirements:

- Employed in a health-related field within a ministry of health or public university role in East or West Africa and use health economics training to support their current duties.
- Undergraduate degree (2:2 or equivalent), with some focus on economics.
- Evidence of English language ability (if required).
- Candidates must seek permission from their employer to secure a minimum of one day per week to undertake their studies.

Information Webinar for Applicants

We are hosting an information webinar for applicants on **Thursday 22 May, 10:45-11:45 (GMT+1)**, including a Q&A. To register: <https://go.ucl.ac.uk/2025>

How to apply

The closing date for applications is **Sunday 15 June (GMT+1)**.

For more information on how to apply, please visit the [Thanzi Programme Studentships](https://go.ucl.ac.uk/2025) information web page.

HEDL Course Structure

Years 1 and 2
Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Health Economics for Health Professionals and Policymakers

Year 3
MSc in Health Economics for Health Professionals and Policymakers

For more details on the course structure and modules, please visit the [HEDL web page](https://go.ucl.ac.uk/2025)

Studentships are supported by generous funding received from the University of York.



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University of York @UniOfYork · 2 Mar 2023

Great to see @thanzilaonse partners, including @NEPAD_Agency and @ECSA_HC, at the 'Supporting the Realisation of the African Leadership Meeting - Investing in Health Declaration' workshop this week. Find out more about Thanzi la Onse at: bit.ly/3y2uU1a #YorkResearch

"Primary care had been made as poor health care for poor people. We wanted to redeem it, to focus on preventative services."



Dr. Emmanuel Ankrach Odame, Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Ghana, addressing the Thanzi Programme workshop, 2023.

West African Health Organization
Promoting Health through Collaboration

THANZI
UNIVERSITY of York

Webinar hosted by the West African Health Organization in collaboration with the Thanzi Programme and the University of York

Title: Strengthening health economics in the WAHO region in response to the ALM-Declaration agenda: a focus on health financing "more money for health"

Date: 19 July 2024
Time: 10:00-11:30 GMT, 11:00-12:30 BST

<p>Experiences from the ECSCA Health Community Dr Edward Katalika, ECSCA Health Community</p>	<p>Addressing the case for health spending by Ministries of Finance Dr Priscilla Kambou, World Bank</p>
<p>How much is health improved by more spending? Dr Jessica Ochieng, University of York</p>	<p>Health financing: a narrative review Prof. Adams Faye, International Health Area Unit</p>
<p>The road ahead: future health financing challenges Dr Finn McGinnis, ECSCA Health Community</p>	<p>How much is health improved by more spending on health? Prof. Luigi Siciliani, University of York</p>

Register to attend

Chair:
Dr Emmanuel Ankrach Odame
Former Director of Policy Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation, Ministry of Health (Ghana)

>90 publications since 2010
[Click here for the full publication list](#)

Health Economics & Policy Unit (HEU) @KuhesHe... · 27 Jun 2023

The HEPU 9th International Extra-ordinary Think Tank Conference, Livingstonia Beach Hotel Sunbird, Salima, Malawi. We thank all our guests for honouring our invitation and helping make the conference a success! [#hepu_conference](#) [#thanzila_mawa](#)



Uganda

- CHW health benefits package in the final stages of adoption by MOH.

Malawi

- TLab research underpins the design and implementation of HSSP-3

Regionally

- ECSA Health Economics CoP deliberations have fed into 3 ministerial resolutions being adopted

The Ministry recognizes the value of the Thanzi approach ..(which has) supported the HBP for Uganda”

**Dr. Olaro, DG
MOH-Uganda (20 Nov 25)**

The Ministry offers its enthusiastic and ongoing support to Thanzi... it is a foundational element in our commitment to evidence based health policy”

**Dr. Namarika,
SH MOH-Malawi
(10 Nov 25)**

Regionally the initiative advances the priorities of ECSA-HC, with a focus on systems strengthening, NTD elimination and UHC.

**Dr. Ntuli, DG ECSA-HC
(24 Nov 25)**



Policy demands for *Thanzi* inputs in India ... as yet unmet



An important objective of KEC was to review the status of the global economy, with special reference to India, and frame strategies for short-, medium-, and long-term recovery

The Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC), organised by the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) in early July, and



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February 13, 2025 Updates

HFACT Annual Conference in Delhi, India



July 2023



Research Exemplars

Research Forum, 10 December 2025

Marco Lucamarini

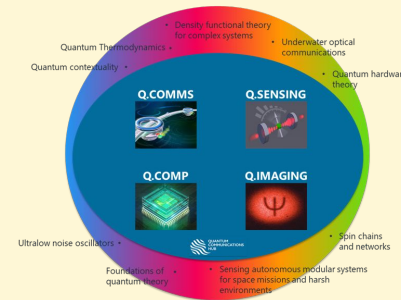
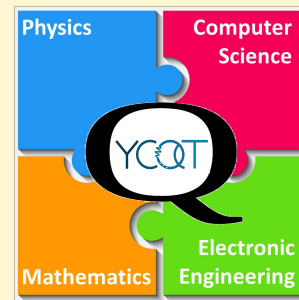
Chair in Experimental Quantum Communications
Director of the York Centre for Quantum Technologies

School of Physics, Engineering and Technologies
University of York

marco.lucamarini@york.ac.uk



The YCQT is a
cross-departmental interdisciplinary centre
aimed at promoting the University of York's
substantial expertise in
Quantum Information Science & Technologies

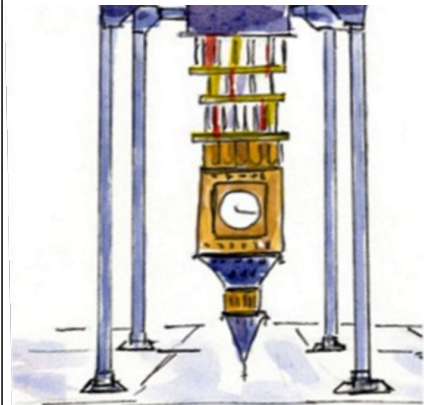


Direction & Management: M. Lucamarini (SPET),
I. D'Amico (SPET), C. Ottaviani (CS), M. Farkas (Maths)

Steering: Dean of Science (Chair), HoDs aff. depts

National Quantum Strategy

£2.5B in 10y from 2024



1 Dec 2024 – 30 Nov 2029
£31.7M



By 2035, the UK will have deployed the **world's most advanced quantum network at scale**, pioneering the future quantum internet.



Global efforts towards the Quantum Internet

2025: US\$ 1B. By 2035: US\$ 42B.

(<https://www.rootsanalysis.com/quantum-networking-market>)

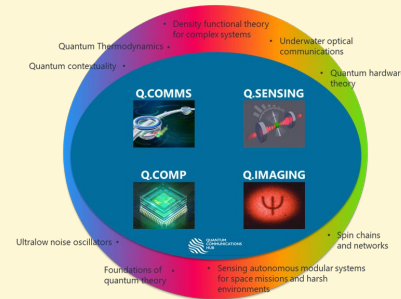
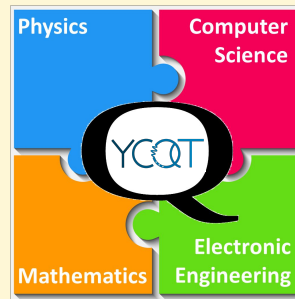
Support **QIST** research



York
Centre for
Quantum
Technologies



The YCQT is a
cross-departmental interdisciplinary centre
aimed at promoting the University of York's
substantial expertise in
Quantum Information Science & Technologies



Direction & Management: M. Lucamarini (SPET),
I. D'Amico (SPET), C. Ottaviani (CS), M. Farkas (Maths)

Steering: Dean of Science (Chair), HoDs aff. depts

www.york.ac.uk/quantum-technologies

Current strengths, Future plans & Challenges

Events, Community, Skills & Training

- Workshops in North England (**N8** and **White Rose** consortia), e.g., Northern Quantum Meetings; **strong network** of engaged academics.
- **Lectures & seminars on QIST** for students and industry.
- **Policy engagement**, e.g., “*Uptake issues surrounding quantum communications*”, submitted to the House of Commons.

Immediate YCQT plans (2025–26)

- **MSc in QIST**: cross-departmental, two flexible entry points (Mar/Sept); pipeline for a CDT proposal (potentially with Leeds / Sheffield).
- Promotional **QIST outreach video** (6th-form & general public)
- **NPL-UoY Single Photon Workshop** (10–12 February 2026, York)

Challenges

- **Quantum is a strategic priority for UoY**, more needs to be done in:
- **Cross-departmental barriers**: co-supervision/external roles for Master's/PhD students not consistently recognised in WAM.
- **Recruitment** of academics in QIST.
- **Bridge funding** to retain talent during long funding-decision periods.

International Year of Quantum Science and Technology

2025 is the UN's International Year of Quantum, celebrating 100 years of quantum science and technology.

This is a worldwide initiative throughout 2025, raising awareness of how quantum is changing our lives for the better.

WR-QIST Workshop

Home Programme Activities Photos Venue Registration Committees More

White Rose Quantum Information Science and Technologies Workshop

11th-12th July 2024, University of York, UK

Organised by Students of the White Rose Consortium





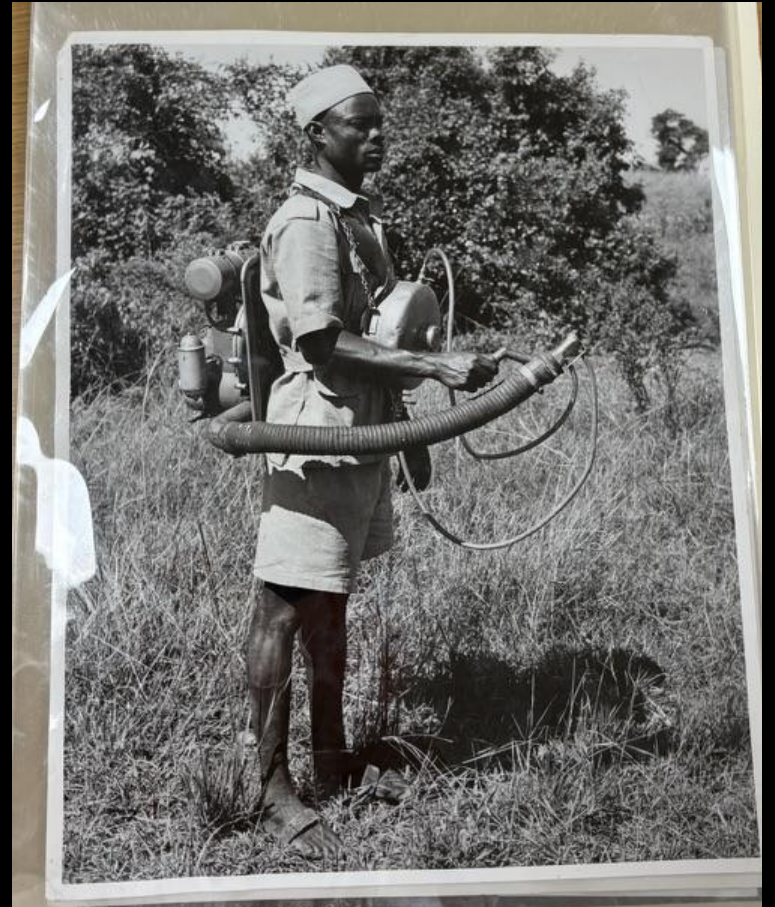
The Chemical Empire: a new history of synthetic insecticides in Britain and its colonies, c1920–1970

Dr Sabine Clarke, History Department



[illegible]

Member of the Kenya
Veterinary Department
spraying tsetse fly c. 1952



ADMINISTRATIVE FAIRNESS LAB



5-minute overview

What we do and where we're going

Dr Jed Meers (York Law School)

Our aim:
'Administratively fair public services'

Scale, complexity and innovation

Huge transformations in public services – including digitalisation/automation

Not felt equally

Different groups in society can have very different experiences of accessing public systems

Scarring effects

Bad or good experiences affect behaviour over the short, medium and long term

ADMINISTRATIVE FAIRNESS LAB



Wellcome Discovery
Award

£2.5 million – 6 years

**What can bureaucratic justice
do for mental health?**



Nuffield Foundation

£395k – 3 years

**Administrative fairness in the
digital welfare state**



NIHR Social Care
Programme

£380k – 2 years

Waiting Well in Social Care



NIHR Social Care
Programme

£250k – 2 years

**Administrative fairness in
Social Care Assessments**



Yorkshire Cancer
Research

£926k – 4 years

**Promoting engagement with
stop-smoking services in
Yorkshire's priority groups**

Building on and expanding our
idea into new areas – other bits
under development!

ADMINISTRATIVE FAIRNESS LAB



Wellcome Discovery
Award

£2.5 million – 6 years

**What can bureaucratic justice
do for mental health?**



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**Administrative fairness in
Social Care Assessments**

We're always on the hunt
for interesting/terrible
administrative processes
in the public sector...!



jed.meers@york.ac.uk

PGR Portfolio

Research Forum, 10 December 2025

PGR portfolio

Paul Wakeling

Dean of York Graduate Research School

Outline

- What is postgraduate research for at the University of York?
- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- What are the enablers and barriers?
- What next?

What is our purpose for PGR?

Can vary by discipline

- In sciences research *output*?
- In AH, SS, research *culture*?

Training

The public good

STRATEGY

What is possible?

External environment/demand

Competition, esp for funds

Internal resource constraints

High cost of innovation and complexity

What is PGR for @ York?

Being purposive

- Being purposive about linking PGR and research (REF!!!)
- Avoiding 'fee generation'/target chasing
- (Inter/)disciplines as drivers, within guardrails
- Innovations should be in service of the above (e.g. DL, MRes etc)
- Valuing PGR in word *and deed*





The University of York exists for public good.

Our founders endowed the University with a strong social purpose, drawing on a rich tradition of social justice and combating inequality in a way that is distinctive to the City of York.

From the outset our research across the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences was intended not just to open up new knowledge through reason, experiment and debate, but also to apply that knowledge for the ‘amelioration of human life and conditions’.¹ Our students were not just to be technically proficient in their fields but also to be able to apply their learning for social benefit, both in the UK but also as ‘citizens of the world’.² We were to care ‘more than almost anything else’³ about opening up access to our University to those who had previously not had the opportunity. And even in the 1960s, our founders had a focus on what we now call equality, diversity and inclusion, recognising that all members of the University community contributed to its success, whatever their role or background, and should be supported to achieve to their full potential.

Affirming what is PGR for

- The Public Good
- Investment in the future
- We are a research-intensive university
- Opening up access to knowledge and research
- and more instrumentally...
 - Front-line researchers
 - REF (outputs, PCE)
 - Research-active staff motivation (plus, it's staff development [HT Faye])

Where are we now?



Or join at menti.com | use code **8720 0236**

UoY 2023/24 first-year PGRs



25th

Out of 154 HEIs
for PGRs



23 of top 25 are RGUs.
Strathclyde and
Lancaster are only
non-RGUs bigger than
York

1.2%

Market share
for PGRs



Top 25 have
60% of all PGRs

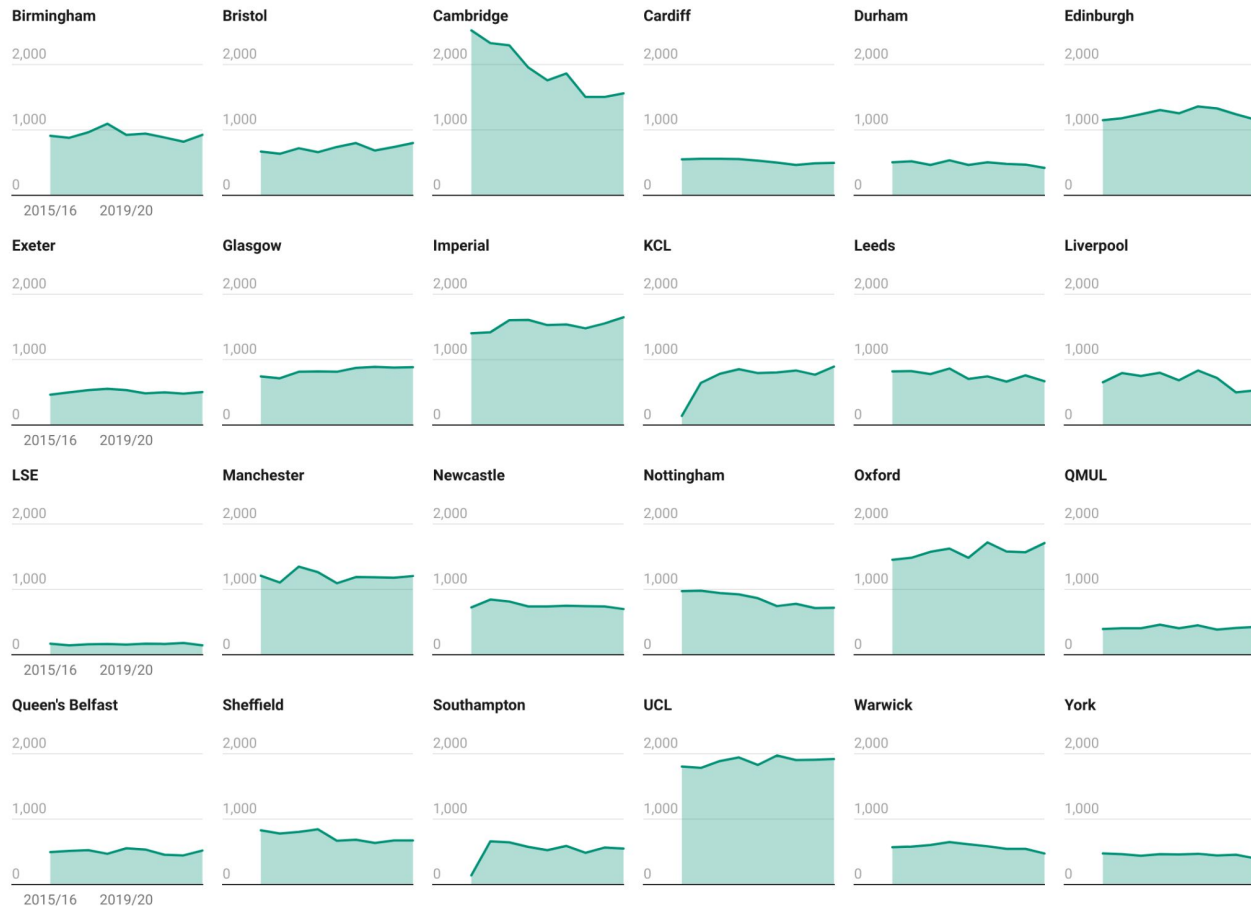
4%

Proportion of all
first-year
enrolments



York ranked
37th out of 154

First-year PGR FPE for RGUs, 2015/16 - 2023/24



Observations

- York 2nd smallest in RGU
- Few changes over time
- (a bit) Smaller than we 'should' be?

NB intake, not overall numbers

UoY PGROs

~80

No. of PGR
sending
countries

Very wide range of
sending countries

~33%

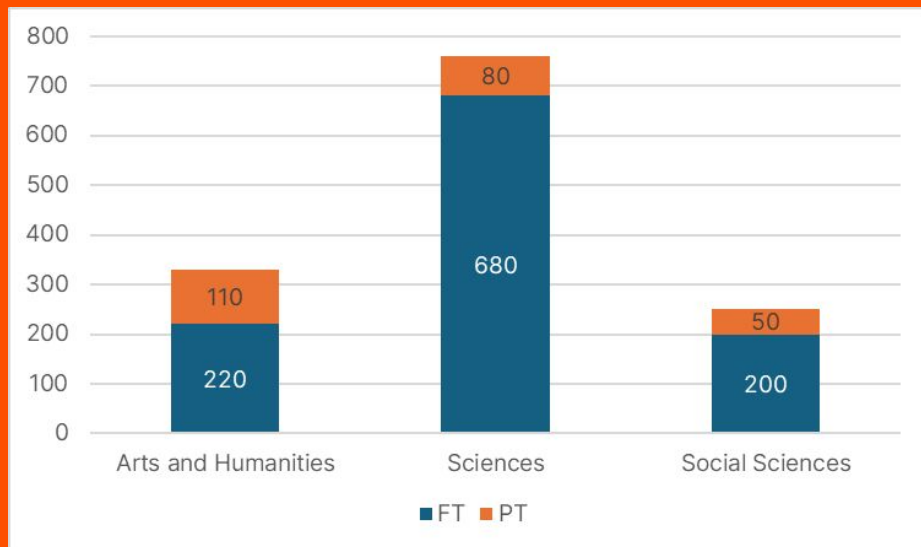
International
PGRs from
China

Half of PGROs from
China, US, Saudi

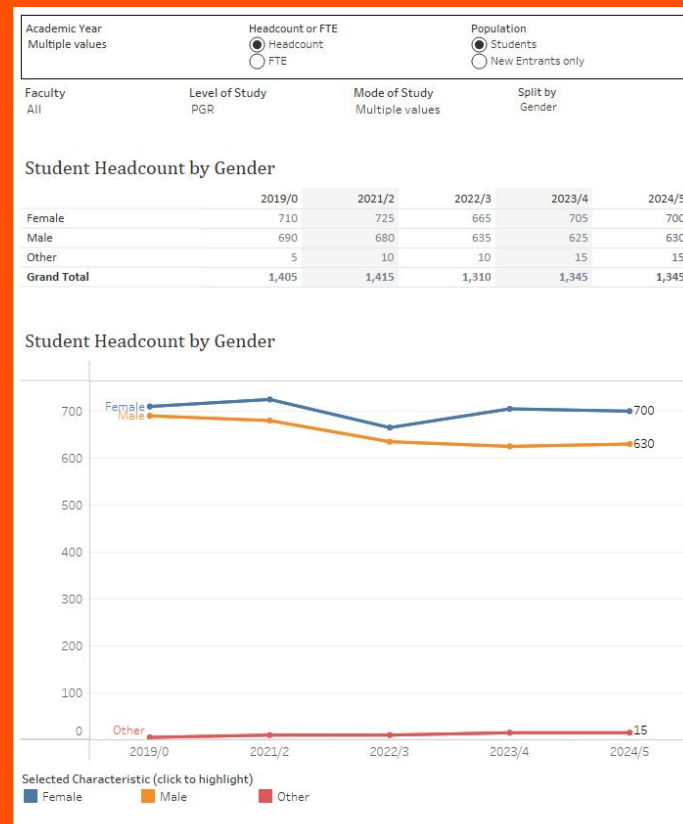
174

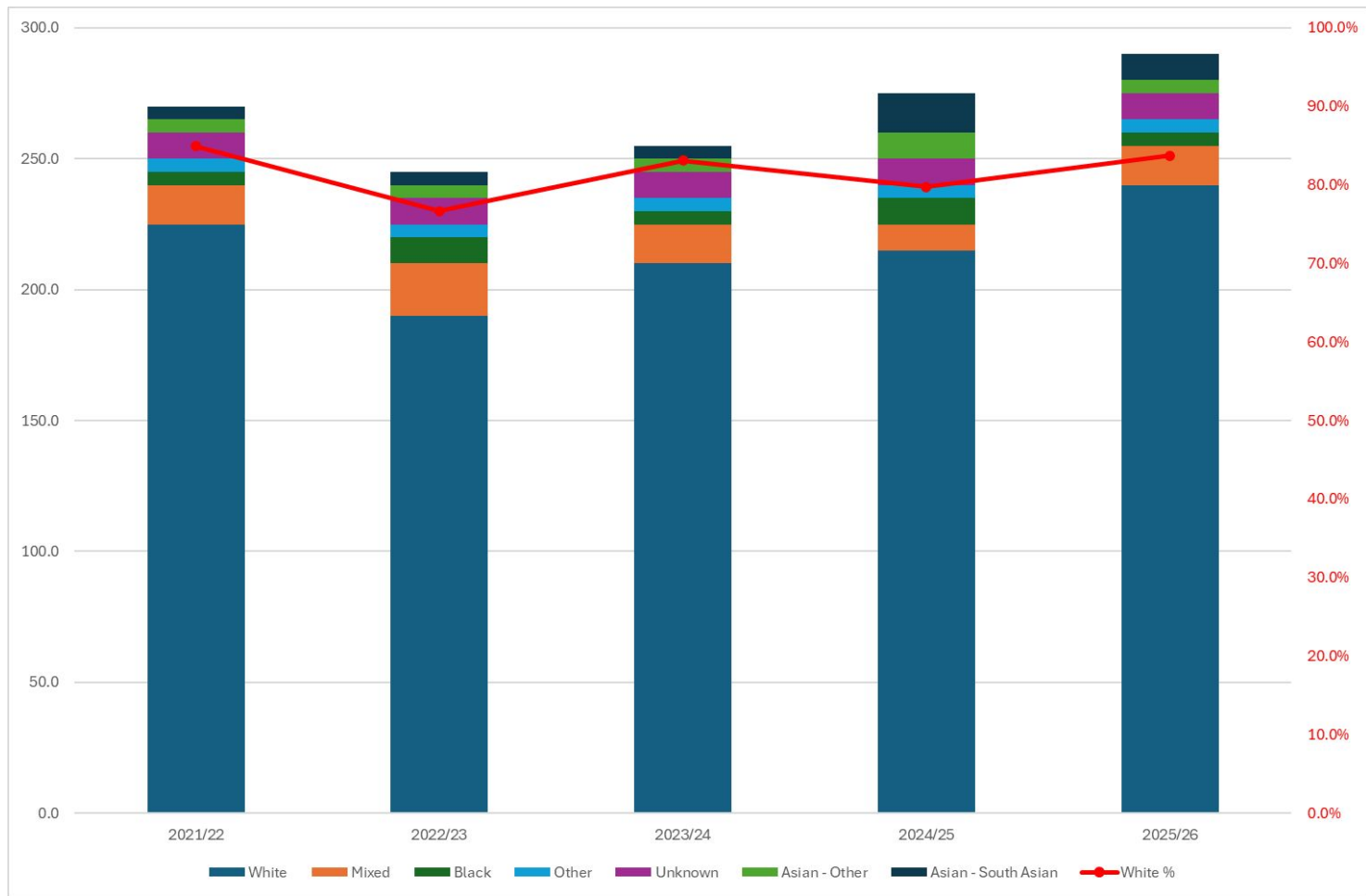
Mean PGRO
intake last 5
years

Varies between 155 and
219



PGR head count by mode of study - UoY 2024/25





Ethnicity of UoY PGRH entrants, 2021/22 - 2025/26



ASK FT

FINANCIAL TIMES

WORLD UK COMPANIES TECH MARKETS CLIMATE OPINION LEX WORK & CAREERS LIFE & ARTS HTSI

UK universities + Add to myFT

Share of domestic postgraduate researchers hits record low in England

Cuts to PhD funding have caused UK student intake to shrink, data shows



Domestic research degrees are typically paid for by grants or funding from research councils, governments and charities © PA

Amy Borrett and Peter Foster in London

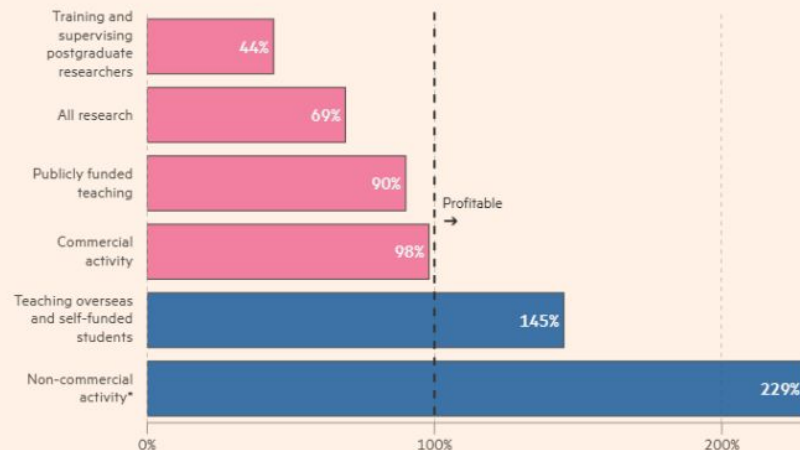
Published APR 13 2025



The share of postgraduate research roles filled by domestic students in England is shrinking, as university leaders warn of “catastrophic” funding cuts to the

Universities rely on international fees, investments and donations to fund postgraduate research courses

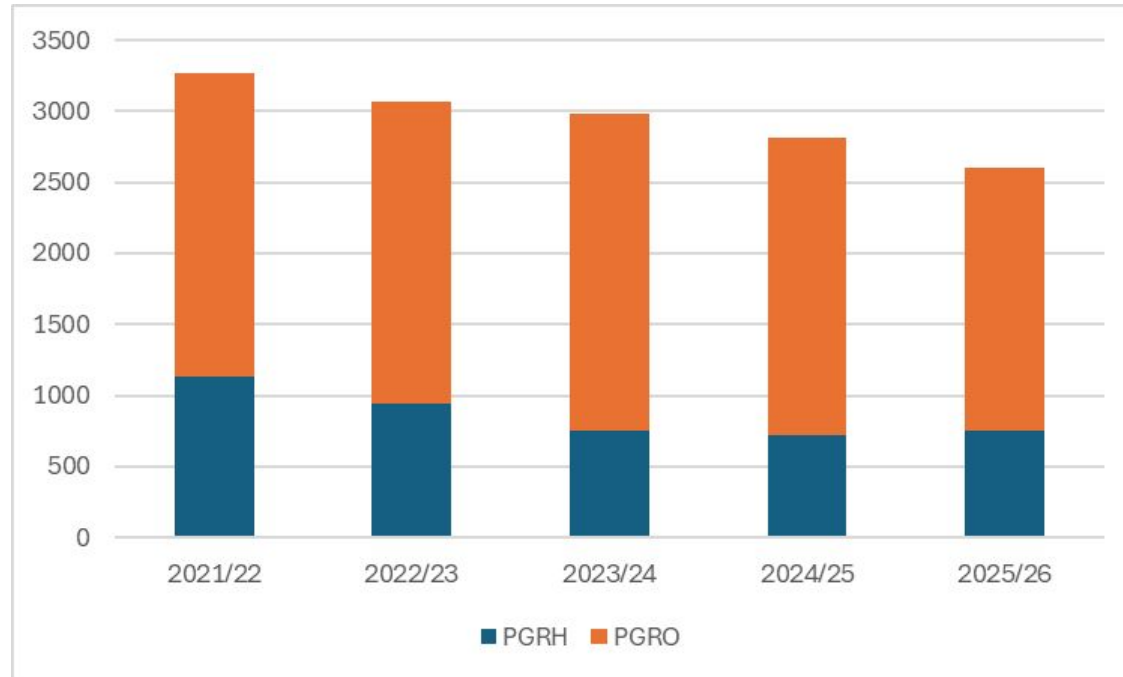
Share of cost recovered by income from activity, UK higher education providers in 2022-23



FINANCIAL TIMES

Source: OFS • *Includes investments, donations and endowments

Application trends at University of York



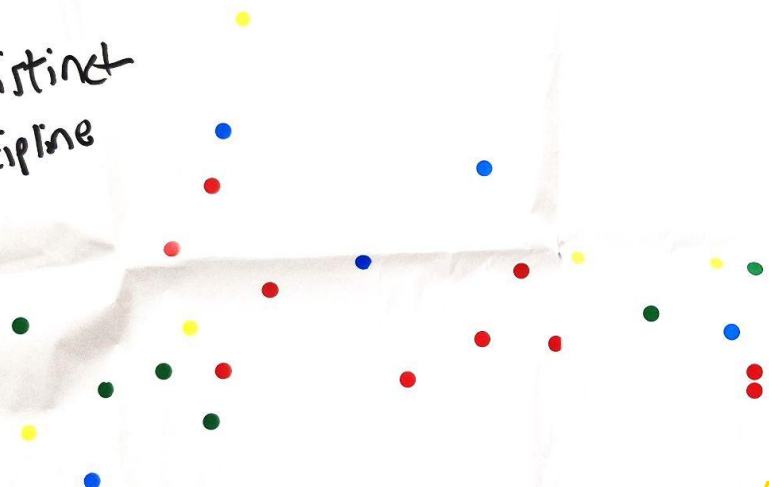
Where do we want to be?



Or join at menti.com | use code **8720 0236**

PGR experience
should be distinct
for each discipline

PGR experience
should be
uniform across
the University



A&H

Sciences

Social Sciences

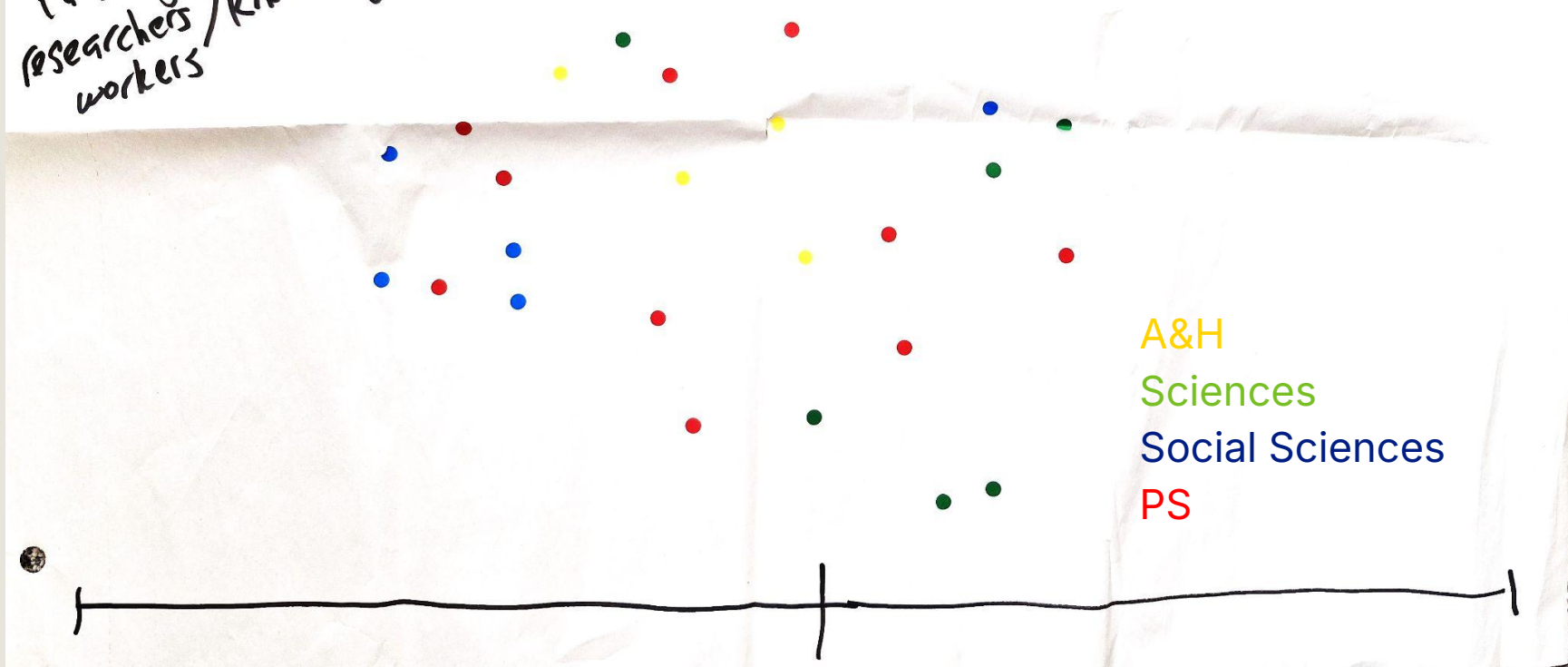
PS

PGR is for
training future
researchers / knowledge
workers

PGR is for
producing
research

SITY
rk

A&H
Sciences
Social Sciences
PS



A&H

Sciences

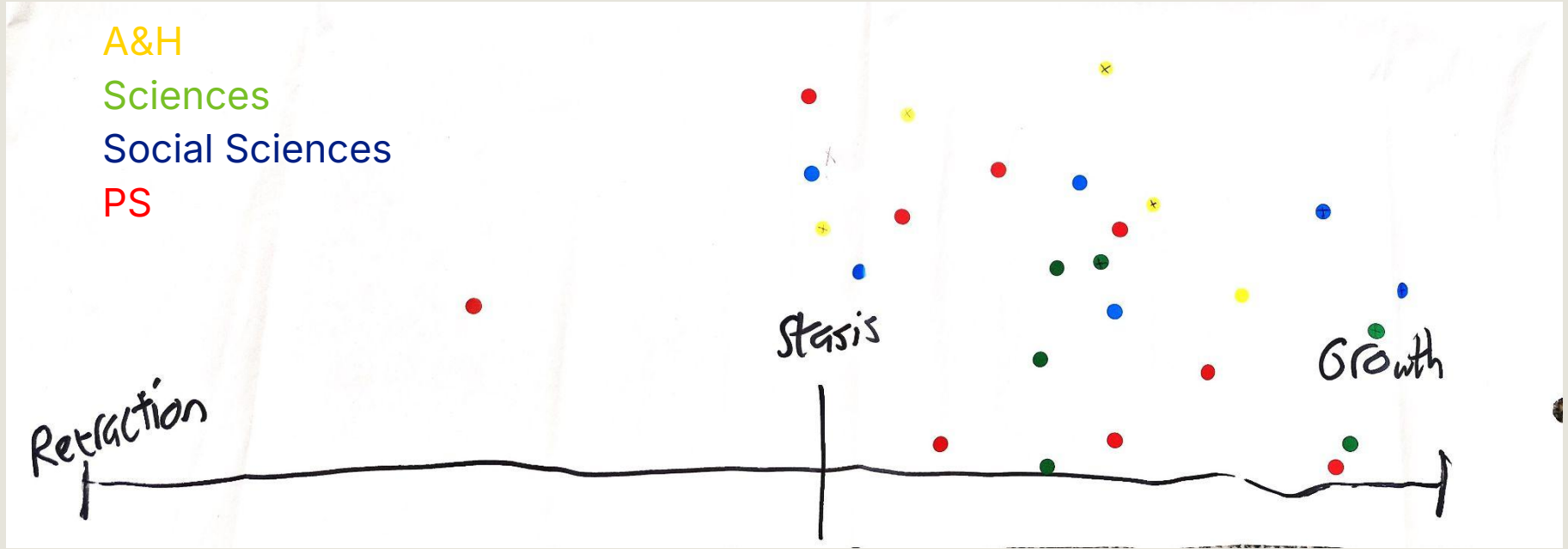
Social Sciences

PS

Retraction

Stasis

Growth



PGR per FTE wishes /actuals from ARR



2.5

1.1

Arts & Humanities

2.7

1.6

Sciences

1.7

0.7

Social Sciences

Institutional weighted average (aspiration): 2.4*
FTE PGRs needed to meet aspiration: 1,115 (+93%)**

* Actual PGRs per supervisor (discounting those with no supervisor): 2.4

** NB potential for double-counting in school/department wishes. Mean supervisors per student currently: 1.9

What are the enablers and barriers?

Enablers and barriers

- Studentships and finances
- 'Externalities' (complexity, funding model, PGR as a draw)
- Internal infrastructure
- Student issues

From the ARRrS

[illegible]

Studentships and finance



- Compliance risk: we cannot *readily* identify students' funding source
 - E.g. which students are funded by EPSRC?
 - E.g. modelling replication of UKRI sick leave policy
 - Solution available but needs institutional backing and resource (mainly prioritisation of staff time)
 - Managing international fee waivers etc
- Operational team is wafer thin
- Loss of institutional studentships (YGRS BAME, departmental) has a strategic impact
 - Opportunities to increase philanthropic support via OPPA?
- Funding follows PGR programme, not supervisors

Externalities



Complexity

Inherent in PGR space, but...

Bewildering array of funding schemes, especially with trend for DFAs with more partners

More loaded in to PGR training, compliance

Diversification of form, TNE



Broken funding model

TRAC data shows considerable shortfall on cost recovery

Prior cross-subsidy sources also under threat

Increasing need to match fund on top



Affordability

Impact of cost of living crisis

Cost/availability of accommodation in York/at UoY

Competitiveness of stipend in critical areas (AI, cyber, engineering)

Internal infrastructure



Tiny team

YGRS = 0.5 Dean, plus 1.0 project officer + 0.33 PA

Capacity for concerted action is slim

Growing a networked team



Restructure reverberates

Loss of PGRA felt in faculties

CASO review of PGR PSS support expected early 2026

Valuing stability in the meantime



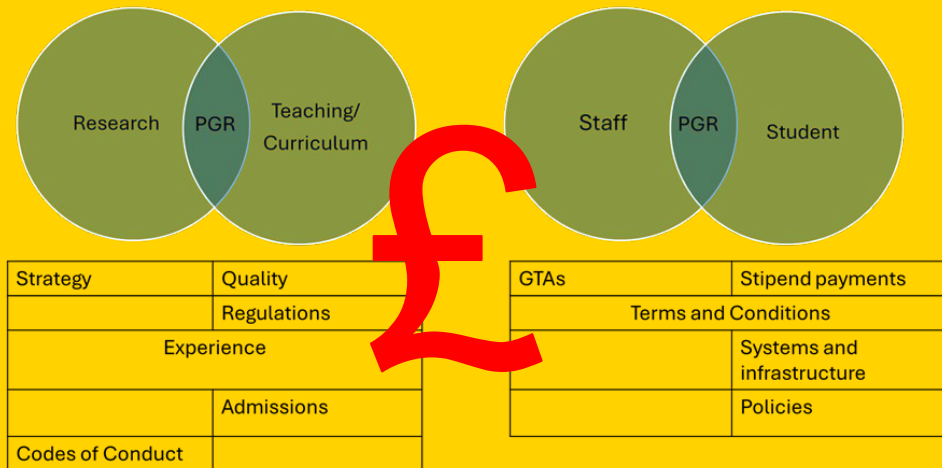
Visibility

Strong institutional support for PGR in principle

Cutting through can be difficult – PGR=afterthought?

Working with HR, Finance, Planning to identify 'partner'

Balance in all things



Ambition/constraints
Centre/faculties
Novelty/maintenance



Strategy?

Maximise funding

Moderate differentiation within
institutional bounds

- Modest growth in Sciences
- Sustaining current quality and position elsewhere

Better planning...

...which needs better intelligence

What next?

- Extract key points about strategy, purpose, size and shape from the YGRS Board PGR biennial review exercise (responses due by 22 December 2025).
- Ongoing discussions with faculty Deans and engagement with faculty PGR strategies will continue (e.g. A&H forthcoming strategy)
- Strategy ideas will be discussed with graduate chairs at the forum meeting on 4 February 2026.
- Drawing on all of these, a draft document will be presented to YGRS Board on 21 April 2026; it will then go to URC on 17 June for final approval.

EDI Moment & Close Sarah Thompson

[*Link to Research Forum agenda items and feedback form*](#)

Research Forum, 10 December 2025