



**UK Research
and Innovation**

Research and Innovation in the UK

- The UK has an exceptional track record in research and innovation across disciplines and sectors
- The UK's size and strength mean we can drive progress through creative co-ordination and agility
- UKRI is a key asset in achieving this goal, and catalysing interdisciplinarity is central

Interdisciplinarity

- Generally agreed to be important
- Very hard to define
- Very hard to measure



Interdisciplinarity

There are at least 3 distinct categories:

- Research where the questions being addressed are core to one particular discipline but require **input from other disciplines**
- **Challenge-led research** where an interdisciplinary team is assembled to address a particular challenge
- Research that is so interdisciplinary it has **no obvious 'home'**



Interdisciplinarity

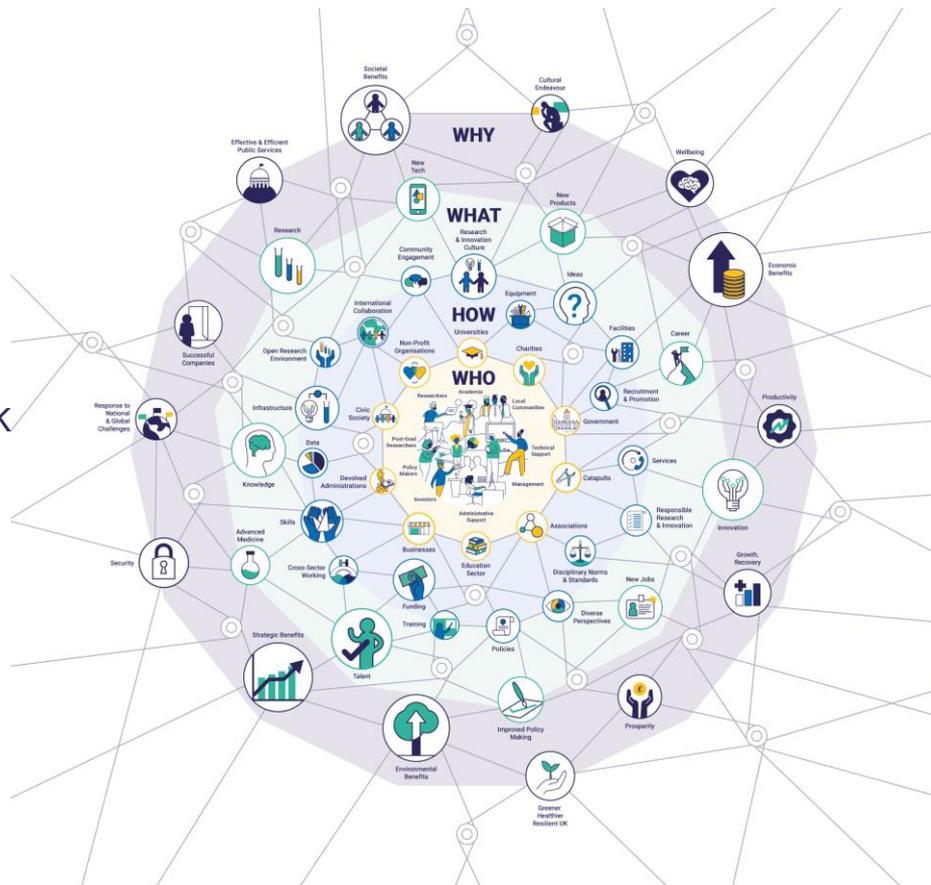
- Generally agreed to be difficult to support
 - Funding
 - Publication
 - Assessment
 - Career progression



UKRI: Transforming tomorrow together



Our **vision** is for an outstanding research and innovation system in the UK that gives everyone the opportunity to contribute and to benefit, enriching lives locally, nationally and internationally.



Our **mission** is to convene, catalyse and invest in close collaboration with others to build a thriving inclusive research and innovation system that connects discovery to prosperity and public good.

What needs to change?

- The system is highly competitive and disproportionately focused on narrow criteria for excellence, and too often on individuals
- This has locked in silos, segregating disciplines, research from innovation, and R&I from wider society
- We need more capability to withstand shocks, to create new opportunities, and pivot to capture their benefits
- This requires a portfolio approach to risk and concerted effort to bridge the disconnects between research, innovation and wider society



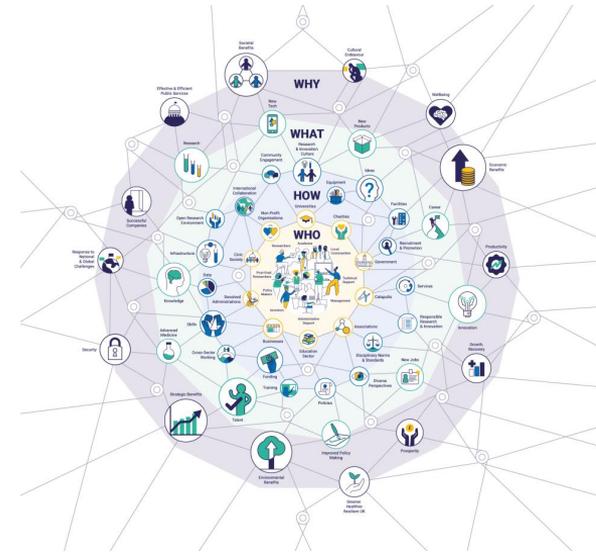
Principles for change

Diversity –supporting the diverse people, places and ideas needed for a creative and dynamic system

Connectivity –building connectivity and breaking down silos across the system, nationally and globally

Resilience –increasing the agility and responsiveness of the system

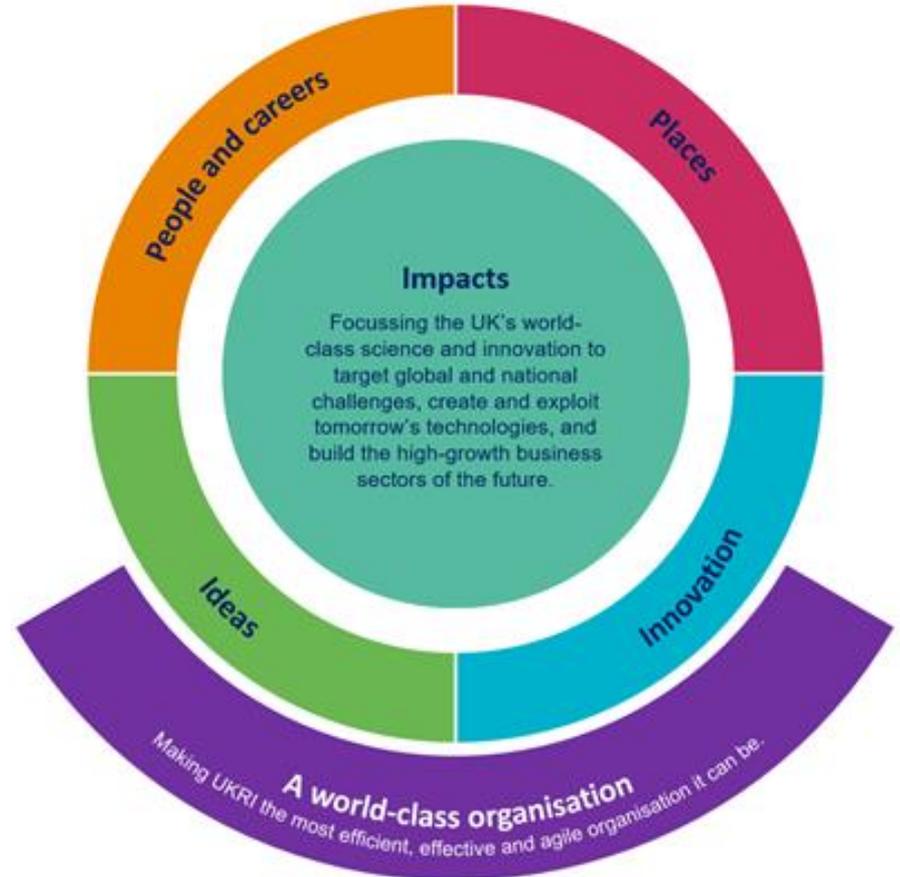
Engagement –helping to embed research and innovation across our society and economy



UKRI's Strategic Objectives 2022-27

Our strategic objectives provide the framework for how we will deliver our vision through **world-class**:

- People and Careers
- Places
- Ideas
- Innovation
- Impacts
- Organisation (UKRI)



Interdisciplinarity

- Generally agreed to be difficult to support
 - Funding
 - Publication
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 - Career progression
- Supporting diversity with connectivity



Different people

Supporting researchers with very different backgrounds

- Traditional research career vs. unusual route into research
- Traditional academic path vs. more unusual path with e.g. periods in industry
- Focus on single topic and approach vs. move between disciplines and topics
- Career breaks vs. no career breaks



The Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI)

UKRI committed to supporting roll out across the sector

Narrative CV providing the opportunity to present contributions in 4 areas using diverse evidence types:

- Contributions to Knowledge
- Supporting people
- Contributions to the research community
- Engagement with wider stakeholders

This allows people with different backgrounds, contributing in different ways to be compared



<https://royalsociety.org>

101 Jobs

- R&I needs a diverse range of people to drive progress
- Celebrate the essential contributions that all these people are making
- Showcase the breadth of careers within the R&I system



[Anna Lawton](#)

Health Safety and
Biosafety Advisor, The
Pirbright Institute



[Amanda Solloway MP](#)

Science Minister, UK
government



[Dr Ruth Weir](#)

Entrepreneurship
Advisor, University
College London



[Ian Patmore](#)

Fieldwork Technician,
UCL Geography
Department, London



[Ivy Nandonqwa](#)

Program Administrative
Assistant, African
Population and Health
Research Center,
Nairobi, Kenya



[Paul Cesar](#)

Infrastructure Manager,
STFC RAL Space
building R100

Interdisciplinarity

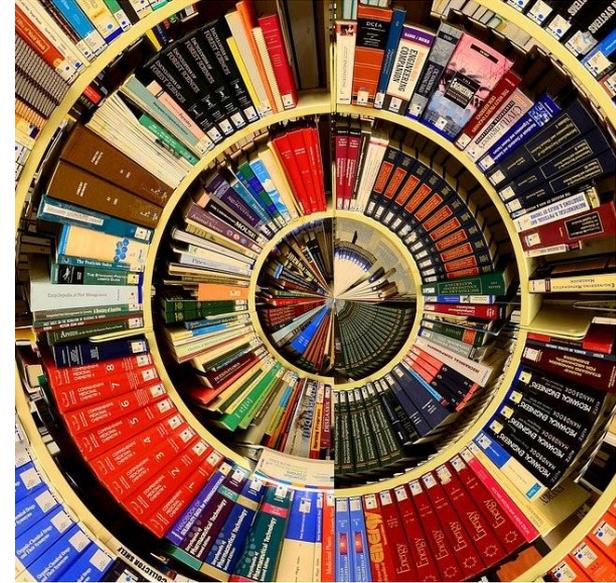
Funding 3 distinct categories:

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Different projects

- Basic, applied, challenge-led
- Proof of concept to large programme
- Individual to team
- Generating data sets and technologies, using them to test hypotheses
- Establishing the reproducibility and generality of existing results, generating completely new ones





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Thank you



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